

Attendees:

# Council Members

**Ron Averill** – Lewis County **David Troutt** – Nisqually Indian Tribe **Jeanette Dorner** – Nisqually Indian Tribe **Joe Kane** – Nisqually Land Trust

#### **Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

Paul Crosetto\* Mary Foster Fred Michelson\* Steve Pruitt Kayla Saville

<u>Guests</u> Terry Maves - Spill Control, Inc. Nels Parvi – Pierce CD, Knotweed Karelina Resnick – WREDI

Meeting Minutes Nisqually River Council May 12, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00 Ohop Grange, Eatonville Information: 360.438.8715

> Sandra Romero – Thurston County Bryan Bowden – Mt. Rainier National Park \* CAC Representatives (3)

Marjorie Smith Robert Smith\* Steve Thompson Louise Wackerlie

Mori Wallner – Partnership for Water Conservation Jim Wick - Thurston County Surface Storm Water Advisory Board

# Staff & Associated Nonprofits

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

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

- Call to Order, Officer Elections, Approval of Minutes and Agenda
   <u>Call to Order</u> David T called the meeting to order at 9:10.

   <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The April 2010 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
   <u>Approval of Agenda</u> The agenda was approved as presented.
- 2. Introductions, Reports

# Advisory Committee Reports

- Citizens Advisory Committee Fred reported that the CAC met as scheduled and discussed Yelm's water challenges and the Upper Nisqually forestry issues.
- Environmental Advisory Committee No meeting since last NRC meeting. The Nisqually Water Planning Unit is attempting to hold a meeting on June 30 for elected officials on both sides of the river. Amanda Cronin's Water Banking Feasibility Study should be available soon, and comments due to her by May 28.

- Economic Advisory Committee Steve reported that there is a new economic endeavor in the Nisqually: Nisqually River BALLE (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies), which has 4 paid members WREDI (West Rainier Economic Development Initiative) is the umbrella group for the group at this time.
- *Community Advisory Committee* Steve reported that this Thursday at 7pm at the Graham Fire Hall the Graham Community Action Team (GCAT) is sponsoring a forum.
- Chair David T spoke of the Puget Sound Partnership's Local Integration Organization and noted that care must be taken when coming together to seek authority as a group. Many models that don't include businesses and local landowners in the decision-making process are not successful.
- *Staff* Sara reported that staff is working on the Watershed Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday September 25, and will include the opening of a 20 year time capsule. Nisqually Sustainable checklist and program is nearly ready for roll out, a new issue of the Nisqually River Notes newsletter is in development, and NWSP updates are underway.

### Allied Programs

Nisqually Land Trust - Joe presented an issue around timber harvest in the Upper Watershed, highlighting specific concerns about the 3 Donkey Pull sale. NRC sent a letter, Pierce County sent a letter, David met with Peter Goldmark and discussed this issue briefly. The feedback David received is Joe and David T are to meet with Clay Sprague on Monday. Whether or not we can modify this process, we need to work with the upper Ashford and Elbe communities and the Council work towards solutions which work for all entities. Need to develop the relationship to work with DNR. All harvest conducted is under FSC certification - one check box is that there is community involvement and consistency with community plans.

<u>Nisqually River Float Trips</u>: July 17 @ Wilcox Farms; July 25 @ the Centralia Power Plant. (<u>http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org/FloatTrip2010b.htm</u>) 6 wounded warriors from Fort Lewis are joining the trip.

Jeanette, Kim B, and Joe met recently with Hancock staff. The Land Trust is thinking about their level of engagement - they have to work bigger. NLT just closed on a 400 acre acquisition.

Meeting proposal: evolution of regulatory change regarding harvests - presentation by DNR. We'd like to understand underlying regulatory schemes. There's no data: we don't know what the impacts will be (or are). We need local control.

Forestry issues include TFW, or Timber, Fish, and Wildlife. Also other issues: rural development, stormwater, etc. Where are the places in which we can focus our energies to make the biggest difference? Dedicate a meeting to better understanding forest practices in the watershed. Bring the control of our lands back to the watershed.

Twin Star Credit Union will make a donation to the restoration efforts of the NLT if you change from getting paper to electronic statements.

