



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
June 17, 2011
Roy City Library, Roy WA
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Rich Doenges – *Thurston County*
Fred Michelson – *NRC Forestry Committee*

John Thompson – *City of Yelm*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Deborah Crosetto
Paul Crosetto*
Mary Foster*
Steve Pruitt

Karelina Resnick
Marjorie Smith
Robert Smith*

Guests

Bill Barringer - *Citizen*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*

Barb Wood – *Thurston County*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Joe Kane – *Nisqually Land Trust*
Don Perry – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

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

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

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:10.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda – The minutes were approved as presented. The agenda was amended to reflect the cancellation of the photo intern presentation and the tabling of the National Board Certification discussion.

2. Introductions, Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Robert Smith reported that the CAC met earlier this week and elected Deborah Crosetto as Chair, Mary Foster as Vice-Chair, and Karelina Resnick as the Education Lead.
Fred reported that the invitation has been sent to forestry stakeholders to query availability for a July meeting. The group is seeking additional forest owners to

participate in the process, and is working with a new contact at Hancock. He noted that mileage support for CAC volunteers would be beneficial.

- *Community Advisory Committee* – It was noted that Steve has done commendable work in organizing community involvement in the Ohop Valley and Upper Nisqually. Mary reported that the Upper Nisqually Community Forum met last week and learned about conservation easements from Nisqually Land Trust staff.
- *Chair Report* – David reported he and several others recently took a tour of the watershed from the air and the land, and explored rain gardens and watershed restoration projects with Boeing Foundation associates. He also showed a NY Times reporter around the watershed for an article being written about climate change, which is expected to be published within a few weeks.
- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that she recently returned from a week of leave, assisting people and animals impacted by the massive tornado in Joplin, MO. She has been supporting the Advisory Committees, working on the Nisqually Sustainable program, and pulling pieces together for the Nisqually Watershed Festival. The most recent edition of Nisqually River Notes is in development.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe Kane announced that David Troutt is now a member of the Nisqually Land Trust Board of Trustees, and thanked him for his ongoing commitment to the work of the Land Trust. He presented David with a beautiful piece of local art – a large stained glass representation of the Nisqually logo, which was made by an artist in Ashford.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila reported that the Summer Teacher is upcoming, and will include a theme of “10 Steps to Habitat Gardens at Schools”, and the installation of a learning landscape at the near the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Education Center. She is currently working to secure funding for water quality monitoring, tree planting, and salmon carcass tossing. In a new project developed in collaboration with Nisqually Land Trust, local high school students will monitor restoration plantings. NREP will be hosting a film festival in the Nisqually on Earth Day 2012 (Sunday April 22), with funding from Patagonia, in collaboration with South Sound Green and the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he recently received an update from the WA Department of Ecology is preserved at the current level of funding for the next biennium, \$150,000. He plans to speak with Gordon White to explore the possibility for transitioning Council funding into a different account. He also noted that the Nisqually River Planning Unit is using the remainder of the state funds to explore and determine how best to move forward; he is currently developing the final report, which calls for the creation of a McAllister Yelm Stewardship Coalition which would include participation from the City of Olympia and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. The City of Lacey and Yelm may also participate.
- *Stream Stewards* - Don reported that the Streams Stewards class is underway and 18 students are participating. They took a recent tour to Joint Base Lewis McChord, they will visit the Refuge tomorrow, and will conduct NatureMapping at Wilcox Flats. Program participants are interested in volunteer opportunities with the NRC, CAC,

NREP, and other associated organizations. Don is also working with Eatonville to create an interpretative display for the new visitor center.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – [below]

3. **Salmon Recovery Update** – *Jeanette Dorner*

Jeanette reported that the Salmon Recovery Program has received a special invitation from the UW College of Forest Resources and WA DNR to identify locations for a pilot project to demonstrate a real transaction involving the marketing and economic support of ecosystem services, specifically those relevant to forest filtration of drinking water within the Nisqually system. A similar project has been conducted in Oregon by the Eugene Municipal Water Service.

