



**Meeting Minutes  
Nisqually River Council  
October 17, 2014  
UW Pack Forest  
Information: 360.438.8715**

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Roger Andrascik** – Mount Rainier National Park  
**Bob Burkle** – WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
**Amy Cruver** – Pierce County  
**JW Foster** – City of Yelm  
**Edna Fund** – Lewis County

**Glynnis Nakai** – Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge  
**Stephanie Suter** – Puget Sound Partnership  
**David Troutt** – Nisqually Indian Tribe  
\* **CAC Representatives** (3)

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Phyllis Farrell**  
**Fred Michelson\***  
**Marjorie Smith**

**Robert Smith\***  
**Debbie Anderson**  
**Karelina Resnick\***

**Guests**

**Becca Pilcher** – Thurston County  
**Ed Fund** – Lewis County Resident  
**Chris Schutz** – Pierce County  
**Don Sloma** – Thurston County

**Art Starry** – Thurston County  
**Donna Turnipseed** – JBLM  
**Luis Yanez** – Pierce Conservation District

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Morgan Greene** – Nisqually River Council  
**Justin Hall** – Nisqually River Foundation  
**James Morrill** – Nisqually Sustainable

**Sheila Wilson** – Nisqually River Ed. Project  
**Tyler Willey** – Nisqually River Ed. Project  
**Sarah Davis** – 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 9:38am.

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

**2. Thurston Bountiful Byways – Becca Pilcher, Assistant to Commissioner Romero**

The Bountiful Byways program is the latest initiative of Sandra’s agritourism effort. It all began in 2010 when Sandra established the agritourism overlay district, with a purpose of promoting farming and preventing further loss of agricultural land in the county. Over the last couple of years, the agritourism committee has put on a number of events, including Cultivating Agritourism, Savor South Sound and Harvesting Energy. The Savor South Sound is the biggest event so far, which features local businesses.

The Bountiful Byways concept began in 2012. Byways have been successful in other areas: it’s an established scenic route that promotes local businesses. The Thurston Bountiful Byways was modeled off of several other byways, including the Hood River Fruit Loop. It’s still in the process of being developed, though the official launch was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Developing the byway required many considerations. Everything from scenic quality, local tourism/agritourism opportunities, recreational opportunities, and community support were taken into account. Additionally, an official route was established and directional signs installed. The group also produced a preliminary brochure that contains a map of the byway.

Discussions around membership applications, marketing programs, funding and advertising are still underway. To help address these challenges, the committee hired an intern from TESC this year. She researched several other existing byways and learned about successful membership criteria, marketing programs and more.

Although there is much to be done, the group has a fairly clear idea of success indicators. In 10 years, for example, success is an increase in sustainable agritourism projects throughout the county. This would promote tourism, reduce land-use conversion and increase the number of country cottage inns. Rather than allowing for unregulated growth, the goal is to promote economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture-based growth. However, it's been a challenge to determine the best ways in which to measure progress towards this idea of success. Some possibilities include passports, road counts, and questionnaires.

To get more involved with the process, the NRC is invited to attend the monthly agritourism committee meetings. The next one is on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30 in Room 280 of the Courthouse. For more information visit [www.thurstonbountifulbyway.com](http://www.thurstonbountifulbyway.com) or [www.co.thurston.wa.us](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us). You can also email Sandra at [Romerros@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:Romerros@co.thurston.wa.us). There is also a Byways Facebook page! Additionally, Becca's presentation is available on the NRC's slideshare account: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/thurston-bountiful-byways>.

3. **Thurston Thrives** – *Don Sloma (Director of Thurston Co. Public Health & Social Services), Art Starry (Director of Environmental Health)*

The Thurston Thrives Initiative is led by the Thurston County Board of Health and is an attempt to make a widespread impact on community wellness. Budget cuts and a lack of community partners have been obstacles in the past, so this initiative aims to utilize a collective impact model. In other words, by working with multiple partners, across multiple sectors, it is more possible to make a large impact.

Thurston Thrives is based on the opinion that health stems from health behaviors, clinical care, the physical environment, social and economic factors. A healthy community is one that enjoys fresh air, clean water, good housing, great schools, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods and more—these are known as health factors. In order to improve health, it is necessary to improve each health factor. As such, achieving community health must be a joint effort between many different departments, organizations and community members. That's where the idea of a *collective impact* comes in.

There are five conditions of collective impact:

- 1) Common agenda: There is a shared vision for change
- 2) Shared Measurement: Common idea of success
- 3) Mutually Reinforcing Activities: Strategies overlap with each other
- 4) Continuous Communication: Build trust and mutual respect
- 5) Backbone Support: One organization to staff the project and support the partners

Thurston Thrives contains several key components. The first is that it works to integrate existing plans and groups rather than starting from scratch. Secondly, the group wishes to communicate outcomes frequently and widely. Lastly, there are nine action teams that are a part of Thurston Thrives, which each deal with a different aspect of health.

All the strategies are listed in detail on the Thurston Thrives website ([www.thurstonthrives.org](http://www.thurstonthrives.org)). However, the broad level strategies for each action team include:

- **Food:** Reclaim more food and remind people about health eating.
- **Economy:** Revitalize connections to employers.
- **Community design:** Revamp paths and trails; re-imagine community places as walk-able
- **Housing:** Reduce entry costs
- **Education:** Better connect kids to support groups
- **Child & Youth Resilience:** Prevent and rebound from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and redouble social connections.
- **Environment:** Ensure clean air, restore and maintain water quality, reduce waste, rebound from emergencies.

- **Community Resilience:** Re-connect and support all residents; rebound and take strength from adversity.
- **Clinical care:** Remember what keeps us healthy; integrate care.

