



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
March 17, 2017
Yelm Community Center
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

JW Foster – *City of Yelm*
Abby Gribi – *Town of Eatonville*
Amber Martens – *JBLM*
Amber Moore – *Puget Sound Partnership*

Glynnis Nakai – *BFJNNWR*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (2)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Phyllis Farrell*
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*
Chris Ellings – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Colleen Glastetter – *Citizen*
Howard Glastetter – *Citizen*

Jim Myers – *Citizen*
Allison Osterberg – *Thurston County*
Etsuko Reistroffer – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*
Dean Smith – *Lakeside Industries*
Ashley Von Essen – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Linsey Fields – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*
Morgan Greene – *Nisqually River Council*
Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*

Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*
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 9:48.

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

2. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Phyllis and the rest of the CAC are concerned about Steve Pruitt – no one has heard from him for several months. The CAC met earlier this week and discussed several upcoming planning changes. The CAC is also interested in budget updates, proposed funding cuts, and the impact on the Nisqually watershed.
- *Chair Report* – Given such a wet spring, David highlighted the work of TPU on their recent operations: other nearby rivers flooded recently, but the Nisqually didn't. The Governor's budget is now gone, partially because of school bonds and the need for matching funds for capital projects. The House and Senate are developing budgets on their own. He noted that citizen voices are very important right now, but salmon recovery fund availability is not looking optimistic. On the federal side, the President's budget negates funds that would support Puget Sound, the EPA, NOAA and many other funding sources that directly impact the work of the NRC, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nisqually Land Trust, and other partners. The reliance on government funding has always been on shaky ground; this year highlights the need to create a funding source that is not tied to budgets.
- *Staff Report* – Morgan announced that she is leaving the NRC to move to Alabama with her husband. Her last day will be April 21. She will continue to work remotely on the Nisqually River Water Trail and

portions of the Delta Data project until they are completed. In other news, the Nisqually Stream Stewards are hosting a tube removal event on March 25; RSVP to Morgan for directions. Morgan has also jumped in for Sheila over the last few weeks, including helping at an Eye on Nature and Student GREEN Congress training, and Eye on Nature fundraiser. Student GREEN Congress is next week.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – The annual Auction is on April 1st, and tickets are still available. It will be at the Lacey campus of South Puget Sound Community College, with food and beverage service provided by Occasions. Joe echoed the fact that the Nisqually Land Trust hasn't heard from Steve either. In addition, the old barn in the Ohop Valley has collapsed. The Land Trust staff is sending out letters of support and applications while grant funds are still available. As an FYI, the Wilcox Flats property has been renamed the Lackamas Flats.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – The Eye on Nature fundraiser was earlier this week—although it wasn't quite as large as previous years, it was still a successful event. Thank you to those who attended! Eye on Nature field trips are booked, and Sheila is still looking for volunteers to help with the event. The 25th annual Student GREEN Congress is next Thursday, March 25. Maia Bellon will address the crowd and Jay Inslee prepared a video address. The keynote speaker is Gene Tagaban. Visit the hospitality room for cake and memory sharing! In other news, this is Linsey's last NRC meeting; Justin and Morgan have interviewed new intern candidates.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin announced that Chris Maun has retired! Justin has connected with legislators to get state funding back for the NRC. He continues to represent the Nisqually Community Forest at the Northwest Community Forest Forum. Justin continues to attend AHSS meetings, although he is no longer chairing the meetings.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Cathy Sampsel, the Nisqually Indian Tribe's long time Restoration Biologist, has accepted a new job in the Tribe's GIS Program. Among other things, Cathy set up the planting projects in Ohop Valley, leaving a legacy of young forests throughout the watershed. It leaves a large opening in Chris' program, but the position will remain vacant until there's a better sense of how budgets will shape up. Joe noted that Cathy has been an amazing partner of the Nisqually Land Trust. In other news, conditions have not been great to conduct spawning surveys. The counter camera has been a great tool, but also has limited capabilities in murky water. The camera allows for the identification of salmon species—even in turbid water—and has been useful to get a more accurate count of steelhead and late coho. However, it requires an excessive amount of weeding through the data. Amber suggested Chris get in touch with the Sustainability in Prisons program – they have worked on similar projects before. The North of Falcon process is underway and the public preseason forecasts will be released today.

