



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
March 20, 2010, 9:30 – 3:30
Mineral Lake Event Center
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – Lewis County
Mark Thibo – WA DNR
David Troutt – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Steve Ruff – Miles Sand & Gravel
Jean Takekawa – Nisqually National Wildlife
Refuge

Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust
Chris Schutz – Pierce County
Mark Thibo – WA Department of Natural
Resources
Sandra Romero – Thurston County
Bryan Bowden – Mt. Rainier National Park
* **CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Debbie Anderson
Paul Crosetto
Mary Foster
David Hymel*
Fred Michelson*

Steve Pruitt
Kayla Saville
Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*
Steve Thompson

Guests

Rick Adams – FUN
Paul Nerge – UNCF
Isabel Ragland – Citizen
Karelina Resnick – WREDI
Fred Romero – Citizen

Terry Turner – Trout Unlimited
Ted Vanderhoof – UNCF
Rose Vanderhoof – UNCF
Mori Wallner – Partners for Water
Conservation

FUN – Friends of the Upper Nisqually; UNCF – Upper Nisqually Community Forum; WREDI – West Rainier Economic Development Initiative

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – Nisqually River Foundation
Don Perry – Nisqually Stream Stewards

Sara Scott – Nisqually River Council
Sheila Wilson – Nisqually River Education
Project

1. Call to Order, Officer Elections, Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Call to Order – David T called the meeting to order at 9:36 and welcomed attendees.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was adjusted and the presentation orders were reversed.

2. Introductions, Elections, Reports

Introductions

Ron Averill welcomed the group to Lewis County and the former Mineral School third grade room. He noted value of Council work, and highlighted that Lewis County is pleased to participate and represent the small Lewis County portion of the watershed.

Favorite Places

During introductions attendees highlighted favorite watershed places. Special areas mentioned included:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta/estuary/refuge – 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually Glacier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home - 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Wow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ohop Valley - 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Taco Wagon property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luhr Beach - 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Powell Creek Property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually icefall - 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually River – mile 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually Reach overlook | <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever there are honeybees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copper creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Floating on the river |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copper Creek at sundown | <input type="checkbox"/> Along Nisqually River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moraine Trail at Paradise | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking on Delta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junction of Yelm Creek & Nisqually River | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail of the Shadows (Longmire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confluence of Muck Creek & Nisqually river | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 waterfalls on the Little Mashel River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mount Rainier | <input type="checkbox"/> Eatonville’s Key Bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually State Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everywhere | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Lake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobson road area ~ Nisqually bend | <input type="checkbox"/> Confluence of Yelm Creek & Nisqually River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mashel River | <input type="checkbox"/> Above Paradise, Tatoosh Range & Wilderness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nisqually Canyon | |

Officer Elections – The Nominating Committee proposed the nomination of Ron Averill as Vice Chair and David Troutt as Chair of the Nisqually River Council for 2010.

The motion was approved and seconded, and the Council voted unanimously to approve Ron and David T as officers of the NRC.

Advisory Committee Reports –

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – David H and Sara reported that the CAC has been focused on developing recommendations for the NWSP update. 2010 Officers are David Hymel, Chair and Bob Smith, Vice-chair. Paul Crosetto, Fred Michelson, and Bob Smith are the 2010 NRC Representatives.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – This committee has met five times and spent the year educating members about the watershed. The Committee has developed some recommendations for the NWSP update.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* – Economic advisory has not met, no report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Steve Pruitt reported that this committee began meeting last March; planning process developed last summer, in fall a few key

elements to focus on were identified, in November goals were identified. They come to the retreat with two proposals:

1. That in 2010 the Community Advisory Committee “Task Force” develop and deliver a suite of services to communities throughout the Watershed to assist them in:
 - A) Identifying existing groups and leaders to spearhead the creation of community forums based on inclusion and collaboration
 - B) Accessing the resources of the Nisqually River Council to address community goals and issues identified in the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan
 - C) Providing formal representation from each forum to a Community Advisory Committee to be formed and approved by the Nisqually River Council at its annual retreat in 2011.

Potential Forum Areas Include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Nisqually Reservation | ▪ Graham |
| ▪ Yelm | ▪ Lackamas |
| ▪ Roy | ▪ Eatonville School |

Forum groups will be self-contained and not directly supported by Council staff.

2. Proposed language expanding the vision statement for the “Involved Community” element (see *2010 Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan Comments and Discussion*).

Survey - Sara referenced a survey she provided relating to Council communication preferences and requested that attendees fill out and return the surveys or provide feedback directly.

3. Overview of Plan

Justin Hall provided an overview of the Nisqually River Council history and the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan development, realization, and next steps.

Much has been accomplished to date: removal of dikes/estuary restoration, 74% of the watershed in “permanent protection”, major [restoration work](#) in Eatonville along the Mashel River. There has been amazing progress in the last five years.

It was noted that the Stewardship Plan played a primary role in the development of the Nisqually State Park.

We must now identify direct goals and measurable, specific tasks which can progress along with the development of the 3 year work plans.

Presentation: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-watershed-stewardship-plan-overview-3506292>

4. **Lunch / Salmon Recovery Plan Update**

Jeanette provided an overview of the Tribe's Salmon Recovery work. Early action restoration projects include the estuary, Mashel River, and Ohop Creek, as well as acquisition by the Land Trust of 2.1 miles of river frontage: the Tatrimuma property and the Manke property. The Blake property, by the Centralia powerhouse was also secured; Thurston County Conservation Futures provided the match

2010 Salmon Recovery Highlights

- 3 year workplan due to Puget Sound Partnership by May 15th; will bring to the April NRC meeting for review
- Salmon Recovery funding round this year: tentatively \$416,000 for Nisqually in 2010 (not official until May meeting; ~\$18 million for the state)
- Request from Nisqually Land Trust
- Request to transfer knotweed project to Conservation District

Jeanette will bring highlights of the projects to the April NRC meeting, and make the spreadsheet available to those who are interested. Jeanette can be contacted at jdorner@nwifc.org or 360.438.8687 x2135.

