



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
September 17, 2010
Longmire Community Center, MRNP
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Bryan Bowden - *MRNP*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Steve Ruff – *Miles Sand & Gravel*

Mark Thibo – *WA DNR*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Paul Crosetto*
Steve Pruitt*
Kayla Saville

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*
Steve Thompson

Guests

Roy Huberd – *Pierce County*
Janet Nazy – *Partnership for Water Conservation*
Judith Scavone – *Nisqually Land Trust*

Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Tavita Togia – *MRNP*
Jim Wick - *Thurston County Surface Storm Water Advisory Board*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*

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 9:41.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Introductions - Randy King welcomed the Council to MRNP and reminded the group that the facilities are available for use for NRC work. He shared that the Sunshine point repair work is underway and an engineered log jam is currently being constructed below Longmire. He is looking forward to working with the Council and the community on CMZ issues, and noted Skate Creek Road is an essential piece of infrastructure.

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – No report. Next meeting October 7, 7pm, 1:30 at the Nisqually Natural Resource office.

- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – The EAC has been prioritizing forestry data needs. The next meeting is September 29, 1:30 pm, at the Nisqually Natural Resource office.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Steve reported that the UNCF met last night. The Forum voted to offer their time to host the fall forestry summit. A suggested date is the second Thursday in November (11th) at 7 pm, at Columbia Crest Elementary School or the Lions Hall.

Pierce County has recently indicated they are considering consolidations in Comprehensive Planning, which may include changing individual community plans and standardizing the processes. The Graham community is hosting an event at the 70th Ave Fire Hall next Thursday, the 23rd, gathering members of communities who are affected by the change. A proposal is to be put forth that will offer the county an alternative (incentive based and voluntary) that would allow developers and builders to build to the original community plan. There is also a similar project underway for a community in Federal Way.

Next Wednesday night the Roy planning commission is having a similar session.

- *Chair Report* –David reported that he and Commissioner Goldmark discussed the development of an integrated landscape management system in the Nisqually. DNR is committed to participating in the spring summit to discuss watershed-wide forestry issues. David also met with Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy, who is very interested in supporting the Council, and he talked with Martha Kongsgaard and David Dicks who are also committed to participating in Council work.

In regards to the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan, the Executive Committee and NRF staff may be proposing a change in the structure and model for the Plan. We are attempting to make the plan more measurable, but less specific by actions. The draft update will be brought back to the Council, possibly in December.

At yesterday's Puget Sound Partnership meeting the Partnership established a South Puget Sound Regional Council, which is modeled directly after the NRC and will be using the NWSP as a template for their work.

The Council is seeking input in regards to the planning of the Forestry Summit. Council members with questions or ideas can send them along to Sara. (sara@nisquallyriver.org)

- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that preparations are underway for the Nisqually Watershed Festival, next Saturday, September 25, at the Refuge. The festival will include the opening of the Council's 1990 time capsule and a new lecture series.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Judy Scavone reported that Van Eaton property & Burwash farm both scored very well on the Pierce Conservation Futures project list (1st and 6th place, respectively). Additional acquisitions will bring NLT holdings up to 3800 acres. Other acquisitions are also underway.

The Land Trust submitted an application to the NPS for the development of a community forest model (forestry, recreation, wildlife, etc.), and NLT expects to hear by early October if it's approved.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Justin reported that Water Quality Monitoring training is tomorrow. 37 teachers are currently enrolled in the program and planting projects and salmon carcass tossing are in the works. PSP is looking for examples of model programs – if you know of any please contact Dave Ward (206.462.2275, dave.ward@psp.wa.gov).
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he has secured additional funding for the watershed festival from the Tribe. A 10% reduction is projected for the State Budget; we don't yet know how this may impact our funding. The EPA grant goes for another year, and then that funding will need to be replaced.

Roy noted Pierce County's [Nisqually Basin Plan](#) includes some funding for the NRC, which will become available upon adoption. Roy and Justin will work together to identify key people involved in the process.

- *Stream Stewards* – Jeanette reported that SPSSEG is the project lead on the Ohop restoration project. The channel has been switched and the creek is now flowing in the remaindered channel. Higher flows will flood the valley floor, but the capacity of the valley has not changed with the project. Project managers are currently meeting with landowners and looking into temporary dike structures to help landowners feel more comfortable. Additional log jams on the Mashel were completed last week.

Two big community planting events are happening soon: October 30 at Ohop and November 13 across from Smallwood Park. Cisco Morris will broadcast from the 11/13 event. Also, salmon watcher training is this Saturday.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – All proposed projects approved by the NRC earlier this year passed the state technical review. Two projects from the list are within the funding allocation - Middle Mashel and Conservation Forestry. Also the Seja acquisition has closed.

The Tribe is working to turn around the excess funds from the Ohop project and re-allocate them into Eatonville water-quality protections. The Tribe submitted two applications for the Community Salmon Fund round (planting projects and continued knotweed control work) and the NRF submitted one (additional rain garden installations in Eatonville). The review meeting is Wednesday September 29.

Pierce CD recently learned that funding for knotweed control through WA Department of Agriculture has been cut. Ron suggested that Title II (Secure Rural Schools) funds could be explored, and suggested that Jeanette talk to Bill Wamsley, Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Chris expressed gratitude for the collaboration and funds which came together to support the Devil's Head acquisition.

It was decided that the NRC will send a letter of support for the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#).

3. Watershed Planning in El Salvador – Steve Thompson

Steve Thompson shared photos and stories of his work with [Engineers Without Borders](#) in El Salvador, where he was part of a team working to bring clean water to villagers. The watershed group he visited was formed in 1994 with participation from 14 villages. Photos of Steve's trip are available on our slide share side at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/watershed-planning-in-el-salvador>

Additional information about La Coordinadora, the watershed planning group, is available at <http://fssca.net/coordinadora/history.html>. Steve can be contacted at stevethompson440@comcast.net.

4. Water Conservation Project Report – Janet Nazy

Janet joined us to share the final report for the Nisqually Water Conservation Project. She outlined the challenges and successes of the project, and noted that the project included the availability of free consulting services, assistance with the development of water conservation plans, and the development and delivery of water conservation curriculum.

A copy of Janet's presentation is available by contacting NRC staff (sara@nisquallyriver.org). Janet can be contacted at Janet Nazy at 206.957.2199 or janetn@partners4water.org.

5. For the Good of the Order

- David mentioned that Congressmen Dicks and Reichart are working to get the CMZ study funding in the budget. The request is for \$650,000. The NRC volunteered and agreed to serve as the coordinator of the effort.
- Mount Rainier's work trade visitor from Samoa, Tavita, introduced himself and spoke of his experience in the NW.
- The NLT BBQ is this weekend at Longfellow Park in Lacey.
- The Council noted with sorrow the passing of Herb Stumpf's wife; a card will be sent.

6. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:27.

Next Meeting: Friday October 15 at Pack Forest in Eatonville.