



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
July 15, 2011
Ashford Fire Hall, Ashford WA
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Nick Bond – *Town of Eatonville*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Fred Michelson – *NRC Forestry Committee*

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

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Deborah Crosetto
Paul Crosetto*
Mary Foster*
Karelina Resnick

Jean Shaffer
Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Sarah Scott – *Upper Nisqually Community Forum*

Ron Nilson – *Friends of Mineral Lake*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Nichole Hill – *Nisqually Land Trust*

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, Agenda – The minutes and agenda were approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Deborah reported that efforts are underway to increase participation, and an educational/speaker series is in development. Meetings will be used to share volunteer opportunities and provide an open forum for discussion. Meetings may move throughout the watershed. Karelina and Bob Smith will address the Stream Stewards graduates at Ohop Grange tomorrow. Upcoming CAC meetings are August 9, October 11, and December 13.
- *Forestry Committee* – Fred noted that the next stakeholder Forestry Meeting is July 27 from 1:15 to 3:45 at the NNWR education center, and a query was recently sent to the

demographic representatives asking them to identify barriers and opportunities. Steve Pruitt is expected to facilitate this discussion.

- *Chair Report* – David reported the NY Times piece should be coming out this weekend, possibly on Sunday. (www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/science/earth/21river.html) He recently met with Craig Partridge, WA DNR, to explore the development of an ecosystem service market pilot project in the Nisqually Watershed. He has been focused on internal salmon issues with the Tribe, which is at a point where they need to harvest many fewer of the natural stock and remove hatchery fish from the river. The harvest rate will be cut 2/3 in the next three years, which is a challenging transition for the community.
- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that she has been supporting the CAC and the Forestry Committee, and is continuing to recruit businesses to participate in the Nisqually Sustainable program. Plans are also underway for the Nisqually Watershed Festival, Saturday September 24, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Council members and partners are encouraged to volunteer at the festival. She also noted that a blog component has been added to the website, and guest articles are welcome.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Nichole reported that she presented to the UNCF recently about conservation easements and received requests from four landowners for additional information. NLT is moving forward with acquisitions on the whitewater reach of the Yelm shoreline. This Thurston County Conservation Futures project includes 45 acres and 3/4 mile of shoreline, just upstream of the Trestle Farm. NLT is in the process of applying for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance (www.lta.org), and there will be an opportunity for the Council to comment on the value of the Land Trust to the Community.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – The Summer Teachers Institute was held recently, and the program is on summer hiatus.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he recently submitted a grant proposal to WA Department of Ecology for staff funding, and is currently developing four contracts with the Nisqually Indian Tribe: Nisqually River Education Project (staffing and plantings), Nisqually Sustainable, the Water Planning Unit contract. Also planning to award the Daniel J Evans stewardship award later this year.
- *Stream Stewards* - Jeanette reported that this is the 10th year of the Stream Stewards program, and the 2011 graduation is at Ohop Grange tomorrow. The McKenna Reserve sign will be dedicated at the restoration site on Sunday.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – [see pages 3-4]

3. UNCF Update – Sarah Scott

Sarah Scott reported that the Mt Rainier Visitors Association will be presenting at the September NRC meeting, and also referenced Nichole Hill's recent presentation about Conservation Easements and the Community Forest Initiative.

Sarah reported that Pierce County has secured funding for Ashford Park Phase II, which includes an amphitheater, parking for 60 vehicles, and infrastructure for the Museum/Community Center.

The Directors of the non-profit group Upper Nisqually Citizens Committee (<http://uppernisqually.org>) are meeting with Pierce County Surface Water staff next week.

Sarah also noted that the UNCF now meets “as needed”, and maintains email contact among members.

4. Pierce County Open Space Task Force Update – Bryan Bowden

Pierce County established an Open Space Task Force in 2005, and asked Pierce County Parks Department to serve as the lead. The Task Force asked stakeholders to present to them updates on current issues, stakeholders, successes, and future desires. Cooperative work between various efforts could be beneficial - local matching funds are a limiting factor.

Task Force Recommendations:

- Pierce County Council to establish an Open Space Council and Open Space Coordinator
- Coordinator reports to County Executive
- Coordinates open space action among County departments
- Facilitates newly formed Open Space Council - provides leadership countywide and streamlines county participation in comprehensive countywide open space program
- Requires minimal investment
- Revenue recommendations: TDR program (2 FTE), seed money for TDR bank, program marketing
- Public opinion poll to determine support for open space tax
- Place open space tax initiative on future County ballot

A Trust for Public Land poll, conducted in Pierce County in 2008, showed a fair amount of support for open space tax if coupled with trails.

The final report will be posted online at the Pierce County Parks and Recreation [website](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/parks/OSTF.htm), www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/parks/OSTF.htm.

Next steps include the establishment of an Open Space Council and the appointment or hiring of a coordinator/facilitator.

For more information, contact Bryan Bowden, Mount Rainier National Park; Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program: Bryan_bowden@nps.gov; 360.569.2211 x 2306.

5. Nisqually Salmon Recovery Update – Jeanette Dorner

Jeanette reported that two actions by the Council are needed to further the salmon recovery projects, the Council needs to respond to feedback from the State Review Panel technical comments, and approve a prioritized list of projects. If the approved list is submitted by August 12, there is a possibility of an early-action project.

Project Overviews

Knotweed Management: original request for \$55,250, updated to \$72,250. Pierce Conservation District.

Burwash Acquisition: 114 acres, life estate, some funds from Pierce Conservation Futures; listed as #1 priority by the State Technical Review Board. Nisqually Land Trust.

Litzenberger Acquisition: Upper end of Ohop Creek, good spawning gravel, 38 acres. Nisqually Land Trust.

Hamilton Acquisition: Riparian buffer along the Mashel River by Smallwood Park. Nisqually Land Trust.

Anderson Acquisition (*Alternate*): To be considered if funds are available. Nisqually Land Trust.

Priority: Burwash > Knotweed > Litzenberger = Hamilton

The Nisqually River Council concurred that they support Land Trust Proposal 1. A motion was made to approve the list of Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects proposed by the Nisqually Salmon Recovery Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the Knotweed project will be monitored and reviewed periodically, and re-planting will be incorporated into the project if it is deemed necessary.

For more information, contact Jeanette at dorner.jeanette@nisqually-nsn.gov or 360.456.5221 x2135.

6. For the Good of the Order

Ron Nilson provided an update on the Mineral Lake development and stated that he believes the Lewis County BOCC is acting in violation of various state and local laws in regards to this issue. He presented informational packets to Council members and requested support for efforts of the Friends of Mineral Lake organization.

Karelina noted that a NatureMapping event with NW Trek will take place in Ohop valley this Saturday.

The Tribal Canoe Journey begins this weekend; with Nisqually canoes launching from Luhr Beach on Sunday.

Chinook season starts next Sunday.

The Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve initiative has filed SEPA documents and will be open to public comment soon.

7. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:43.

Next Meeting: Friday August 19, 2011, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge