



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
October 15, 2010
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Greg Ettl - *University of WA*
Cindy James – *WA Dept. of Ecology*
Steve Ruff – *Miles Sand & Gravel*

Jean Takekawa – *Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*
Mark Thibo – *WA DNR*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Debbie Young – *Tacoma Power*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Fred Michelson*
Steve Pruitt*

Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Nikki Fields – *WA State Parks*
Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*
Ron Nielson – *Mineral Resident*

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

Staff

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Don Perry – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*
Sara Scott – *Nisqually River Council*

Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Education Project*
Ashley Von Essen – *NREP Intern*

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

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:11. David recently visited the new State Park and highly recommends the walk from Highway 7 to the Mashel, which is 3.5 miles round trip.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Introductions - Jean Takekawa welcomed everyone to the refuge and explained that Governor Gregoire and her staff will be visiting later in the afternoon to learn about and see the estuary restoration, as part of a day-long tour of Puget Sound restoration projects. They are expected to convene at the River Outlook at 1:45 and will walk along the new dike. Billy Frank Jr. and Ken Guire will also be there. Nisqually River Council members are especially invited to attend this special event.

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Robert Smith - CAC did not meet. Next CAC meeting is Thursday November 4th at 7pm.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – Fred reported that the EAC met on 9/25, and Jean Schafer presented about Natural Selection Harvesting. They are asking the question, “Are our forests being sustainably maintained in the watershed?” The EAC aims to develop a Master Forestry Plan for the watershed – and invites everyone to participate in the process. Fred, Kirk, and Paul Sparks will meet with Jennifer to further discuss the Nisqually Forestry Data and Maps.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Steve reported that Ashford Community Forum is scheduled to meet on November 11 at 7pm at the Ashford Community School.
- *Chair Report* – David reported that he, Sandra, and a few others flew over the watershed with the LightHawk project earlier this week. An elected official who joined the tour said, "You can see all the maps and hear about all the projects but when you see it from the air you can connect all the dots and it's very impressive." That sentiment essentially sums up the goal of the LightHawk project.
- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that the Watershed Festival went very well and attendance was estimated at approximately 1400. The Festival included the opening of the 1990 NRC Time Capsule, a new layout, and a lecture series. The Nisqually Good Neighbor Handbook is in development and should be printed early next year (this project is inspired by the [Methow Good Neighbor Handbook](#)). The Nisqually Sustainable marketing campaign has started – listen for our sponsor spots on KPLU.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe Kane reported that NLT has closed on the purchase of Seja property in Yelm, which adds 20 acres adjacent to the 190 acres already owned. The town of Eatonville recently closed on 40 acres on the Mashel, with assistance from a WWRP grant. The Van Eaton homestead (68 acres right below the middle Mashel project) was listed as the first priority on the Pierce County Conservation Futures priority list; the Burwash property ranked sixth. The Land Trust is doing its first timber harvest as the Green Cove Project (across from Wilcox) is very dense and needs thinning. The FSC certified work will be done by Andy Miller. Joe attended the National Land Trust rally last week, the focus of the session this year was Community Forests. There was strong interest in the development of a west coast project, and the Nisqually has the potential to lead this evolution. He asks: “How do we, the Nisqually Community, create a large forest (20,000 – 30,000 acres) that is managed locally and provides for our needs – ecosystem services, economic revenue, etc.?” Attendees noted that major landowners would need to be partners through the planning process and implementation, and a well developed plan presented to

