



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2010
Nisqually Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Debbie Anderson, Paul Crosetto (on telephone), David Hymel, Fred Michelson (on telephone), Carl Rotter, Kayla Saville, Steve Pruitt, and Bob & Marjorie Smith*

Staff Present: *Justin Hall, Sara Scott, and Don Perry (on telephone)*

1. Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval

David called the meeting to order at 7:03. The agenda and the July minutes were approved as presented.

2. Community Advisory Committee

Steve reported that Pierce County is working to consolidate the community plans into one comprehensive plan to streamline the permitting process for developers and corporations. A design firm ([AHBL](#)) is working with Eatonville and Federal Way to propose a second track, a separate set of regulations for development that would allow builders the option to build and operate under a different code and pursuant with the Community Plans.

There will be a summary sent out by January 15th, Pierce County's deadline for proposed changes within the Comprehensive Plan, and the proposal is expected to be considered in 2011 and implemented in 2012.

The Graham Community Group meets the 4th Thursday of the month. Steve invited anyone who's interested to join him in talking with other communities to encourage and support the development of community groups.

3. Stream Stewards Update

Don Perry phoned in to provide an update on the Stream Steward program. He noted that the Pierce Stream Team has been an instrumental partner in the development and implementation of projects, and that their programs are currently under threat by the Pierce County.

This Saturday, November 6th, NW Trek is leading a NatureMapping and weed control project on the Wilcox Flats property. A big volunteer planting project is planned for November 13th at Millpond Park. Cisco Morris will be broadcasting his radio show from the event, which is supported by the NRF, Eatonville, Wilcox Farms, Pierce Stream Team, and others.

The Salmon Watchers Salmon Carcass Tosses are scheduled for December 11th and February 5th. The Halloween Volunteer Planting in the Ohop Valley was also successful, with 1800 plants planted in three hours. Another project underway is the development of a dedication sign for Tanwax Creek, which is supported by several nearby landowners, Stream Steward, and the NREP.

4. Updates

Carl Rotter reported that Don Hawk has been designated as the new Nisqually State Park Manager. He also noted that last week was the deadline for the final bid for the Elbe rest area. Carl reported that Pierce County is interested in acquiring a 40 acre parcel across from Highway 161 to connect the trail between Mount Rainier National Park, NW Trek, and Nisqually State Park. Additionally, DNR and Pierce County have been exploring the acquisition of the 160 acres behind his property, and he wondered who would be the most desirable owner and manager of the property.

5. Upper Nisqually Forestry Summit

Steve reported that there is an effort underway to take a comprehensive look at forestry in the watershed and develop a watershed-wide forestry plan. This effort is being spearheaded by Fred Michelson and the Environmental Advisory Committee. A large Forestry Summit is in the works for sometime next year, and an Upper Nisqually Mini Summit is being planned for later this month. The planning committee is meeting tomorrow.

6. CAC Leadership Updates – David Hymel

David reported that he is moving out of the watershed, relocating to Seattle, and consequently resigning as chair of the CAC effective immediately. He will still be connected with people and activities, but won't be able to participate as much as he had in the past. Bob Smith was promoted to the position of Chair.

7. CAC Structure Proposals & Discussion – David Hymel

David proposed that the CAC be collapsed back to the original format, a single CAC with sub-elements. There was discussion about the history and decision to change the CAC format.

Points of discussion included:

- A feeling that momentum has been lost and people spread too thin since the development of the Advisory Committees
- The CAC's role is to see and feel what's going on in the community and move important issues to the River Council; this isn't really happening
- Work accomplished by the Advisory Committees should not be lost
- Quarterly meetings result in lack of momentum and continuity
- An online discussion board is of interest to some

A meeting of people interested in the structure of the CAC/Advisory Committees will be organized in the next few months to discuss this issue further and develop a recommendation on the structure of both the CAC and the Advisory Committees.

8. Cedar River Watershed Report – David Hymel

David reported on the [Cedar River Watershed Report](#) project, which works to “change the stewardship behavior of local leaders and tens of thousands of everyday citizens by broadcasting annual advances in sustainability policies through the informed voice of the next generation”. He shared some clips from the video.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.