



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 2011
Nisqually Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: Deborah Crosetto, Paul Crosetto, *Mary Foster, Fred Michelson, Karelina Resnick, Carl Rotter, Robert Smith, Marjorie Smith*

Guests Present: *Bill Berringer*

Staff Present: *Sara Scott*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval

Robert called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Minutes approved as presented.

Additions to the agenda included officer discussions and forestry update

There was no stream stewards update.

Fred made a request to incorporate a tour of the weir after the July or August NRC meeting.

Discussion about the weir and the salmon recovery effort in the Nisqually watershed.

Officer nominations and elections - all in the group are either gathering information or present as an advocate for something. Carl Rotter proposed the CAC consider adopting a rotating chair.

Mary feels as though the CAC needs to develop itself to capture and bring forth issues in a better position to better represent the citizens of the watershed. She feels as though in order to do that a single, organized, strong chair is needed.

Deborah...

Chair would develop the agenda in concert with others and staff.

Fred noted that the CAC has lost some steam over the past year or two. The additional advisory committees were a part of the change that reduced the energy of the group. The other two advisory committees were eliminated at the last council meeting, and the environmental advisory committee.

Fred feels as though someone with a strong backbone needs to be in charge of the Committee.

Bill found out about the CAC from a friend out on Hart's Lake Road. Read the Stewardship Plan, and sees the potential power of the CAC. Interested in conservation and education, health of the watershed.

Deborah proposed that each roving meeting feature the news and information of that place. Involve those who are active in sharing about their place, and local activities.

Carl made a motion to postpone elections until the first meeting scheduled after the first of August. No second.

Mary suggests that the Chair would be working to understand the River Council documents and work with the committee to implement that vision.

Karelina shared how another group she works with works:
Chair ensures all the meeting details are taken care of
One to lead education?
One to pick location?

Carl expressed a concern with personal agendas and the chair role.

Bob noted that there is a need for us to outreach to our community better.

Deborah proposed a co-chair.

Door prize to whomever travels the furthest?

Fred provided some history on how the CAC developed, and explained a bit to where we are now. He explained that he recently fought to keep the seats at the table of the advisory committees.

He delineated the distinction between regular agency council members and the CITIZENS advisory committee, and the importance of the roles of the citizens advisory committee.

Fred declined a nomination for chair.

Mary Foster nominated Deborah Crosetto as Chair
Fred nomination Mary Foster as Vice-Chair
Karelina as an educational lead/feed
Motion passed!!!

Forestry Update - Fred reported that the forestry group is working to schedule a large meeting between stakeholders around the 26-28 of July. Once a date is set, invitations and agendas will be sent. The attendees at the February conference indicated they were interested in getting to know the folks around the table better.

Kirk, Steve, and Fred will be working on developing the agenda.

Mark Doumit (WFPA) is waiting for a briefing/update.
Gathering an overview of the current state of local forests.

Discussed the Community Forest Plan, and connections between the two forestry initiatives.

Flood Hazard / CMZ

Mary noted that these issues have been discussed at previous CAC meetings - there has been a lot of discussion about flooding and relevant issues of concern. Concern about flooding potential and channel migration zone. Mary and others developed a proposal that they felt needed to be supported by the Federal Government, Congressman Reichart agreed to support the effort. Proposal was basically: what is really needed is a multi-agency approach. The river system is very dynamic and changing due to aggradations. The river bed in various places has risen many feet in some places. Concern about devastating floods. Scare in '96 when high waters resulted in a

major washout when the river got behind the levy. The citizens in the committee wrote a proposal stating that there was a need for an interagency committee - national park, pierce county, lewis county, national forest land, state Ecology, etc. Need a study to address threats and options. Reichart chaired a meeting last summer, and there was agreement that all the agencies would work to move towards a coordinated approach. The park is working on some of these issues, and have some funds budgeted. The county has continued to work... flood hazard plan meeting. Two high-priority projects in the upper watershed, 1) further protection for the levy and 2) engineered log jams. The group is pleased with those developments.

The group is opposed to the adoption of the Channel Migration Zone as mapped in 2008. The problem is that the study was based on the assumption that the levy did not exist. They have formed a non-profit organization, they are asking for the study to be reconsidered, and for a new study to be commissioned. They continue to request the inter-agency approach. They want the CMZ plan to include the levy that is maintained by the County. She shared a copy of the letter recently sent from Citizens Supporting the Upper Nisqually River Valley. www.uppernisqually.org

The area of concern includes the highway leading to Mount Rainier national park entrance, includes a sizeable "tourist commercial" area, and a high density residential subdivision area. A large part of the community, not just a house or two. The levy has been there since 1961.

Bob Smith shared a story of his neighbor who built a house on silt/sand, built another, sold and moved. A new family moved in and Bob's seen at least 200' of the property carried away by the river. Bob wonders if this committee should recommendation to have a log jam installed or some other way to help protect their property. (in thurston county)

Good of the Order:

Carl: if anyone goes up to Mill Creek... Backyard Habitat.

MRNP Super Dave Ubaraga is leaving and moving to the Grand Canyon.

Sara will coordinate. 2nd Tuesday. August 9th.

*Deborah lives on a historical homestead.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 11. 7-9pm, Eatonville Library