Congress could generate funds while providing an opportunity to explore various management options. NLT is moving its office to the old education center at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila introduced Ashley Von Essen, an Evergreen State College intern who will assist with delivering watershed education to local teachers and students. Sheila recently submitted a NOAA B-wet project proposal, which if funded would allow for the creation of an advanced estuary monitoring effort that connects scientists, tribal people, and students through the Canoe Journey. There are currently 41 teachers and their students currently monitoring water quality with NREP.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin noted that the Community Salmon Grant was funded at 66% and will bring four additional rain gardens to the Eatonville area. The Foundation was also grateful to receive a \$25,000 grant from the Nisqually Tribe's Charitable Fund.
- *Stream Stewards* – Don reported that the first Salmon Watcher training was held in September and another is planned for December. The 2nd Annual Ohop Halloween Planting is scheduled for October 30. There will be NatureMapping in the Ohop on October 17th with NW Trek, and on November 13th Cisco Morris will broadcast live from a volunteer planting at Millpond Park in Eatonville. The goal of the Ciscoe event is to educate people about opportunities for private landowners to protect shorelines and improve water quality; the Tribe is still seeking event sponsors.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Jeanette gave more details about the [LightHawk](#) project and explained the non-profit's mission: to assist local watershed groups to get decision makers up in the air. Two flights were coordinated, the first with Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero and David Troutt, and the second with Eatonville Mayor Ray Harper and Senator Randi Becker. Jeanette noted that the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#) is in jeopardy of being unfunded – this resource funds critical restoration work, and made possible the estuary restoration, the Ohop restoration, AND the Mashel restoration. Jeanette also noted her program has received unofficial notification of the Community Salmon Fund determinations and three projects have been partially funded: Ohop Restoration at \$45,000; Rain Gardens at \$20,000; and Knotweed Identification and Control at \$15,000. Jeanette reiterated the importance of advocacy and local decision making for natural resource projects.

3. **Nisqually State Park – Nikki Fields**

Nikki provided an update on the new state park near Eatonville, adjacent to Pack Forest, which consists of 1230 forested acres boarded on three sides by water. The land acquisitions were initiated by the Nisqually River Management Plan; in 1991 the WA State Parks started applying for grants, and in 2005 the legislature funded the development of the master plan. (The Master Plan is online at www.parks.wa.gov/plans/nisqually/.)

A “People’s Center” approach guides the development of the park, which includes goals such as conservation, an experience in the woods, and the telling of the people’s story. It is known that Chief Leschi’s village was within the immediate vicinity of the park land, and a massacre of the native people also occurred in the area. There’s a hill in the middle of the park which has been identified as a location for the People’s Center.

Future park facilities are planned to include camping & RV facilities, a mountain bike challenge course, a backcountry horse camp, and a traditional knowledge camp. The long term plan includes ~3400 acres, and several important acquisitions will be necessary to develop the park as currently planned.

Nikki noted that Pack Forest worked to help develop the forest plan, and Nisqually is the first FSC certified State Park in Washington. State Parks has applied to the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program ([WWRP](#)) for a grant to acquire Manke and other properties.

Nikki and other park staff would like to develop a stewardship group for park. This group could assist with keeping an eye on gates and status of trails and would be similar to a neighborhood watch program. The parks would also welcome assistance with clean up and removal of invasive species. There is a possibility to develop a day/group adoption program with partners such as regional NREP teachers, Stream Stewards, and local community groups including the CAC, UNCF, Ohop, and others.

The [Capital Development Plan](#) is available at the back of the Master Plan. Phase one includes a parking lot, toilet, and trail. Further developments will occur as funds are available.

Steve Pruitt, consulting staff to the committee, introduced the Nisqually Indian Tribe’s State Park Committee: Jack McCould, Jr. – Chairman, Jim McCloud - Vice Chairman, Kitten Leschi – Secretary, Tony Sanchez – Member, and Leslie Ferrer, Executive Secretary (Staff to the Committee).

A copy of Nikki’s PowerPoint presentation can be seen online at www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-state-park-update-2010. Nikki Fields, Washington State Parks and Recreation’s Parks Planner, can be contacted at nikki.fields@parks.wa.gov or 360.902.8658.

4. Mineral Lake – Ron Nielson

Ron Nielson shared updates and his concerns regarding a 2200 acre parcel which is adjacent to Mineral Lake, Mineral Creek, and the Nisqually River. He noted that the area is a significant holding of undeveloped shoreline, and requested the Council’s support for the transfer of the property to public ownership. The area is not platted and is currently listed as forestry reserve of long-term significance. Ron is seeking to have the county relist this area as forestry reserve of local significance. Cascade Land Conservancy is currently taking the lead on funding acquisitions.

