



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
December 17, 2010
Pack Forest, Eatonville
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – Lewis County
Bryan Bowden – MRNP
Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Greg Ettl – UW's Pack Forest

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

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Paul Crosetto*
Fred Michelson*
Carl Rotter

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Mary Foster - UNCF
Beverly & Raymond Kogels – *Stream Stewards*

Lorin Reinalt – *Pierce County*
Gabrielle Roesch – *UW's Pack Forest*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

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

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 November minutes were approved as amended.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Introductions

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Robert reported that the next meeting of the CAC will be on January 6th at 7pm at the Nisqually Natural Resources Office.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported that the committee met November 30 and decided to convene a group of 8 representatives from various forestry demographics. This meeting will likely take place in February, and an invitation will be sent out soon. He reported that Mark Thibo recently spent some time with him helping him understand the intricacies of DNR. The EAC will meet again in January.

Paul referenced an Idaho Public TV program, [Canyonlands Calling](#), which summarizes a successful collaboration to determine the management of public lands in the Owyhee Canyonlands. [The DVD is available to borrow from Sara.] He also shared several articles of interest, including one addressing the compounding effects of climate change and habitat loss, and several from the most recent issue of [Science Findings](#).

- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Chair Report* – David reported that Bill Bryant, the president of the port of Seattle and a member of the Foundation Board of Directors, is exploring the possibility of running for governor. He's a republican who is socially and environmentally responsible and fiscally conservative. He'll be making a decision in the next few months.

Ron provided an update on the proposal from Forcastle to develop lands adjacent to Mineral Lake. Forcastle has proposed to put 1500 acres of the upper land into permanent protection if the County approves the land use designation change from "Forest Lands of Local Significance" for the 20 acre parcels adjacent to the lake. He noted that Lewis County does not have the funds to purchase the property at this time, and is constrained in their options by the Growth Management Act. The final hearing will take place on December 27.

The Council discussed the situation at length and determined that the letter from the River Council to the Lewis County Board of County Commissions will include a request to have any "conservation lands" managed by the Nisqually Land Trust or similar non-profit organization and will advocate for the investment in additional infrastructure or recreational benefits for the Mineral community by Forcastle.

- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that she has been working on the Nisqually Sustainable program, putting together the latest edition of the Nisqually River Notes, planning the meeting schedule for 2011. She noted that she posts relevant news and event information online - on [Facebook](#), on Twitter ([NisquallyRC](#)), and on the NRC website.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – No report.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – No report.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that the Foundation met earlier this month and approved a budget which is \$75,000 less than the 2010 budget, reflecting the cuts enacted by the WA State Legislature. He also noted that nominations are being accepted for the Daniel J. Evans award, which recognizes a lifetime history of dedication to the Nisqually region.
- *Stream Stewards* – Don reported that the first salmon toss was last Saturday at the Mashel, Ohop Creek, and mainstem Nisqually River. A planting on the Collins property also took place recently. The Roy Salmon Homecoming is scheduled for January 22 at the Roy City Park. Hope to see Chum in Muck Creek.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Jeanette reported that the Governor’s budget includes \$15 million for Puget Sound Restoration and Acquisition. She indicated the importance of educating folks in the legislature about the value of projects which result from this funding. She suggests the message that needs to be shared is “It’s not either the environment or the economy; we need both. Healthy natural resources are essential for our economy. Restoration work supports construction jobs and other aspects of healthy economies.”

Jeanette has been planning the next round of rain garden instillations in Eatonville with Stewardship Partners. She also provided an update on the Pierce Conservation District assessment – the County Council met recently and voted unanimously to renew the assessment for 2011. The funds will be collected and help in a separate account until the liability risk has been resolved. The Mason Conservation District lawsuit is going to court on January 13.

3. Pierce County Flood Planning Update - Lorin Reinelt

Lorin presented an update on the Peirce County Flood Planning process and noted that Justin, Bryan, and Kathy Hatcher sit on the Advisory Board. The purpose of flood planning is to reduce risks and protect people and property. The flood plan is now county-wide and includes tributaries with historical flows over 5000 cubic feet/second.

He reviewed the Summary of Economic Analysis Findings: potential flood related losses in excess of \$725 million; 21,193 people living within floodplain; 9000+ homes in the flood plain, and 3 wastewater treatment plants in the floodplain. The Phase II Study is currently underway and includes a geomorphic analysis of the fluvial response from sedimentation downstream of Mt. Rainier; preliminary results in Feb/March - final report later in 2011.

The 2011 proposal targets protection based on land uses, presence of facilities, river conditions, resources, and other data. Different approaches and designs will be implemented for different areas.

Lorin reported that the Flood Control Zone District boundary is county wide, representing the regional impacts and issues related to flooding. A \$5 per parcel tax assessment was adopted last week.

You can contact Lorin at Lreinel@co.pierce.wa.us or 253.798.3096.

- 4. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:40, and attendees were invited to stay at Pack to participate in the [ECOSEL](#) auction. Approximately 10 people participated in the activity.

Next Meeting: Friday January 21 at the City of Roy Library