



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
April 21, 2017
Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Amy Cruver – *Pierce County Council*
Matt Curtis – *WDFW*
JW Foster – *City of Yelm*
Abby Gribi – *Town of Eatonville*
Amber Martens – *JBLM*

Brandon Mohler – *WaDNR*
Amber Moore – *Puget Sound Partnership*
Kevin Skerl – *Mount Rainier*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (2)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Ed Kenney
Fred Michelson
Karelina Resnick

Bob Smith
Marjorie Smith
Lois Ward*

Guests

Roger Andrascik – *Nisq. Stream Stewards/Land Trust*
Jeff Barney – *Pierce County*
Warren Bergh – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*
Michael Burnham – *Thurston Regional Planning Council*
Adonais Clark – *Pierce County Planning*
Ben Dennis – *Instream Conservation*
Chris Ellings – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Colleen Glastetter – *Citizen*
Howard Glastetter – *Citizen*
Martin McCallum – *NLT/NSS*

Curtis McFarland – *NOAA*
Jim Myers – *Citizen*
Etsuko Reistroffer – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*
Glen Thomas – *Sierra Club*
Jeaneil Thomas – *River Bend Campground*
Dan Trufford – *Lacey Resident*
Kathleen Mix – *Nisqually Land Trust*
Alice Rubin – *RCO/SRFB*
Chris Schutz – *NRFB*
Tom Skjervold – *Nisqually Delta Association*
Ashley Von Essen – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

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

Zoe Lovell – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*
Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*

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

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:13.

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

Honoring Morgan – blanket ceremony and kind words from lots of folks

2. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC met on the 11th and some relatively new attendees which has enriched the group. Update from Ed on trails and hikes in the Nisqually. Staffing updates. Ed also talked about sludge spreading in Mason County. Discussed the letter about the review of the comprehensive plan. Will be discussing Stormwater issues at the next meeting. Also discussed county Septic Fees. Added Robert as the voting member to replace Steve.
- *Chair Report* – North of Falcon has consumed the chairs life. A deal has been struck this year. Governor's office played a significant role in the process. Impacts to the Nisqually should be a better season locally. Preseason forecast is for a decent Chinook return this year. Coho will not be strong, mostly as a result of

- hatchery issues (water quality and predators). Reduced the normal of release of 600,000 to 80,000. Will be creating a Coho integrated program. Chum forecast is very low and there will be no fishing tribal or state unless escapement is met. Peak of the run has moved earlier in the year from Christmas time to the first week of December. They are taking significant actions to rebuild the stock. Lastly will be working on state budget until it's finished. A question was raised about Muck Creek and Reed Canary. Very difficult to control. Nisqually Staff took the Leadership on a tour of the Nisqually Watershed which was successful.
- *Staff Report* – It's been a great month of wrapping up and saying goodbye. There was a stream stewards tube removal event in March. We are getting an WSC AmeriCorps member next year. Will be staying on to work on River Trail and Delta Data project.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – The annual fundraiser was held early April and was largely successful. Susan Calendar did a great organizing job. Thanks to all those who attended, volunteered and donated. NLT acquired a new property, donated by the Shervold? Family, near Mount Rainier National Park. It is 14 acres in size. Joe noted that there is a movement to direct Conservation Futures funding to purchase gopher habitat. The three local land trusts are worried about the move—NLT has used that funding frequently for projects. Additionally, WWRP is a conservation funding program statewide that funds acquisitions, trail building, salmon recovery, and more. It has been used by NLT multiple times, including the purchase of the Bud Blancher Trail. The House Republicans have pulled all funds for conservation properties in Republican districts, which includes Yelm, Eatonville and other portions of the Nisqually Watershed. The NLT has a ranked project that would be impacted by this change. It is \$200,000, and all money has to be spent in the districts. The representatives are JT Wilcox and Andy Barkis; the Land Trust has contacted both offices.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Introduced Zoe Lovell. She will be interning with the NREP for the Spring quarter. Is a recent Grad of Evergreen. Zoe will be implementing the Cool Schools Challenge as a part of the NOAA Grant. Weyerhaeuser donated 500 trees. They went to schools, the Gathers Rain Tribal event, and some are here for the taking. The Eye on Nature Field Trips started the day after Spring Break. The number of students per field trips has increased from 60 to 100. She spent Spring
- Break in New Orleans doing service work.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Strategic Planning. Videos. Morgan, 4 Days on the Mashel. Nisqually Game Cams.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Lots going on right now. Crews doing spawner surveys. Beach seining. Zooplankton Survey. Chris in on full on planning mode. Updating and new plans. As a part of the lead entity responsibilities they have been looking at the ranking procedures for projects. The Nisqually Recovery plan is one of the more detailed plans. It was completed in 2001 and we have learned a lot since then. Mostly about the overarching ecosystem processes. Also about restoration large scale multi-reach projects. For example the Community Forest area has a great effect even though salmon aren't present there. They are in the middle of a rewrite of the Chinook plan through adaptive management. Adopting a new project plan? With tiers of projects. Will bring it to the Council for review and approval. Will be wrapping in some pretty large initiatives, sediment recovery to the delta, adjusting for climate change etc. Will start implementing the Steelhead Recovery plan while still waiting for approval from the feds. Need to start implementing now. Monitoring piece will be very important. Everything will have goals so that projects can be put in context with the initiative. Will be heading to the Salmon Recovery Conference next week in Wenatchee. Discussion on Marine Mammals and management of their populations.

