



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
August 20, 2010
Wilcox Farm, Roy WA
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – Lewis County
Rich Doenges – Thurston County
Mark Thibo – WA DNR

David Troutt – Nisqually Indian Tribe

* *CAC Representatives (3)*

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Paul Crosetto*
Mary Foster
Fred Michelson*
Steve Pruitt

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*
Steve Thompson

Guests

Ray Bednar – Stream Steward
Carolyn GiaMarco – Stream Steward
Kirk Hanson – NNRG
Deena Johnson – Stream Steward
Jean Schafer – EAC Forestry Advisor
Chris Schutz – Pierce County

Dick Smith – Stream Steward
Beverly Wold – Stream Steward
Jim Wick - Thurston County Surface Storm
Water Advisory Board
Jim Wilcox – Wilcox Family Farms
JT Wilcox – Wilcox Family Farms

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – Nisqually River Foundation
Don Perry – Nisqually Indian Tribe

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

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

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:11 and noted that the river is full of salmon.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported that the EAC met July 30 and discussed the possibility of developing a forestry tour; it was determined that funding is not available at this time. The Committee is currently visioning a GIS Forestry

Map, and is prioritizing a list of GIS map components. The prioritized list will be shared at the next meeting. The committee desires to know more about DNR land management and land types, and would be interested in a workshop or informational presentation from DNR. The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be on September 29, 1:30 - 3:30, at the Nisqually Natural Resources office.

- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Steve Pruitt reported that the Committee will soon announce dates for workshops on creating community forums. Major topics of focus include *land use* and *keeping local character in communities*. There was discussion about current opportunities to support “local” efforts and the indispensable value of community members who take on the task of developing community plans and seeing them through.

Steve also shared that The West Rainier Economic Development Initiative ([WREDI](#)) has applied for a grant with the Economic Development Agency and they hope to hear in September if the project is funded.

Chair Report – David reported that the Tribe was invited to a meeting with Commissioner Reichert to discuss the Upper Nisqually CMZ issue. The resulting determination was that a request for funding would be submitted, and the Nisqually River Council will facilitate the process.

A request for \$650,000 was submitted to the Legislature, funds for a comprehensive evaluation of the river and conditions in the upper Nisqually. This would provide crucial information from which to develop restoration and mitigation plans. Feedback should be received back by the end of September.

A motion was made to have the NRC act as facilitator of the CMZ study process. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. David and Mary will work on the details.

David reported that he and Rich Doenges have been working on a regional effort, the development of a NRC-like organization which will work to encourage and enhance sustainability. The newly approved and currently forming “South Puget Sound Regional Council” will be the local lead for implementing the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#). While salmon recovery is the primary driver, economic and community issues are also of importance. The NRC will have a voting seat at the table.

David noted that over 25 percent of the juvenile fish found to be using the restored Nisqually estuary are from other watersheds – as far away as Snohomish! He also noted that the floating weir will be installed at the Tank Crossing from July – October in an effort to prevent hatchery fish from traveling upstream and using habitats and resources needed by native fish.

- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that the Nisqually Watershed Festival is September 25, 10 – 4, at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The festival this year will feature the opening of the 1980 – 20 Year Time Capsule and a new lecture series.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – No report.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* - Sheila reported that the Teachers Institute went well. A new partner, the University of Wisconsin, is working in the community to develop habitat gardens. Sheila noted that ten new teachers joined the program this year, and last year 700 students planted 3500 trees. She highlighted the upcoming Water Quality Monitoring Training, which will be held at Tumwater Falls Park on September 18. Interested volunteers are invited to participate. Contact Sheila at sheila@nisquallyriver.org for more information.
- *Stream Stewards* - Don reported that the Stream Stewards participated in the Ohop dewatering and recent water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate workshops. They will also be helping out at the Watershed Festival, the Mashel restoration event, Ohop plantings, and NatureMapping at Wilcox Flats.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he just closed out three grants, and the Foundation is exploring the possibility of partnering with NW Trek to present a spring watershed celebration.

3. Forestry in the Upper Nisqually – Updates & Discussion

It was clarified that the focus of this discussion is to put a finer point on the details of the forestry summit, and perhaps establish a committee.

If we were to have a successful day, what would the outcome look like?

- Better understanding of all various factors and constraints affecting management and harvest of forests in our watershed
- Improved communication and relationship with DNR
- Very specific indicators for defining our forestry goals within the NWSP

The community wants to be involved, and is interested in having cooperative discussions with timber owners. They want the opportunity to find alternatives to less desirable situations where and when possible.

Requests and suggestions related to the proposed Forestry Summit:

- draw back and look at big picture
- identify other organizations / allies who are already doing the work that needs to be done
- workshop highlighting DNR land management details wanted
- keep summit open to community and landowners
- help community better understand the Upper Nisqually Comprehensive Plan
- invite a representative of each major landowner or group to the table to share insights into the constraints facing each particular landowner demographic

Discussion supported the determination that there be a community-based gathering in the Upper Nisqually this fall, and next spring a larger Forestry Summit be held. The spring summit should include information about DNR, HCPs, FFR, constitutional and fiscal constraints, and more.

Fred indicated that the Environmental Advisory Committee will take this task on. A steering committee was identified to help drive the process and organize the gathering: Steve Pruitt, Mark Thibo, Mary Foster, Kirk Hanson, Fred Michelson, and Jean Schafer.

Mark noted that the DNR is committed to meeting the intent of the Upper Nisqually Community Plan. They will present their fiscal/harvest plan for 2011 – 2012, and will share annual, 2 year, and 5 year plans and projections, giving the community the opportunity to address activities, provide feedback and respond proactively. He also suggested that a conversation about community forests be initiated with the DNR Executive.

4. Watershed Planning in El Salvador – Steve Thompson

Discussion about forestry in the upper watershed was lively and lengthily, and Steve agreed share his presentation at a future meeting.

5. Forestry Tour & FSC Discussion

Jim and JT Wilcox introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the farm. Wilcox Farms consists of about 1550 acres, half of which is timber. Jim has been working with Kirk on FSC certification and forest management planning. Jim sees timber as a way to preserve value of the land for the youth, and believes that tree farming offers an unparalleled opportunity to get youth thinking about the environment in a long-term manner.

Kirk Hanson lead the tour to a recently-thinned portion of the Wilcox forest and shared information about NW forests, thinning challenges, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and the NW Neutral program.

The management of mature stands, which is a major issue in the NW in general, is also a major issue at Wilcox Farms. The tour provided insight into second growth mature forest management challenges and opportunities. NNRG is hosting a workshop on Managing Mature Forests on October 16, 9 – 5, in Yelm. For more information, contact Kirk at 360.316.9397 or kirk@nnrg.org. If you wish to receive NNRG’s newsletter, you can sign up on their website or send Kirk an email letting him know. Also note that Kirk is available to consult with Nisqually forest owners who are exploring their management options.

Here’s a link to the October 16 Managing Mature Forests workshop listing:
<http://nnrg.org/news-events/events/10-16-managing-mature-forests-yelm-wa/>

And the NNRG Forestry website: <http://nnrg.org/nw-certified-forestry>

6. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15.

Next Meeting: Friday September 17 at Longmire Community Center, Mount Rainier NP