



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
April 17, 2015
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Sandra Romero – *Thurston County*
Gary Stanford – *Lewis County*
Stephanie Suter – *Puget Sound Partnership*

David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Ed Kenney
Fred Michelson*
Karelina Resnick*

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Ethan Allen – *DuPont Historical Society*
Marianne Allen – *DuPont Historical Society*
Peter Donaldson – *Sustainability Ambassadors*
Chris Ellings – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Bill Grantham – *CNLM*
Cassandra Houghton – *Sustainability Ambassadors*
Amber Martens – *JBLM*

Martin McCullum – *NLT*
Heather Saunders Benson – *Thurston County*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Brian Sullivan – *NLT*
Ashley Von Essen – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Lois Ward – *Citizen*
Charissa Waters – *Thurston County*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Morgan Greene – *Nisqually River Council*
Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*

Tyler Willey – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*
Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda, Introductions

Call to Order – David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:10.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda – There was a motion to approve March's meeting minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for today.

2. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – In lieu of a regular meeting, the CAC traveled this week to the Centralia Diversion Dam to view the Nisqually Indian Tribe's new fish counter. Members were able to view the device and see pictures of fish that had recently passed through! Lois noted that only 150 of these devices exist worldwide--2 of which are in Washington--so this was a unique opportunity. As an update, over 300 Steelhead and 1,000 Coho have passed through the counter thus far.

In other news, Fred is drafting a letter to Don Hover regarding the use of neonicotinoids. He recently learned that the EPA is going to ban the use of any newly developed neonicotinoid products. In light of this, he will be re-drafting the letter. It will be brought to the NRC for approval.

- *Chair Report* – David just returned from North of Falcon, which took up much of his time over the last week. He has also been working on budget issues too—right now, the Senate budgets for PSAR and SRF Board funding is very low. Additionally, there is talk in prohibiting acquisition projects. Jim Wilcox has

been meeting with Senators, and feels talks have been productive. Chris wondered if the NRC should submit a letter on this topic—Chris and David will work on it.

- *Staff Report* – Morgan has had a busy month helping several NRC members with projects. She attended Student GREEN Congress and the Land Trust Auction. Additionally, Morgan assisted the Nisqually Tribe with several projects, including Steelhead surveys, Ohop tube removal, derelict gear removal and a crab test fishery. Finally, she has been busy with the Nisqually River Water Trail, Delta Data and Nisqually Stream Stewards projects. As a reminder, please return any Stream Steward feedback surveys—your input is greatly appreciated!

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – The NLT had the most successful auction to date—they raised \$100,290 in support! Around 200 people attended, including many NRC members. Sheila was awarded Partner of the Year. In addition, the Land Trust is closing on the upper Ohop property today. The first Ecosystem Services project recently closed; this was a partnership between the Land Trust, River Foundation, Tribe and other partners. Joe will write a press release describing the project soon. As a reminder, the property involved will maintain a minimum number of trees in order to purify water and sequester carbon.

The first Carbon Credit Project is nearly complete. Joe reported the verification team came yesterday and affirmed that the project is on track. Additionally, a major corporate partner has purchased the credits at 20% over the market price. The project will be completed in another 90 days.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – This year’s Student GREEN Congress was the biggest ever, with 421 students and 142 adult partners present! Student guests will present at the May NRC meeting to share their water quality results. Sheila noted that although NREP data isn’t used for scientific purposes, it highlights water quality problems associated with the TMDL; it is raising awareness on local, relevant issues.

In other news, Eye on Nature trips are starting now and will continue through June. A student participant reflected, “we are one, but without nature, we are none.” Sheila and Morgan, along with several partners, submitted a NOAA grant application on Monday, which will bring climate change awareness into classrooms. Sheila is also working on several other grants, including a PPG grant. Finally, this week’s fundraiser made about \$1,100 not including the money to be donated by the Fish Tale.

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that it is both quarterly grant reporting time, as well as grant billing time. Justin is also busy with grant applications, including the NOAA grant and a NEP proposal to support the Community Forest. The NEP grant is due on Monday. In other news, Sheila transferred from a teacher’s schedule to a full time employee on April 1.