The Environmental Action Team developed an Environmental Strategy Map that outlines goals and actions necessary to improving air and water quality. It also works to reduce waste. The map touches on numerous topics. For example, one is to “keep air clean and climate stable.” This is the group’s first attempt at recognizing the problem of climate change.

There are three Phases to Thurston Thrives. The first stage, “Develop” is coming to a close. Between 2014-2020, it will enter “Implementation” and from 2020-2021, the group will re-assess the projects. Before beginning implementation, however, there is still some work to be done, including naming a “backbone” organization. The next steps are to better align within strategies and across teams and to review, celebrate and reissue the call to action.

The presentation is available on the NRC SlideShare account: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/thurston-thrivesppt-101714final-1>.

#### 4. Reports

##### Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – James Morrill presented at the last CAC meeting about his recent hike on the Wonderland Trail. Additionally, the CAC has received two membership applications in the last week— from David Thorp and Grace Ann Byrd. At the last meeting, the CAC made a motion to approve David’s application. The NRC also approved a motion to accept David’s application. Grace’s application will be reviewed during the November meeting. Both David and Grace are 2014 Stream Steward Graduates and Master Gardeners. Grace is also a Nisqually Tribal member.

Lastly, Fred recently spoke the Mark Emrich of the WA Beekeepers Association in order to better understand what was being done about neonicotinoids. He learned that the City of Seattle passed a resolution and will no longer use pesticides with neonicotinoids on city property. This may also be true of the US Fish and Wildlife Service! Mark also agreed to help pass out Fred’s letter to Bud Hoover.

- *Chair Report* – David is working with the Partnership on budget reporting which will then go to the legislature. This deals with organizational structures around Puget Sound and ways to make it more effective. It includes supporting watershed efforts, and David is hoping this will end up in support for the NRC.

A similar conversation is being started on the federal level, and is around coordinating funding streams that are used to fund the projects of the NIT. Coordinating these sources would allow bigger pools of money and would help streamline funding processes.

An Executive Committee meeting has been difficult to set up. It will likely be scheduled in November-December, and discussions will revolve around the establishment of the Emeritus Board.

- *Staff Report* – As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, Morgan is now officially a paid staff member of the NRF. She also had a blast at the Nisqually Watershed Festival and is looking forward to tomorrow’s Eatonville Salmon Fest. The watershed festival had an estimated 1,040 visitors! Morgan also completed the first draft of the Climate Change Plan and would like to present her findings to the NRC soon. Additionally, she participated in Water Quality Monitoring this week and will attend several tree planting trips in the coming weeks!

##### Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – The Strategic Planning process is complete. A report from the facilitator will be presented soon. Overall, the NLT seems to be on the right track. Secondly, funding for acquisitions in the Ohop Valley has been rolling in. Lastly, the Thurston Thrives presentation has helped connect dots on the importance of the NWSP and the work of the NRC.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Welcome to Tyler, this year's AmeriCorps, and Sarah, this year's intern! Fall Water Quality Monitoring Day was a success—8 people from the office helped out, and 48 teachers travelled to 38 sites. A student count will be available soon. The program evaluation is nearly ready: at least 30 classrooms are participating. Ohop tree plantings start next week, and Mashel River plantings begin in November. Sheila also returned from a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the group who started the WQM. It was a very short trip, but she made some valuable connections. She also learned more about their curriculum, especially that around developing action projects.
- *Nisqually Sustainable* – Next week James will be hosting the first round of free workshops in Eatonville. There are 6 workshops total, and all focus on different ways that businesses can reduce their footprint. James and Anne Ferguson also produced a Nisqually Sustainable promotional video. It is available online at the Nisqually Sustainable YouTube page, or by following this link: [http://youtu.be/Ot4\\_LtcM\\_K4](http://youtu.be/Ot4_LtcM_K4). Sadly, this is James' last NRC meeting. He is moving to Portland.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin has been busy with festivals and the Community Forest initiative. Additionally, the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound is still figuring itself out. Lastly, it is grant-reporting season and the Eatonville Salmon Fest is tomorrow, from 10-3!
- *Stream Stewards* – Don was unable to attend today's meeting.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Both Chris and Ashley are absent today. However, Chris is presenting at the South Sound Science Symposium on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will be speaking about the restoration efforts at the Delta. Additionally, the Chinook run was very small throughout Puget Sound this year, with only around 12,000 fish returning. The most likely cause was a large pocket of warm water near Vancouver Island, which changed migration patterns or caused widespread mortality. Fisheries have been shut down early causing significant economic impact. On a positive note, the weir has been operating efficiently.

### 3. **NWSP Discussion – Integrated Communities; Update: Ecosystem Functions**

This NWSP links closely with the Thurston Thrives presentation given early. It deals with increasing public transportation, increased access to health care and education opportunities. Morgan has continued her baseline inventory research on this topic:

- 1) There are some public transportation options, though it is generally limited to the lower watershed communities. Some examples help connect rural communities and/or the Nisqually Tribe to urban areas.
- 2) Morgan has been unable to find information about increased access to health care. In a previous NWSP topic, she compiled a list of health care centers throughout the watershed. The Affordable Care Act may have made these more accessible for some people, though Morgan didn't find any information. Under the ACA though, non-profit hospitals must now produce a community wellness report every three years.
- 3) There are a number of formal and informal education opportunities throughout the watershed, both for school age groups and adults including NREP, NSS, NW Indian College and the NIT Adult Learning Program.

### 4. **For the Good of the Order**

Eatonville Salmon Fest is tomorrow from 10-3 at Millpond Park!

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, November 21, 2014, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*