Ashley brought up the Nisqually Land Trust's request for more funding for an acquisition project at the Whitewater reach. There is about \$130,000 in funding from another project that isn't going through. And would like to transfer that to the Whitewater project. A motion was made to transfer the funds. Karelina Resnick moved, Ed Kenney seconded. Motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

3. TRPC Climate Adaptation Plan – Michael Burnham

Michel is a planner with Thurston County. Sustainable Thurston was the genesis of the Thurston County Adaptation Plan via a HUD grant. They are currently developing a plan through a NEP grant. Will be finished by the first quarter of 2018. Adaptation is preparing for climate change. We potentially face floods, droughts, and wildfires. It

is socially and fiscally responsible to start working on adaptation. The project started with a 100 page vulnerability assessment which is available at wwtrpc.org/climate. The vulnerability assessment uses empirical data to show historical averages in the region's climate over the late 20th century. The study area is Mount Rainier to Puget Sound. The study uses emission scenarios and climate models to show projected changes over the 21st century and assess the impacts on the region's human and natural systems.

The outlook for climate impacts is generally, warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers over 21st century. Changes will worsen existing hazards (floods, landslides, wildfires, droughts) and introduce new threats (invasive plants and insects, diseases).

Risks & Impacts of climate change include:

Shrinking snowpack = Changes streamflow timing, degrades fish habitat

Changing oceans = Threatens local fisheries (acidification and temp.)

Rising sea levels = Exacerbates coastal flooding, erosion

Warmer lakes & streams = Threatens water quality, human and fish health

Bigger storms = Damages infrastructure, endangers people

Deeper droughts = Spurs water shortages, wildfires, crop losses

They identified over 100 climate risks and then assessed how risks intersect with 8 stressors and 12 project goals. The risks were placed into a likelihood/consequences matrix. 6 risks fell in the highest areas, 40 in the middle, and 30 in lowest areas.

Strategies and Actions. Selected strategies – Either take action or accept and monitor the risk. Identified actions – Initial actions came from project team or plans (King County, Sustainable Thurston, EPA, NRC Forest & Water Climate Adaptation Plan, etc.)

They are now doing outreach. On April 17th there will be a Community Forum. There is also an online survey www.trpc.org/climate. We are all invited to participate.

Questions – is there any partnering with Pierce County in the Nisqually Watershed. No, though actions could be used in neighboring areas. We will Invite him back when the final plan is in draft form.

4. **Pierce County NPDS – Dan Smith**

Dan provided an update on the Pierce County Stormwater program. Presenting to the NRC helps them to meet their outreach obligations. Pierce County has a Phase 1 permit. Goal is to manage and reduce pollution getting into the stormwater system. The 2016 annual report was posted during March and is available on their website. They also created a 2017 Stormwater Management Program Plan. The program has numerous elements. They include:

- Legal Authority - The Legal Authority, which allows them to enforce actions against illicit discharges, comes from Pierce County Code 11.05 and an Executive Order 2012-1.
- Mapping – They are continually updating the mapping of their system.
- Intra-governmental Coordination – Inter-department efforts: inspections, training and other responsibilities, Coordination with nine other local governments (interconnected drainage systems), Watershed-based coordination with four Councils (including SWAB) Phase I Permit Group, Puget Sound Partnership, WRIA 10/12 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity, etc.
- Public Involvement – Briefings to watershed councils, Homeowners' Association Workshops, SWMP Plan on County website
- Control of runoff from new development redevelopment and construction sites – Includes a process of permitting, site plan review, inspections, and enforcement to meet standards for both private and public projects, using qualified personnel (PALS). Includes low impact development code-related requirements, Spanaway Watershed Plan: 2015 - characterization, data collection, analysis, and watershed model development. 2016 - collection of additional surface water flow, groundwater level, and surface and groundwater quality. 2017 - final watershed plan submitted to the Department of Ecology.
- Structural Stormwater Controls – A program to construct structural stormwater controls to prevent or reduce impacts to waters of the state. There are eleven structural stormwater control projects in the plan for 2018.