Justin is requesting two letters of support from the NRC. One is for the NEP grant, in support of the Community Forest. The second is in support of the Thurston Regional Planning Council’s proposal to conduct a climate adaptation planning process and land-use study. David requested a copy of each letter be circulated for comment; please return any feedback by Monday morning.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – To start, Chris reported that he is submitting a grant to the BIA to support climate adaptation planning. The grant funds would use the existing Ecosystem Diagnostic and Treatment (EDT) model to incorporate new aspects of climate change. This would enable the Salmon Recover Program to model the impacts of climate change on fisheries under a “business-as-usual” scenario and a scenario dominated by the Community Forest land management. Chris requested a Letter of Support from the NRC; he will draft it early next week and distribute to the NRC. The application is due next Friday.

As an update, Chris noted that another round of tags have been secured to continue the marine survival studies. Fish tagging will begin at the end of this month.

David noted that the North of Falcon harvesting allocation process is a difficult process: management needs are driven by river and international needs. The North of Falcon meeting includes representatives from all

Tribes, as well as the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. Due to the difficulties in prioritizing particular places, there are several places with severely reduced or prohibited fishing this year. Puget Sound fisheries are less than in the past, but David noted there's a good reason for that: Chinook forecasts are lower than they were last year, and poor ocean conditions may result in low returns for several years.

3. Shipwrecks of the Nisqually Reach – Captain Ethan Allen, DuPont Historical Society

Although there are about 30 wrecks within a 2-3 square mile area around the Nisqually delta, Ethan will be focusing on just a few because they are in the best condition. They are historic ships, and two of them were heavily involved in WWII. Ethan also mentioned that the wrecks act as artificial reefs—they're covered with marine life and surrounded by sand dollars.

The first and largest wreck is the schooner William Nottingham, which was built in Ballard. It was about 211 feet long, and able to get into very shallow bays throughout Puget Sound. It originally carried lumber and could hold approximately 1 million board feet per load. The Nottingham first set sail from Port Townsend in 1902; the next documentation of the boat is in 1907 when a captured passenger went on a violent rampage. In fact, the Nottingham's history was riddled with human rights violations—in 1912 it was listed on the Red Record of Shipping, a record of ships involved with the Shanghai trade. In 1941 the Nottingham was purchased by the Navy and was used as an ammunition barge. In 1948, the Nottingham was sunk to act as a breakwater. A picture was taken in 1958: the boat has split open, leaving only the keel above the sand.

The second and oldest ship is the Steam Tug Wanderer, which was built in 1890. The Wanderer was a unique boat at the time: most tugboats were built similar to a barge, whereas the Wanderer looked similar to modern tugboats. Ethan noted that in the late 1800s, tugboats would race out to a ship, and the winning boat would receive the contract. The Wanderer won every race. Additionally, the boat was sheathed in copper, which prevented most marine organisms from growing on it. Because the boat was so fast and versatile, the Wanderer performed a lot of rescue work too. When towing, the Wanderer often pulled lumber ships past the Nisqually delta on their way to Port Townsend and Port Gamble. Unfortunately, the Wanderer also had a marred past. She was involved in a lawsuit after rescuing a boat in distress; the boat, it turns out, was not in distress at all, and the Wanderer was charged with piracy. Eventually, the Wanderer was sunk about 20 feet from the Nottingham. Today, the copper sheathing is still there, though it is buried under the silt. She is also split in half.

Next is the schooner John A, built in the Peter Mathews Shipyard in 1893. Originally, the John A was used as a fishing boat, but Ethan does not have a record of where she was between 1893 and 1911—she likely carried lumber and fish between Seattle and California. In 1911, she was purchased by a fisherman in Bremerton and converted permanently into a fishing boat. The owner also had an Alaskan canning company, so the John A spent a lot of time between Seattle and Ketchikan. She continued to fish until 1940, when concerns of Japanese submarines halted fishing operations. In fact, another schooner was struck by submarines two hours before the attacks on Pearl Harbor. On April 6, 1941, the John A was towed to a new location, but was unfortunately mistaken as an enemy ship and fired upon, causing damage. Yet another adventure occurred in 1942 when the John A was involved in the raid on Dutch Harbor. After the war, the boat was sold and sunk about ½ mile from the Nottingham and Wanderer.

The last ship is the concrete hulled vessel sitting at the end of the delta. Ethan has been unable to find any history on the ship. He noted that it was likely used to take fuel from the dock out to large ships unable to come close to shore. It was likely used throughout the war and sunk in the early 1960s. While there is an ID number available, it does not lead to a paper trail of any sort. The boat is made of concrete, rebar and chicken wire. Ethan's presentation is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-shipwrecks>

4. Stewardship Ambassadors – Peter Donaldson & Cassandra Houghton, Sustainability Ambassadors

Peter and Cassandra head the Sustainability Ambassadors (SA) program in King County, a good model for the NRC Youth Council. They will present on SA program modules, collective impacts, and potential next steps for the NRC.