Presentation: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/salmon-recovery-presentation>

The project planning spreadsheet will soon be available. Sara will send a website link to the document, and will print a hard copy for those who want one.

Joe Kane spoke about the proposed whitewater reach acquisitions and the Ceja property. The property is in foreclosure, and there will be a courthouse auction on April 9. The Land Trust wants to move quickly; buy the entire property and do a boundary line adjustment creating a five acre parcel along the road with the house, and keep the remainder of the property in protection. He asked the Council to set aside \$150,000 of the available funds for this acquisition. The Land Trust may also have the opportunity to pick up 15 acres of the neighboring property, which is owned by the same people. Jeanette noted that the Salmon Habitat Workgroup discussed the issue and recommends to the Council that they fund this proposal. Photos: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-land-trust-proposed-properties-and-srpb-request>

It was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate \$150,000 of the 2010 Nisqually Salmon Recovery funds to the Nisqually Land Trust for acquisition of the Ceja property.

5. **Knotweed Project**

Jeanette reported that the knotweed project has been identified to be outside the scope of the Pierce County Noxious Weed Board. Pierce Conservation District is willing to host and manage the project. The staff person will be transitioned along with the project. Jeanette asked for feedback, then indicated she would write a letter to the agency indicating that the NRC supports the transfer of the project and grant to the Pierce Conservation District.

6. Discussion of Nisqually Stewardship Plan and New Council Model and Roles

A small group will work with the NRC Chair to develop an update to the plan. This draft update, which will include identification of measurable goals and incorporate suggested changes where feasible, will be brought to the Council in May. Actions items will be removed from the plan and incorporated into 3 year work plans. Once the draft plan is approved by the Council, teams consisting of Council Member, CAC members, staff, and resource professionals will develop 3 year works plans focused on the implementation of plan elements. These teams will work to outline and define actions which support the visions, goals, and objectives of the various elements of the plan.

Goals moving forward:

- Widen the tent, capture more projects under the Council umbrella;
- Identify likely sponsors and affiliates (organizations/agencies/individuals best suited to take the components forward)

3 Year Work Plan Process Overview

1. Identify specific goals & objectives
2. Provide Priority Area focus. *What are the specific goals and objectives for the areas that need to be improved?*
3. Identify necessary actions. *Work with partners. Ask “what can you do to help with this process”? And “what can we do to help you accomplish your goals”?*

The format of the 3 year work plan base document was created by the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) for all watersheds in Puget Sound.

Components of the example matrix:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Current Status | 13. Current Project Status |
| 2. Project Type | 14. Year 1 Activity to be funded |
| 3. Plan Category | 15. Year 1 estimated budget |
| 4. Project Name | 16. Year 2 activity to be funded |
| 5. Project Descriptions | 17. Year 2 estimated budget |
| 6. Priority of the Project | 18. Year 3 activity to be funded |
| 7. Limiting Factors | 19. Year 3 estimated budget |
| 8. Reference Document for limiting factor | 20. Likely end date |
| 9. Habitat Type | 21. Likely sponsors/partners |
| 10. Activity Type & Project Performance | 22. Total cost of project |
| 11. Primary Species Benefiting | 23. Local share or other funding |
| 12. Secondary Species Benefiting | 24. <i>Legal issues (suggested)</i> |

This process will provide a framework from which we can strategically move towards identifying and capturing the resources needed to complete the elements of the plan.

David T noted that this process need not be aggressive, and it may be better to have 10 things we are pursuing, rather than 100 things we are not addressing. Steve suggested the Council’s executive committee work to pull in member organizations that have been active in the past but are not active now.

7. For the Good of the Order

- Bryan Bowden noted that Mount Rainier National Park has been reluctant to lead the CMZ planning process because it's a multijurisdictional process and the Park isn't interested in leading or planning for other jurisdictions. The Park would be willing to hire an independent contractor to facilitate the process, but would be involved as a stakeholder and not a driver.
- Mary Foster provided a copy of a request sent to Congressman Dicks and Senator Cantwell asking for “*a study that examine(s) the potential for, and types of management, for restoring the Upper Nisqually.*”
- Yelm Home Show - April 23 and 24 at the Yelm High School
<http://www.nisquallyhomeshow.com/vendors.htm>
- Ashford County Park Grand Opening – June 5th at 9am
<http://www.piercecountywa.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/parks/ashford.htm>
- Ashford - May 22, Knotweed Bending Party, 10 - 4, past echo valley
<http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/documents/Ashford2010.pdf>
- The Splash Bash Benefit Auction is May 22nd at 7:00 pm at the Gray Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound. This is the only fund that helps keep the [Tenino Quarry Pool](#) (319 Park Ave W) open for kids throughout the summer with a lifeguard on duty. Dinner seating is \$30.00.
Tickets can be purchased from Steve Ruff, 253.569.0309 or stever@gravelpits.com.
- The [Mount Rainier Science Railroad](#) will soon be in operation.
- The Mount Rainier National Park superintendent, Dave Uberuaga, is returning in mid April.

8. **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

*Next Meeting:
Friday April 16, 2010, 8:45 – 12:15
NW Trek’s Hellyer Center, Eatonville, WA*