



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
June 18, 2010, 9am – 12pm
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – Lewis County
Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Cindy James – WA Department of Ecology
Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust
Sandra Romero – Thurston County

Debbie Young – Tacoma Power
Jean Takekawa – Nisqually NWR
Mark Thibo – WA DNR
* *CAC Representatives (3)*

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Mary Foster
Judy Krill*
Fred Michelson*

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Pete Hamrick – Pierce CD
Chris Schutz – Pierce County
Sarah Wilcox – Pierce CD

Mori Wallner – Partnership for Water
Conservation
Jim Wick - Thurston County Surface Storm
Water Advisory Board

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

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

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

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Call to Order – Ron called the meeting to order at 9:06 and welcomed attendees.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Committee Report, Chair Report, Staff Report, and Allied Programs

Introductions

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – No report.

- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported the committee met on May 28. They discussed an idea for a forestry tour facilitated by Kirk Hanson from NNRG, and have requested funding from the Tribe for a tour bus. They developed 23 proposed questions to be addressed within the Master Forestry Plan, which they intend to prioritize down to 5-6 elements. They discussed the 3 Donkey Pull DNR sale and asked for volunteers to review the permit and walk the sale area. Fred also briefed the Council on the major points of concern with the permit.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – No report.

Chair Report – No report.

Staff Report – Sara reported the NWSP updates are underway. The Nisqually Sustainable program is developing, and will be enrolling new businesses. She is also looking to incorporate tours into some upcoming Council meetings – if you have a site our topic you would like incorporated into a tour, please let her know.

Nisqually Land Trust - Joe reported the Land Trust Float Trips are scheduled for July 17 & 25. To sign up, call 360.458.1111.

<http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org/FloatTrip2010b.htm>

Fred noted he is accepting donations to cover the \$300 that is still needed for the inclusion of Wounded Warriors on the float trip.

The Land Trust is currently proposing three SRFB projects; two primary projects and one back-up. They are working on a new acquisition on the Mashel, with new partner [Conservation Forestry](#).

Nisqually River Education Project – Sheila reported the Summer Teacher's Institute will take place at the Refuge next week. They are expecting 45 participants, 25 of whom work in the Nisqually. The theme this year is *From Native Plants to Local Foods*.

Nisqually Stream Stewards – Don reported the Stream Stewards are into their third week of class. Tomorrow they'll be here at the refuge. The restoration projects are coming up soon.

Nisqually River Foundation - Justin reported the EPA Targeted Watershed Grant recently submitted, for \$900,000 was not funded. Jeanette noted there is a concept paper out by EPA, asking for feedback by next Wednesday. They are proposing a whole different

approach to allocating these funds, they are proposing a competitive call in the near future for another organization that will coordinate the local grant rounds.

Justin noted that the Russell Foundation is tightening their connection to Puget Sound. All projects need to clearly illustrate the connection to the Sound. For the next funding round, they are looking to focus on one specific watershed.

3. South Sound Estuary Association (SSEA) – *Brian Stafki*

Brian introduced the organization and encouraged everyone to become a member and support their efforts. SSEA's mission is to establish and maintain an interpretive center with an emphasis on the marine and estuarine life of Puget Sound. SSEA was founded in 2007 and initially called "Don't Miss the Boat". Their area of focus is all inlets and waterways south of the Tacoma Narrows. They currently offer teacher workshops, on the water trips, and a central online information hub.

Goals of the SSEA include:

- Establish an interpretive center on Olympia's waterfront, preferably in the downtown area
- Maintain the interpretive center with an emphasis on the marine and estuarine life of south Puget Sound
- Provide hands-on learning for students, local citizens, and Olympia area visitors
- Promote awareness of strategies to protect and restore the health of south Puget Sound, and
- Serve as a point of contact for anyone to learn about current activities of other groups dealing with marine and estuarine ecosystems and conservation efforts.