3. **Nisqually Subarea Plan/Recycled Asphalt** – *Allison Osterberg, with comments by Dean Smith & Jim Myers*
The Thurston County Commissioners are started the Comprehensive Plan Annual Docket review process. There are two items that are of interest to the NRC. Dockets are required under the Revised Code of Washington and the Thurston County Code. Thurston County has two dockets: the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket and the Development Code Amendment Docket. The latter is for development code amendments that do not require a comprehensive plan amendment. Allison's presentation today refers to the former. Public comments are due on March 23 at 5pm. They can be emailed to Allison Osterberg at osterba@co.thurston.wa.us. A follow-up Board Briefing will be on March 30th.

The Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket begins with a preliminary docket. This is not the official document: it highlights projects that have been developed by staff, commissioners, citizens, and/or industries. All proposals must be submitted by November 15 of each year. It then has a 20-day comment period; currently, the preliminary docket is within that 20 day period. All comments are due by March 23 at 5:00 pm to Allison Osterberg. Next, the Board reviews written comments and gives direction on the proposed docket, and staff develops a final official docket. The docket is then submitted for adoption by the Board. To be clear, the upcoming deadline does not determine whether or not a proposed project will be adopted, but whether or not it will appear on the official docket for further review. Allison's presentation includes a diagram detailing the steps taken before a proposed project becomes an amendment.

The 2017 Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Docket includes county-initiated amendments, including: a Comprehensive Plan Update*; Habitat Conservation Plan; Shoreline Master Plan; Capital Facilities Plan; Voluntary

Stewardship Plan*; Nisqually Subarea Plan*; Grand Mound Subarea Plan; Transfer of Development Rights; and Ubrna Forest Ordinance. Those marked with an asterisk are new projects; the rest have carried over from previous years. The county-initiated amendment regarding the Nisqually Subarea Plan would review the entire plan. Citizen-initiated amendments are: Lakeside Industries/Nisqually Subarea Plan; Toft Site-specific Rezone; and Barnett/PRRD Standards*. Under the citizen-initiated amendments, the proposal would only review Policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan.

The Nisqually Subarea Plan was adopted in 1992 by the Nisqually Planning Committee under the 1988 Thurston County Comprehensive Plan in response to concerns about urban development incompatible with sensitive areas. These sensitive areas include bluffs, McAllister Creek and floodplains. The plan has not changed since adoption. The Thurston County Commissioners wish to take a look at the subarea plan as a whole and update it as needed. David noted that the subarea plan was developed with significant stakeholder involvement, and feels that involvement is necessary if the proposal moves forward. Allison noted that a similar stakeholder group would be created.

In contrast, the Lakeside Policy Request wishes to change Policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea plan. This policy says that recycled asphalt processing shall not be permitted due to water quality concerns. For several years, Lakeside Industries has requested a review of this policy, though it has never moved past the preliminary docket. Allison noted that the current public comment deadline would not determine whether the policy will be changed, but rather if it moves onto the final docket.

Dean attended to represent Lakeside Industries. He noted that the company seeks an environmental review of the practice, and suggested the NRC tour their facilities during an upcoming meeting. Dean noted that Lakeside Industries is the only gravel mine not permitted to produce recycled asphalt. His email is deans@lakesideind.com, and his phone number is (360) 491-5460.

Jim provided a citizens perspective. He was involved in the original development of the Nisqually Subarea Plan, and has lived in the watershed since 1982. He's also chair of the VSP committee in Thurston County. He noted that when the Nisqually Subarea Plan was developed, there were concerns about water and air contamination issues. Although Lakeside Industries is a good neighbor, Jim has noted changes in the environmental quality of the area. The intent of the Nisqually Subarea Plan is to protect the watershed's rural character and natural areas: he supports a review of the whole plan, but does not support a change of Policy E.5.

David noted that the subarea plan stemmed from the creation of the Nisqually River Council. However, a lot has changed since it was adopted, and an overall review of the plan is a smart move. Phyllis wondered about the environmental risks, and expressed concerns over opening a review process. Chris wondered about funding: if reviewing the policy amendment, Lakeside's submittal fee would cover the fees; the County would pay for a review of the whole plan.