- Source Control Program for Existing Development – A program for existing development designed to reduce pollutants in runoff from areas that discharge to the County’s MS4. Includes the application of operational and structural source control best management practices (BMPs), and if necessary, treatment BMPs/facilities to pollution generating sources associated with existing land uses and activities; and, inspections of pollution generating sources at commercial and industrial properties. The requirements for this program are met by using source control BMPs in Volume IV of Pierce County’s Stormwater Management Manual. Over 1000 inspections were performed in 2016.
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program – An ongoing program designed to prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and illicit discharges into the MS4. Usually have around 200 incidents per year. Often spills in the right of way. Shows top ten pollutant types detected from 2012-2016.
- Operation and Maintenance Program, Education and Outreach Program – A program to regulate maintenance activities and to conduct maintenance activities to prevent or reduce stormwater impacts to both private development and County facilities. SWM performs over 500 maintenance inspections of County-owned permanent stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. Road Operations completes inspections of over 20,000 stormwater catch basins located within the roads right-of way SWM will continue to prepare and update Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards, and material storage facilities owned or operated by the County.
- Water Clean Up Plans (TMDLs) - The Permit requires Pierce County to implement actions prescribed in completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) water cleanup plans. Puyallup Watershed TMDL - (fecal coliform), South Prairie Creek TMDL - (fecal coliform), Nisqually Basin TMDL - (fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen), Clarks Creek TMDL - (sediment, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform)
- Monitoring Program - The NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit requires Pierce County to participate in a Regional Monitoring Program. The program has three main elements: Status and Trends, Effectiveness Studies, Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring

5. Rim Rock Mine EIS – Adonais Clark

The project proposal is to extract 250,000 tons of rock, sand, gravel, and topsoil per year by truck, with an allowance for increases in trucked material based on area population growth, and approximately 300,000 tons per year by rail and up to 1.5 million tons per year by rail no sooner than the 15th year of operation, on a 762-acre project site area within parcels that total approximately 778 acres. The proposed extraction operations will be located on the westerly 500 acres of the site; the remainder will be designated a Future Reserve. A 100-foot buffer will be left along the north and western project boundaries. The proposal includes on-site rock/gravel processing facilities and the construction of a new railroad spur for loading and transportation of material. Railcars will also be used in the transportation of gravel material, which will begin at some point during the first 5 years of operation. Trucks will remain in operation after railcar hauling has begun, maintaining their material output of around 250,000 tons per year along with 30,000 cubic yards of topsoil with provisions for 2 percent yearly increases based on population growth for the life of the mine. The project is proposed to be developed in 3 phases over the course of 40 years.

There was discussion about the ownership around the proposed development and how the notification of neighbors occurred was made regarding the public meetings. The area is currently zoned Rural 10 and Rural 20. Areas of Concern discussed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Largest concern is in the amount of trucks that would be driving past the elementary school. Other concerns include:

The potential impact from the project on the springs that service many of the residential homes along the east side of Ohop Lake;

The potential impact from the project on the slope areas and slope stability along the northerly and northwesterly portion of the site;

- The potential impact on the ambient noise levels;
- The potential impact of truck traffic on the 129th Avenue East/Lynch Creek Road East corridor as well as the intersection of SR-161 (Washington Avenue) and Lynch Creek Road East, including:
 - Potential conflicts in the morning hours with school traffic;
 - Potential safety concerns for students traveling between the high school and the ball fields along Lynch Creek Road East;
 - Potential impact to the bridge along Lynch Creek Road East; and
 - Potential impacts of the turning radius of the trucks turning from Lynch Creek/129th Avenue East corridor to northbound SR-161 (Washington Avenue).

- Potential impacts to on-site wetlands, off-site wetlands along Lynch Creek/129th Avenue East corridor, the on-site seasonal stream, and Ohop Lake; and
- Potential noise and view impacts to Northwest Trek

Staff recommendation: County staff has reviewed this proposal for compliance with all applicable policies, codes, and regulations. Staff has also reviewed the conclusions and recommended mitigation measures from the Draft EIS and Final EIS. The County recommends approval of the proposal for a Conditional Use Permit, and has provided a list of recommended conditions at the conclusion of the staff report. Next meeting is on May 18th, 9am at the Pierce County Annex. Concerns were raised at the meeting about the project and the process with the hearing examiner. David said that the Tribe will be looking to NOAA to comment on this project if it is approved by the County.

6. Nisqually River Foundation Strategic Plan – Justin Hall

Postponed until next meeting.

7. For the Good of the Order

- Earth Day – March for Science – Capitol at 11am. Also Tacoma and Seattle.
- On Tuesday at 6pm there is a meeting of the parks department in Eatonville about the decrease or elimination of use of pesticides in the parks.
- NRF Board meeting
- Goodbye Morgan!

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday May 19th, 2017 from 9:00-12:00
UW Pack Forest*