



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
July 16, 2010, 9:30 – 12:30
Ashford Fire Hall
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – Lewis County
David Troutt – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe

Pam Hefley – Tacoma Power
Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust
Mark Thibo – WA DNR
* *CAC Representatives (3)*

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Paul Crosetto*
Mary Foster
Judy Krill*
Fred Michelson*

Steve Pruitt
Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Sandy Altman – Ashford Resident
Randy Brake – Pierce County
John Czuba - USGS
Todd Essmen – Pierce County
Phil Freeman - UNCF
Burke Garrett – UNCC
Roy Huberd – Pierce County

Paul Kyle – Former CAC Member
Chris Magirl - USGS
Jean Schafer – EAC Forestry Advisor
Chris Schutz – Pierce County
Sarah Scott – Upper Nisqually Community Forum
Jim Wick - Thurston County Surface Storm Water Advisory Board

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Sara Scott – Nisqually River Council

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

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:37.

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* – Committee members reported that they met in July and discussed the structure and effectiveness of the Advisory Committees.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported that the group will meet at the end of July to discuss possible support from the Tribe for the Forestry Tour, and will finish prioritizing questions for the GIS data. The Water Planning Unit met on June 30, and the Tribe hosted Thurston County elected officials at the Casino.

- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Chair Report* – David reported he is exploring funding options with the Puget Sound Partnership and EPA, and is moving as if Council staffing will not be in the State budget next year. Ron noted that the Governor has formed a Budget Advisory Committee and will be holding hearings in the upcoming weeks. It will be helpful to have people there expressing support and the importance of this funding and work. David also noted that the Tribe hosted Washington DC delegates for a listening tour at the Refuge in July. (Jeanette’s presentation is available online at <http://www.slideshare.net/emmettoconnell/nisqually-tribe-presentation-on-watershed-and-salmon-recovery>)
- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that the Council received a request from The Conservation Fund to provide a letter of support for their Forest Legacy funding proposal. Joe Kane explained that the project would fund the acquisition of a conservation easement on 10,300 acres of forest land in the Mashel watershed, from the Busy Wild complex to Boxcar Canyon. A motion was made to authorize the Chair to provide a letter of support for the proposal. The motion passed unanimously. Sara noted that the Nisqually Watershed Festival will take place at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday September 25. Also, Kirk Hanson will be providing a FSC tour and discussion following the August NRC meeting at Wilcox Farms.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe reported the Land Trust just completed their first property transfer, transferring 34 acres to the town of Eatonville. The property will be used as match on a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant. The Land Trust has signed an agreement with the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to move their office to the old education center building. Bryan Bowden (MRNP) has invited the Land Trust to submit a proposal to create a Nisqually Community Forest. The Community Forest would be approximately 20 – 30,000 acres, and could be managed by a separate nonprofit organization. Joe also noted that the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative purchases are currently on hold but will continue.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* - No report.
- *Stream Stewards* - Jeanette reported that the 2010 Stream Stewards will graduate tomorrow at the Ohop Grange. 16 people from various locations within the watershed participated in the program this year.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – No report.

3. Fluvial Sedimentation from Mount Rainier: Impacts on Puget Lowland Rivers – Chris Magirl, USGS

Chris introduced himself and colleague Jon Czuba. He noted that Eric Grossman, also with USGS, is currently studying sedimentation in the delta.

Chris described the process of estimating sedimentation and transport regimens, and shared data findings from the Carbon, White, & Puyallup Rivers, where they are currently working. He

noted that there is a possibility that part of the study's Phase II, in partnership with Pierce County, will focus on the Nisqually River and sedimentation in Alder Lake.

Chris can be contacted at magirl@usgs.gov or 253.552.1617. You can see his presentation online at: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/aggradation-ds-from-rainier>

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Projects – Jeanette Dorner

Jeanette provided an update to the on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board project proposals, several of which were presented at the Retreat Meeting in March.

Jeanette described that the funding allocations this year have some variability, with the possibility of additional funding becoming available within the next few months.

SRFB Alternative 1: \$416,803, Definite

SRFB Alternative 2: \$466,803, Revised SRFB amount - If SRFB state amount increases (approximate)

Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration 07 (PSAR): \$350,000. (These funds were not used and may be reallocated to other Nisqually projects; must be spent by June 2011.)