There was a motion to write a letter to encourage the Thurston County Commissioners to review the Nisqually Subarea Plan, with the involvement of the NRC. The motion was seconded. After concerns were raised about reexamining the plan, the motion was tabled. During the scheduled break, concerned members spoke with the NRC chair. The motion was brought forward again, and passed unanimously. David will draft a letter and disperse to the NRC before sending it out.

Allison's presentation is here: <https://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/comprehensive-plan-annual-docket>. The Subarea plan is also on the Thurston County website. She also encouraged the NRC to review the draft VSP plan that is up for public comment.

4. Pierce County updated FEMA maps/Upper Nisqually CMZ – Jeff Barney

The Pierce County Council adopted new FEMA flood maps last month. Jeff is available to meet on an individual basis to answer specific questions. More information is here: <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/3945/Flooding>. The Upper Nisqually Channel Migration Zone was also adopted. The channel near Alpine Village has shifted significantly over the last several decades. The updated CMZ requires undeveloped parcels within the zone to remain as such. Jeff has multiple resources if folks are interested in learning more. Jeff's email is: jbarney@co.pierce.wa.us

5. 2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board New Project List – Ashley Von Essen

Ashley presented the new projects lists eligible for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) this year. These projects have all been reviewed by the Nisqually Habitat Work Group. Note that PSAR projects are not a part of this funding cycle. The SRFB allocation is estimated to be \$375,000, but state funding for salmon is widely unknown at this time. Ashley also noted that a complete update of the 4-year work plan is due later in the year.

Draft applications are due on May 10th, and site visits with the SRFB review panel will be May 31. The Nisqually Habitat Work Group will meet on July 5 to develop a ranked project list. This list will be brought before the NRC in July for approval. Final applications are due August 10th, and the review panel will provide comments between August and November. The final ranked list is due in November, and finally, awards will be announced in December.

The new projects are:

- Nisqually River Knotweed Eradication (Sponsor: Pierce Conservation District). The proposal requests \$65,000, and would focus on Roundtop and Mineral Creeks, both of which have been treated once. It covers 200 acres and 6 river miles.
- Ward Site Fish Passage (Sponsor: South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group). The request is \$79,050 and would provide matching funds to complete a project that will result in the removal of 3 barriers on South Creek.
- Horn Creek Fish Passage Design (Sponsor: South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group). The request is \$40,000 and stemmed from the steelhead habitat assessment project. It is a design only project to determine options around barriers to fish passage.
- Lower Murray Creek Protection (Sponsor: Nisqually Land Trust). The requested amount is \$367,855 and would cover the acquisition of 155 acres along lower Murray Creek. The property includes 1 mile of creek as well as off-channel wetlands. It is currently undeveloped, but zoned for residential.

Ashley sought approval to add these projects to the project list. There was a motion to accept the 4 projects; the motion was accepted unanimously. Presentation: <https://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-2017-grant-round-new-project-list>.

6. NREP Quarter in Review – Linsey Fields

Linsey began her internship with NREP in October, just before water quality monitoring. In addition, Linsey led salmon tossing and tree planting field trips. Prior to the internship, Linsey had never planted a tree before, and salmon tossing was her favorite activity.

7. For the Good of the Order

Morgan's last beer college is on March 31st at Oly Taproom from 5-7pm. She would love to see you there!

Abby Gribi noted that on Monday, 5-10 gallons of oil were spilled in a ditch in Eatonville. The Town responded very quickly and worked with Department of Ecology to clean up the spill before it reached Lynch Creek. Additionally, there are 2 public meetings for the Rimrock Mine expansion—one will be in Tacoma and another in Eatonville. The expansion would increase truck traffic through Eatonville by approximately 250 trucks per day. The proposal is available on the Pierce County website. The expansion has not been approved yet, but the Final EIS has been released. Jeff has more information, which he will share with Morgan.

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

***Next Meeting: Friday April 21, 2017 from 9:00-12:00
BFJNNWR; NWSP Topic: Ecosystem Functions***