



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
April 15, 2011
Gordon's Grange
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Doug Beagle – *Town of Eatonville*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

Sandra Romero – *Thurston County*
John Thompson – *City of Yelm*
* **CAC Representatives** (3)

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Deborah Crosetto
Paul Crosetto*
Mary Foster*
Fred Michelson*

Karelina Resnick
Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith

Guests

Sayre Hodgens – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Roy Huberd – *Pierce County*
Michael Korchonoff – *Pierce CD*
Renee Mitchell – *Pierce CD*

Emmett O'Connell – *NWIFC*
Jean Shaffer – *TreeArt Ecoforestry*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Barb Woods – *Thurston County*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*

Sara Scott – *Nisqually River Council*

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

Call to Order – Ron called the meeting to order at 9:07.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as amended.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Robert reported that the recent CAC meeting was well attended. Don Perry provided a report by telephone. The NWSP updates were discussed, as were challenges related to reduced participation. Elections were held for the three representatives to the NRC with Paul Crosetto, Mary Foster, and Fred Michelson designated as official NRC voting members. Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair were tabled until the June 14 meeting.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred referenced the notes from the Forestry Conference and summarized that the ultimate determination from that event is to continue communication as a group without planning for a larger forestry summit at this time. Conversations at the conference were comprehensive and indicated an

interest and willingness from stakeholders to gather on an ongoing basis. Jennifer Cutler presented her work on the GIS forestry data at the April 14th EAC meeting. Bryan Bowden and Fred will work to delineate the specific goals of the group.

- *Community Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Chair Report* – Sara read a memo from David explaining his absence and expressing his gratitude for the Council's support.
- *Staff Report* - Sara reported that the Nisqually River Notes newsletter will be going out shortly. She has been working with Emmett O'Connell, Public Information Officer for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commissions, to develop an outreach strategy for the Chinook Plan update via the NRC website. Additional projects include the ongoing EAC forestry efforts, the NWSP updates, and the Nisqually Sustainable program.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe Kane reported that the Nisqually Land Trust auction was very successful, bringing in approximately 30% more funds than the 2010 event. The Land Trust is working on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects with a majority of activity focused in Eatonville. Joe recently testified on behalf of the [DNR Community Forest bill](#), and has lobbied in support of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program ([WWRP](#)). He noted that within three years, the largest private landowner in the State of Washington will be [Hancock Timber Resource Group](#), which is based out of North Carolina. He is also working with Bryan Bowden and the National Park Service on the development of a Nisqually Community Forest business Plan. The Land Trust closed on the McGill property in January.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Justin reported that GREEN Congress was successful and included a variety of art and science projects. He also noted that an Evergreen State College program which has focused on the Nisqually Watershed will provide several interns to work on projects for the Council.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he submitted a request for EPA funds in anticipation of the potential government shutdown. He noted that Stewardship Partners is working on a project to support the development of [12,000 rain gardens](#) in the Puget Sound region. He's been working to coordinate a flight of the watershed with representatives from Stewardship Partners, the Bullet Foundation, the Russell Foundation, the Boeing Foundation, and the Nisqually Tribe.
- *Stream Stewards* – Jeanette reported that Don is working on coordinating the June-July Stream Stewards class, and currently has 18 of the 25 spots filled. She suggests you contact Don soon if you are interested in participating in the class, which provides an overview of the watershed including ecology, history, biology, and more. The Stream Stewards program is recruiting volunteers for the rain garden installations in Eatonville on May 7th. Ciscoe Morris will be broadcasting live from the event. Other current projects include NatureMapping in the Ohop Valley and coordinating with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to provide a two week program for Nisqually tribal youth.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – The update is covered in item 5.

3. CAC Membership Application, Karelina Resnick

An application for membership to the CAC has been submitted by Karelina Resnick. She's a resident of Eatonville and works with the West Rainier Economic Development Initiative ([WREDI](#)) to improve the economic viability of the rural areas. Karelina is a Stream Steward and is very committed to supporting the Nisqually Watershed. A motion was made and seconded to approve her application. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Friends of Mineral Lake Request

Ron Averill summarized the recent Lewis County BOCC approval of an application for land reclassification for 2,000 acres of "forest acres of long term significance" to "forest acres of local significance" in the Mineral Lake region which has been discussed at previous meetings. The approval of the application included a set-aside of 1200 acres in permanent forestry and a riparian-area buffer. The zoning change will increase the number of possible home sites by four.

Justin explained that Ron Nilson (with Friends of Mineral Lake) made a request to the Council to file Motion to Intervene and/or a Motion to file Amicus Brief with the Growth Management Hearings Board of Western Washington. Although the Council may be sympathetic to the issues raised by Friends of Mineral Lake, it does not have standing or organizational authority to get involved in legal proceedings. The Council's position was made clear in a letter submitted to the Lewis County BOCC in December 2010.

5. Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan and Process – Jeanette Dorner

Jeanette reiterated that the Nisqually Tribe is the lead entity for the salmon recovery process in the Nisqually Watershed, and the NRC is the "citizens committee", the official policy making group which reviews the prioritizes the proposed projects. After approval by the NRC, the strategy is submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership, who works with the National Marine Fisheries Council to review proposals and comments prior to adoption. This is a unique process in Washington State that is driven by local knowledge, technical expertise, and community needs.

The [Draft Nisqually Fall Chinook Terminal Area Management Plan](#) was released in January and focuses on harvest and hatchery management, in conjunction with habitat work.

Priority areas include the Nisqually Estuary, Nisqually Mainstem, Ohop Creek, and Mashel River. Major changes to the plan include a phased reduction in the amount of natural Chinook harvested, the use of selective fishing to remove hatchery fish from spawning grounds, the installation of a seasonal weir on the mainstem Nisqually River, and the utilization of 25% natural Chinook eggs and spawn at the Kalama Creek Hatchery.

Jeanette also reviewed the 2011 Salmon Recovery Funding Board schedule and explained the public outreach effort which will be facilitated by Emmett O'Connell and hosted on the www.nisquallyriver.org website. She noted that Gary Chittim from King 5 News joined Tribal Biologists at the estuary earlier this week and produced a story about [salmon in the newly restored estuary](#).

A motion was made to approve the updates to the 3 year work plan, approve the public comment period for the next few weeks, authorize the NRC Executive Committee to review and address received public comments, and approve the proposed schedule for the Nisqually SRFB round. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Jeanette's presentation, which contains additional details, can be viewed online at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/2011-salmon-recovery-workplan-update>. You can contact her at dorner.jeanette@nisqually-nsn.gov or 360.456.5221 x2135.

6. NWSP Update – Justin Hall

Justin noted that at the updated Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan framework was developed by David, Jeanette, Sara, and himself, and was presented for feedback at the March retreat. He presented the updated draft Plan, which includes the feedback received at the retreat.

Additional comments are welcomed, and the updated Plan will be brought before the Council next month for consideration for adoption.

A presentation on the update is online at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/the-nisqually-watershed-stewardship-plan-update-2011>.

To receive a copy of the Draft Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan update, or for more information, contact Sara or Justin at sara@nisquallyriver.org or justin@nisquallyriver.org, or 360.438.8715.

7. For the Good of the Order

Karelina noted that tomorrow NW Trek will be NatureMapping in the Ohop Valley from 9 – 12. Sandra noted that Thurston County is in the process of updating their [Critical Areas Ordinance](#), and the interim Prairie Protection Ordinance will be incorporated into the plan.

8. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05.

Next Meeting: Friday June 17, Braget Farm, 9am – 12pm*
**Tentative location, please confirm before traveling to the Farm*