Forecastle Timber (Wisconsin) bought the property from Weyerhaeuser for \$3.5 million, \$1600/acre. The parcels are currently zoned at 25 – 1 house per 80 acres and Forecastle is requesting the County rezone the property to 33 – 1house per 20 acres lots, concentrated around the lake.

Ron Averill noted that Lewis County is constrained by the Growth Management Act, and doesn't have funds for the purchase of the property. The rezoning proposal is before the County Commissioners, and the final decision will be made later this winter, after one final hearing.

There was discussion about a previous attempt to develop a public water system in Mineral which was unsuccessful due to excessive arsenic levels. Fred suggested that the landowner be asked what they would be willing to sell the property for - either in whole or part.

It was suggested that the Council send a letter to Lewis County referencing the forestry component of the NWSP and advocating that the land be maintained in forestry and the zoning not be reduced. Sara will circulate a draft letter for consideration at the November meeting.

Ron Nielson can be contacted at 360.740.1648 or ronnn@localaccess.com.

5. Pack Forest Update – Greg Ettl

Greg Ettl provided an update of some of the many recent changes at [Pack Forest](#), a 4374 acre working forest near Eatonville which is owned by the University of Washington. Duane Emmons now works with DNR. Recent layoffs at Pack Forest include the Forestry Manager, DSF-PF Program Manager, Maintenance Mechanic, Woods Utility Lead, Outreach Specialist, Utility Worker, Woods Worker, and Trail Maintenance staff. Pack added two research assistantships and four summer interns.

The budget has been cut dramatically and options are under review. Discussions include the development of a Mount Rainier Institute, an environmental education center at Pack and a joint venture with Mount Rainier National Park. Divestment of land is an option.

An [ECOSEL](#) management auction will likely be held later fall/early winter to help determine “what is important about pack forest and how should it be managed?” The auction would include comparisons of divergent management regimens, including no cut, maximum harvest, and various scenarios in-between. Pack is looking to tie their management decisions to ecosystem services. It was suggested that Puget Sound Partnership and the Dean of the College of the Environment be present at the auction – the UW is an important agency and player in our state. Greg will notify Sara who will send notice to the Council when the stakeholders' meeting is scheduled.

A copy of Greg's PowerPoint presentation is available online at www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/pack-forest. Greg Ettl, Associate Professor, Ridgeway Chair, and Director of the School of Forest Resources' Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest, can be contacted at ettl@u.washington.edu or 206.616.4120.

6. For the Good of the Order

Chris Schutz noted that the SR 706 levy rebuilding project concludes today. This is the project Todd spoke about at a Council meeting earlier this year. Next year the upstream work will continue.

Everyone was reminded that the Governor will be at the River Overlook at 1:45 and Council members are encouraged to attend if they are able. The Puget Sound Partnership is [videotaping the visit](#).

7. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned just at 12:03.

Next Meeting: Friday November 19th at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: NISQUALLY

December

- 12/02 Thursday, NRC CAC & Advisory Committee Holiday Gathering
- 12/04 Saturday, Salmon Watcher Workshop, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Nisqually Refuge
- 12/11 Saturday, Trestle Farm Work Party, Nisqually Land Trust
- 12/26 - 1/02 Winter Wildland, NW Trek
- 12/11 Saturday, Salmon Carcass Fling, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Eatonville
- 12/17 Friday - NRC Meeting, Pack Forest

January

- 1/21 Friday, NRC Meeting
- 1/22 Saturday, Roy Salmon Homecoming
- 1/29 Saturday, Yelm Shoreline Work Party, Nisqually Land Trust

February

- 2/11 Saturday, Salmon Carcass Fling, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Eatonville
- 2/18 Friday, NRC Meeting

March

- 3/19 Saturday, NRC Roving Retreat (tentative)

April

- 4/2 Saturday, Nisqually Land Trust's 19th Annual Auction & Dinner Gala
- 4/15 Friday, NRC Meeting