You can reach Brian Stafki at 360.441.2973 or brian@sseacenter.org. He is happy to speak to any group interested in learning more or supporting SSEA's mission. www.sseacenter.org

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Updates – *Jeanette Dorner*

The SRFB received 3 letters of intent, all from the Nisqually Land Trust. The Seja property acquisition, which was discussed with the Council and approved in March, is underway.

Other projects received include a project on the lower section of the Mashel River, an opportunity to acquire 313 acres of shoreline property (3.5 miles along the Mashel) upstream of Eatonville. Request from the Land Trust was for \$250,000, they are seeking the additional \$750,000 elsewhere. The SRFB also received a request from the Land Trust for a property acquisition of 33 acres at the confluence of Tanwax Creek and the Nisqually mainstem.

The amount available to be allocated is \$416,000. The Field Trip presentation will be on July 7, contact Jeanette for more information.

The SPSSEG has excess funds (\$350,000) from the Ohop project that could become available to other Nisqually Projects. These funds must be expended by June 2011.

Jeanette proposed that she contact current project sponsors to assess their need for additional funds, or possible scope increase. Council members had no objections, so she will proceed with that course of action.

When the Puget Sound Partnership took over the salmon recovery process, the Nisqually River Council approved Jeanette as the representative for the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Funding Group. Discuss funding allocation across Puget Sound. Talk about other efforts that are going on to support salmon recovery (Shoreline Master Plan). The Partnership is gearing up to request funds for the Puget Sound Restoration. \$55 Million from the State will be available in the form of legislative funding.

Sandra suggested we think about a *strategy* for how we support this funding. The legislative question will be “Is this an essential government service?” The response must be “Yes, it is!”

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

5. Video of Nisqually Delta Restoration

“The Nisqually Returns”, a short video highlighting the Nisqually Delta Restoration was shown. The video was developed by Ducks Unlimited and is available online at <http://www.ducks.org/news/2037/TidereturnstoNisqual.html>

6. Pierce CD Agricultural Assistance Program - Sarah Wilcox

Sarah introduced Pierce Conservation District’s Agricultural Assistance Program. The program’s mission is to conserve natural resources while reconnecting people to food and creating opportunities for farm profitability. The program provides:

- support for farm infrastructure & tools,
- local product marketing campaigns,
- capacity building for farmers markets, urban growing and community gardens,
- a senior food box program,
- and partnership support.

The program recently acquired a Mobile Meat Processing Unit (run by Puget Sound Meat Producer Cooperative, introduced to the Council in December of 2009) and a small-scale

poultry processing unit. Both of these great resources are available to farmers in neighboring counties, including Lewis and Thurston.

Significant needs and gaps in local agricultural systems include:

- Regulatory review or coordination
- Continued market development
- Continued development of tools farmers need to be profitable
- Support for county [Purchase of Development Rights/Transfer of Development Rights](#) program
- Raise or leverage funding for farmland preservation
- Identify priority preservation lands.

Sarah highlighted the County's [Agricultural Production Capacity Study](#) (2008) and the [Agriculture Strategic Plan](#) (2006).

Sarah's presentation is available online at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/pierce-cd-agricultural-assistance-program>. She can be reached at sarahg@piercecountycd.org or 253.845.9770 x108.

7. Nisqually River BALLE Update – Steve Pruitt

Steve was not able to attend the meeting; updates will be provided at a future meeting.

8. For the Good of the Order

Chris noted that the Pierce County Basin Plan Update is on hold until the County Council is assured that there is not community conflict with the plan. She'd like to follow up with Mary to see if there are further discussions that need to be held. Mary talked with Roger Bush and indicated she was supportive of the discussion.

Sandra noted that Thurston County just adopted the AG Plan on Tuesday. Thurston County is also looking at agri-tourism, and is meeting on Monday at 4pm to discuss the topic.

9. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.

*Next Meeting:
July 16, 2010
Ashford Fire Station
9:30 am – 12:30 pm*