Jeanette presented the proposed projects, listed below, to the Council. A motion was made to recommend the projects be funded in order of ranking, as available funds allow. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Proposed Ranking	Proposed Funding Source	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Amount Requested	Match	Total Cost
1	SRFB	Mashel Riparian Corridor	Nisqually Land Trust	\$250,000	\$772,500	\$1,022,500
2	SRFB	Ceja Nisqually Shoreline Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	\$166,803	\$29,500	\$196,303
3	PSAR07	Tanwax Nisqually Confluence Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	\$166,803	\$29,500	\$196,303
4	PSAR07	Mashel Eatonville scope change	Nisqually Land Trust	\$81,000		
5	SRFB	Wilcox plantings	Nisqually Land Trust	\$109,000	\$42,960	\$151,960
6	SRFB/PSAR07	Lower Nisqually	Nisqually Indian Tribe	\$125,000	\$22,500	\$147,500

2010 Nisqually Salmon Recovery Funding Board's List of Proposed Projects

Project Name	Technical comments
Mashel Riparian Corridor	large acreage, protects past restoration projects, water quantity processes, protects downstream resources
Ceja Nisqually Shoreline Acquisition	mainstem, remove and reduce development threat/impact, blocking with past acquisition
Tanwax Nisqually Confluence Acquisition	mainstem, productive reach, dynamic, development threat, connectivity with other protected properties
Mashel Eatonville scope change	adds to protection for restoration in high priority Mashel Eatonville reach, creates more connectivity
Wilcox plantings	weed control, riparian plantings, enhances riparian corridor on mainstem
Lower Nisqually	design for next Tier 2 Restoration project, getting ready for the next large scale restoration in the watershed

SRFB Proposed Project Component Summaries

You can see photos of proposed project sites online at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/srfb-2010-proposals>

Jeanette can be contacted at jdorner@nwifc.org or 360.438.8687 x2135.

5. **Upper Nisqually Levee Repair Projects – Randy Brake, Todd Essman, and Roy Huberd**
 Todd presented a summary of the Pierce County Public Works and Surface Water Management Operations and Maintenance Division’s responsibilities regarding flood hazard mitigation and protection of life, infrastructure, and property. He reviewed the damages to the SR 706 and Park infrastructure during the 2006 flood, and presented several proposals to repair the damaged segment of the levee and divert the river channel.

Several meeting attendees expressed concern about the Channel Migration Zone (CMZ), and stated that they do not feel as though their concerns are being addressed by Pierce County. It was noted that the CMZ issue has not been resolved. Pierce County hasn’t acted on the CMZ ruling – it has been tabled and is not in effect in a regulatory manner in the Nisqually at this time. Loren Renault is the program manager for the County’s update of the Comprehensive Flood Management Plan.

Todd clarified that the Basin Plan currently addresses issues related to the mainstem of the Nisqually River and some channel migration issues. Mainstem issues will be moved to the [Flood Hazard Plan](#), and the [Basin Plan](#) will address issues related to the tributaries of the Nisqually.

A meeting to discuss the protection of the gateway community and park infrastructure is schedule for 10 am August 4 at Pack Forest.

It was reiterated that the Nisqually River Council is available to facilitate coordination and communication between local residents and the County.

Todd's presentation is available online at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/upper-nisqually-levee-repair-project>

You can contact Todd at tessman@co.pierce.wa.us or 253.798.4681.

6. DNR Harvest Update

There has been much concern in the community regarding potential impacts the 3 Donkey Pull harvest may have on the viewshed. DNR is moving forward with the harvest, but has adjusted the parameters of the harvest to help mitigate community concerns. Joe Kane and David Troutt met with Clay Sprague and Randy Acker to discuss the situation, and Mark Thibo hosted members of the Environmental Advisory Committee for a tour of the project site.

There was recognition by DNR that communication with the Upper Nisqually community was not as good as it could be. DNR has committed to holding a "Timber Summit" later this fall. David will be reaching out to the Executive Committee, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and DNR for input in framing the Summit.

Mark Thibo noted that DNR's planning process runs 12 - 24 months out. He'd like to see the Nisqually Valley Advisory Commission, the formal body identified in the Upper Nisqually Community Plan to address these issues, reinstated. [The Plan states that "landscapes of concern will be identified by the Nisqually Valley Advisory Commission"]. He also suggested that the name of the "Timber Summit" be changed to "Forest Summit", and the summit be open to all interested parties within the watershed.

It was noted that the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) notifications are technical in nature and difficult for average citizens to understand. It was suggested that briefings be developed which present the harvest plans to interested parties in a manner which can be comprehended by laypeople.

It is important to recognize that the Upper Nisqually Community Plan is a Pierce County document and the 3 Donkey Pull harvest is located in Lewis County. While residents of Lewis County were involved in the development of the Plan, the leadership of Lewis County was not, and the County is not beholden to act within accordance with the Plan. It was also noted that the defunct Nisqually Valley Advisory Commission is a Pierce County committee, and may not be the best mechanism for bringing community concerns to the table. There were questions and discussion about what it would take to get Pierce County to recognize the Upper Nisqually Community Forum as an advisory group.

7. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:59.

Next Meeting: Friday August 20, 2010 at Wilcox Farms, Roy, WA