The mission of SA is to empower youth to catalyze community sustainability. It is a student leadership team of 29 ambassadors representing 6 School Districts, 1 Private School and 13 cities throughout King County. Ambassadors take part in the Sustainable Systems College, a 100-hour training program where they learn about the 4 Ps: policy analysis, performance assessment, project management and public speaking. The students meet at various

community locations that pursue innovative sustainable methods. The goal is to use relevant community problems and solutions to engage students.

Within SA, there are several program components:

- 1) *Project Design Lab* is a 3-day summer teacher training that works with lead teachers. Teachers study local government documents, like comprehensive plans, and find ways to incorporate it into their curriculum.
- 2) *Leadership Development* – This is a developing program: Peter is in the process of submitting an \$88,000 grant to empower youth.
- 3) *Green Neighborhood Atlas* depicts impervious pavement, raingardens, solar panel installations and other features in a given neighborhood. This makes it easy to track progress within neighborhoods, and could be replicated within the Nisqually too.
- 4) *Community Summit* is an intergenerational meeting held once per year and helps Ambassadors identify topics that aren't covered. It is similar to the Student GREEN Congress model in that student delegates come ready to report data. However, the business community also comes prepared to present on their sustainability achievements too. Together, the Ambassadors and business leaders identify one topic to achieve together.
- 5) *Snapshot Survey* is a method to measure progress. This measures household behavior—students measure their own environmental practices at home. It's based on the King County Environmental Behavior Index; that data is used to make decisions on different policies. The SA survey is designed so that students can work on filling in the gaps in their own behaviors. Teachers can also use it to tailor curriculum.
- 6) *STAR Profiles* is a method to measure community progress. The STAR Community Rating System is nationwide and is used by local governments to help inform their comprehensive plans and other planning process. The STAR Community Rating system is used to help students link their own projects to city projects.
- 7) *Strategic Communications* happen when Ambassadors show up, unannounced, at community meetings to give brief, data-packed presentations. They've attended city council meetings, among others, to help influence local decision makers.
- 8) *Common Agenda* is an online platform for sharing resources among interested community members.

Currently, Peter and Cassandra are working on a grant to support The Green Team & Youth Leadership Capacity Building. This is a potential avenue for the NRC to partner. There are 4 actions:

- 1) Benchmark and measure progress to show that students are making a difference, not just being idealistic.
- 2) Build professional skills through coaching circles and data analysis. This includes leadership training for students, teachers and community members and establishes a collective impact cycle.
- 3) Support real-world curriculum connections through the 3-day Project Design Lab, by showcasing student projects, advocating district-wide adoption and incorporating school curriculums into the STAR Community Rating System.
- 4) Broadcast and amplify success models by establishing communication strategies, maintaining a database of contacts, building a social media and website presence and giving public presentations. This also includes the production and dissemination of foundational documents, like a collective impact report, case studies, and TED-style video series.

When thinking about the NRC Youth Council, it will be important to include collective impact models. This entails a common agenda; shared measurements; mutually reinforcing actions; continuous communication and a backbone organization. The NRC, for instance, could serve as a backbone organization.

Comments/Questions:

- 1) *Funding* -- A few very large grants related to stormwater helped Peter reach into schools to embed some common documents and resources. They also have several foundation-based grants, and are exploring corporate sponsorship and government support. They are currently applying for a GROSS grant involving around 10 jurisdictions. Sheila will partner with Peter on this, and will work to involve Eatonville.
- 2) Thoughts on the NRC Youth Council framework:
 - a. It must be built on relationships and the fact that students are doing real work. There should be a high bar for participants—participants should have job descriptions, and teachers must be on board.
 - b. Perhaps 3 NRC meetings per year (fall, winter and spring) should take place at a local high school. The meetings should move down the watershed, and student representatives from the school should help out with facilitation. Bottom line: face-to-face meetings are better than virtual ones.

Peter's presentation can be viewed here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/sustainability-ambassadors-the-nrc>

5. For the Good of the Order

The Chief Leschi run will be on May 2nd this year. It is the only time this part of JBLM is open to the public; registration is due by April 24th.

A 4th grade class in Seattle was inspired to start a lipsyncing contest to raise money for the marine survival studies. Keep your eyes open!

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, May 15th, 2015, 9:30am – 12:30pm
Ohop Grange*