First steps would be to identify specific ecosystem services and appropriate sellers and buyers, and craft a project outline. Staff from Weyerhaeuser is currently engaged and excited, and participation from the City of Yelm and Thurston County would be beneficial.

Any barriers that could be removed by the legislature should be highlighted and called out in a DNR report to the legislature this winter. Nisqually River Council members indicated they are comfortable moving forward with the project.

David reported that an effort is underway to develop a strategic plan focusing on adaptations to climate change affecting federal lands and national parks, and organizers are currently looking at the Nisqually watershed as a potential project area. This project could help bolster efforts already underway and highlight the value of restoration as a preferred method of adaptation to climate change.

SRFB Project Proposal Report – Jeanette noted that the state review panel moved their schedule up, and the Nisqually schedule has been adjusted similarly. The field site visits were recently conducted, and comments from the state review panel should be received soon. Jeanette will present a prioritized list at the July NRC meeting. Four projects were reviewed and one additional project could be included prior to finalization:

Nisqually Land Trust:

1) **Acquire Burwash property** - *on Ohop Creek, site for next phase of restoration project.*

Pierce Conservation Futures Fund will contribute 50% of the project funds. This is the unanimous #1 priority from technical committee.

2) **Purchase development rights on Litzenberger property** - *river frontage downstream of Smallwood Park;* an option to purchase has been signed. This former restoration project site was highlighted by the Community Salmon Project Committee as a success story, and could represent a valuable opportunity to highlight relationships.

3) **Acquire Hamilton property** –*Mashel Protection Element, Phase II, will fill in pieces along the Mashel River that are currently unprotected.* Proposal is flexible, and includes one property comprised of two parcels that would nearly complete protections between Boxcar Canyon and Smallwood Park. The revised proposal will either eliminate the transfer of the mill pond property, or include that portion of land as a donation from the landlord.

Pierce Conservation District:

4) **Fund Upper Nisqually Knotweed Control Project** – *one year of funding for this program.*

The technical group tentatively prioritized the projects as: 1) Burwash acquisition; 2) Knotweed control, 3 & 4) Litzemberger acquisition = Hamilton acquisition. Potential 5th project, pending availability of funds, is the acquisition of the Anderson property.

Additional information will be provided at the next NRC meeting. Jeanette can be reached at dorner.jeanette@nisqually-nsn.gov or 360.456.5221 x2135.

4. Recognition and Gratitude of Connie Gradoville

Connie Gradoville joined the Council for this meeting the invitation of Sheila and the Nisqually River Education Project (NREP). Connie has been an NREP teacher partner for many years and is an ardent supporter of youth understanding and involvement in watershed issues. Appreciation was expressed for Connie's dedication to the students of South Sound, River Ridge High School, and the Nisqually Watershed. Connie has been involved with biennial WQ monitoring, macro-invertebrate monitoring, salmon carcass tossing, fecal coliform monitoring and testing, hosting meetings and trainings, supporting an active environmental club, and coordinating and providing oodles of volunteers for various watershed projects.

Connie expressed her gratitude for the recognition, and highlighted the importance of getting students out of the classroom and into the field.

5. For the Good of the Order

Mary shared copies of an update from a newly-formed citizen group which is concerned with protecting access to Mount Rainier National Park and would like to meet with NRC leadership to help develop a path forward. The group, Citizens Supporting the Upper Nisqually River Valley, have additional information on their website. (<http://uppernisqually.org>)

Chris Schutz noted that the Annual Guided Beach Walk at Purdy Spit takes place tomorrow in Gig Harbor.

Steve noted that the state legislature funded \$800,000 for the Nisqually performing arts center and mountaineering museum, and the funds have been released to use in Phase II of the project. These funds will be combined with \$1,000,000 from Pierce County and clear the ground for the center and provide additional parking. The Town of Eatonville's trail program was also funded. He noted that the Tribe's Nisqually State Park committee has become a commission, and will working with the assistance of Lynn Scroggins.

It was also noted that Ashford Park has been expanded.

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

Next Meeting: Friday July 15, 2011, Ashford Fire Hall