- Nisqually River Education Project NREP is recruiting for Summer Teachers
  Institute Theme: From Native Plants to Local Foods. NOAA B-WET, ALEA grant
  and EPA grants all not funded. Nature of Learning grant has a new focus: climate
  change & project budburst. \$10K. Ties in well with NatureMapping and project with
  Nisqually Reach Nature Center.
- Nisqually Stream Stewards Salmon Recovery Newsletter underway. Recruiting stream stewards for class, starts June 2. 3/4 of the class is filled. Tomorrow in Eatonville building 6 clustered rain gardens. Cisco Morris will be there broadcasting from 10 noon. Jeanette noted that they will be taking Cisco on a quick tour of the restoration sites in the watershed to give him context. (KIRO 97.3)
- Nisqually River Foundation Funding for the Foundation and the Water Planning group (2514) not removed from the state budget. Exploring new funding opportunities for planting projects.
- Nisqually Salmon Habitat Workgroup Jeanette reported that the Salmon Recovery group sent a notice that they are open for this round. Letters of intent due in June, to be reviewed at Technical Workgroup meeting. Field trip in June (contact Jeanette for more information - *dorner.jeanette@nisqually-nsn.gov*). Jeanette will bring project proposals to July 16 NRC meeting.

# 3. Mazama Pocket Gopher Update – Michelle Tirhi, WDFW

Native Prairies are among the most endangered habitats. The Mazama pocket gopher / Western pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama*) is listed as a threatened species in WA.

There is a <u>factsheet</u> on WDFW website. The Mazama is a regionally endemic species, and two subspecies are already extinct. The remaining populations are covered under <u>RCW 77.15.130</u> (Protected Fish or Wildlife).

Adding land development process to Pierce County, will be same as Thurston Co.

WDFW is working with Thurston County to create a prairie mitigation bank, similar to the wetland mitigation bank. They intend to link up with Native Plant Societies or Conservation Districts to ensure that set aside habitats are maintained as prairies.

Michelle can be reached at 206.499.2697 or *tirhimjt@dfw.wa.gov*.

# 4. Nisqually TMDL Update – Cindy James, WA Department of Ecology

TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load: the amount of pollution a water body is expected to be able to hold and still be "healthy".

The <u>study</u> was completed in May 2005, and in May 2007 the <u>Detailed Implementation Plan</u> was produced. There is an annual adaptive management meeting, the most recent was on February 10.

Four focus areas in Nisqually: Nisqually Reach, Red Salmon, Ohop/Lynch, & McAllister

If you know of places or events where the Manure Matters display can be highlighted, please let Cindy know.

Cindy asked if there is any other info being collected: Red Salmon Creek data? Nisqually Reach? Is USGS doing water quality studies at the estuary? Lynch Creek (Eatonville stormwater)?

Further study of the drainage infrastructure in Eatonville is desired, as there may be some pipes from older houses that currently drain directly into the creek.

The next steps of the process include helping stakeholders complete incomplete inactions (identify and discuss barriers). Work towards effectiveness monitoring -2015. Includes land use, agriculture, wildlife, onsite septics, & stormwater: from the eyes of the shellfish.

Cindy's new focus is trying to do the Mashel in a non-traditional way. It is known that temperature is an issue, so she is working with Cathy Sampselle to take the project "straight to implementation". There is LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging ) information for the Mashel River.

Quote for the day: "Fickle fecal focal isn't futile."

You can contact Cindy at 360.407.6556 or *cjam461@ecy.wa.gov*. Cindy's presentation is online at <u>http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-tmdl-update</u>.

#### 5. Nisqually Knotweed Update – Nels Parvi, Pierce Conservation District

Project stated in 2007 by Sean McDougal - watershed focus – to control knotweed along main stem and tributaries.

Invasive <u>knotweed</u> poses a significant threat to riparian habitat areas and is difficult to control. 2009 knotweed treatments in the Nisqually River CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) covered 193 acres. The project has recently transitioned from the Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board to the Pierce Conservation District. Additional funding is needed; Pierce CD is working to find funding to keep the program going.

You can contact Nels at 253.845.9770 or <u>nisqually.knotweed@gmail.com</u>. Nels' presentation is available on slidehare: <u>http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-knotweed-control-project</u>.

#### 6. For the Good of the Order

Steve Thompson was in El Salvador with Engineers Without Boarders (<u>http://www.ewb-usa.org/</u>), and had the opportunity to visit a watershed council. He will bring a presentation with slides to an upcoming Council meeting.

Mary noted that DNR has been meeting with the Upper Nisqually group rather regularly, and there needs to be a way to get ahead of the curve so that the DNR work plans include coordination.

Sandra Romero reported that Thurston County hydrologist Nadine Romero has analyzed data on storm event temperatures and has a good presentation on climate change and impacts to bring to the Council.

Paul C reference an article in the May 2010 issue of <u>Science Findings</u> article about a shortage of oak trees and encouraged the incorporation of oaks into restoration sites.

7. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10.

A tour of the nearby Ohop Creek Restoration Project was offered from 12:30 - 1:30. We appreciate Kimberly Gridley, Cathy Sampselle, and Joe Kane joining us to sharing information about the project!

Next Meeting: Friday June 18, 9 am - noon Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge