



Meeting Minutes  
**Nisqually River Council**  
**February 17, 2012**  
**Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**  
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Ron Averill** – *Lewis County*  
**Christopher Ellings** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**JW Foster** -- *City of Yelm*  
**Cindy James** – *WA Dept. of Ecology*  
**Fred Michelson** – *NRC Forestry Committee*

**Sandra Romero** – *Thurston County*  
**Jean Takekawa** – *Nisqually NWR*  
**David Troutt** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**\* CAC Representatives (2)**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Deborah Crosetto**  
**Paul Crosetto\***  
**Steve Pruitt**  
**Karelina Resnick**

**Jean Shaffer**  
**Marjorie Smith**  
**Robert Smith\***

**Guests**

**Otis Bush** – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*  
**Gabby Byrne** – *Alliance for a Healthy South Sound*  
**Danika Didue-Tate** -- *Intern, TESC*  
**Lucia Harrison** -- *TESC*  
**Roy Huberd**

**Daniel Hull** – *Nisqually Reach Nature Center*  
**David Hymel** – *Rain Dog Designs*  
**Marilyn Jacobs** – *Rain Dog Designs*  
**Chris Schutz** – *Pierce County*  
**René Skaggs** -- *Pierce County Conservation*  
**Chris Taft** – *Intern, TESC*

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Justin Hall** – *Nisqually River Foundation*  
**Nicole Hill** – *Nisqually Land Trust*  
**Don Perry** -- *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

**Ashley Von Essen** – *Nisqually River Council*  
**Sheila Wilson** – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*

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

**Call to Order** – David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

**Approval of Minutes, Agenda** – There was a motion to approve the December meeting as presented. It was approved, as was the agenda as presented.

## 2. Introductions, Reports

### Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Debby Crosetto reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee met in December, following the NRC Meeting at the Cruiser Café in Eatonville. Kayla Saville gave a presentation on eco-village living at the Findhorn Foundation in northern Scotland. The Findhorn Foundation focuses on the use of permaculture ethics, sustainability, and a communal way of life.

Kayla's PowerPoint has been made available on the council's SlideShare website. <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/ecovillage-living-at-findhorn-foundation>

The next CAC meeting is at 12:30 pm today, immediately following the NRC meeting. The first portion will take place at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, with the last portion including a fieldtrip to Jean Shaffer's home to tour her sustainable forest.

Meeting minutes and agendas for the Citizens Advisory Committee are now available on the council's website.

- *Forestry Committee* – Fred Michelson reported that there was a meeting set for December, but was canceled due to poor weather. Jean Shafer has been in communication with Jordan Rash at Washington's DNR, in order to schedule a presentation on their Community Forest Program at April's committee meeting.

The Forestry Committee attempted to hold a meeting Monday, February 13 at the tribe's Department of Natural Resources, in order to continuing to write parts of a forestry plan for the Nisqually watershed. Due to the last minute nature of the meeting, attendance was rather poor. The group discussed a number of the talents that could be drawn upon to help the education portion of the forestry plan. Fred intends on meeting one on one with members of the committee to move forward in the development of the plan and to gain feedback on the committee's direction in 2012.

- *Chair Report* – David Troutt reported on the recent settlement in Dupont, which will allow the proposal presented by Cal Portland. The company applied for an expansion of their gravel mining practices adjacent to Sequelitchew Creek that would add 166 acres of mining territory.

Karen Fraser and JT Wilcox have declared their support in back the Nisqually River Council in the future, especially the forestry components that are in development.

Over time, the Nisqually River Council has developed a relationship with the Town of Eatonville and taken an interest in their footprint on the natural world. The Nisqually Tribe, along with the Council, has funded a number of projects to curb

stormwater run-off and restore vital habit and salmon spawning grounds, such as the installation of rain gardens, low impact development, recharge of groundwater systems, and working towards an alternative domestic water source. The Mashel River, along with Ohop and Lynch Creeks, have been declared critical habitat for salmon spawning. These strides being put forth aim to increase water levels of these tributaries while making the community more sustainable. The goal has been set to make the Town of Eatonville the first town to be acknowledged as “salmon-safe”.

- *Staff Report* – Ashley Von Essen reported that she has been working to revive the Nisqually Sustainable program, reconnecting with businesses that have been certified in the past. She has also been working to add new members to the program, spending time connecting with local businesses of Eatonville. There is definite potential of expanding the program outside the watershed, as well as certifying homes and property for rain garden installations and other low impact developments and other contributions and sustainable practices.

The newest edition of the Nisqually River Notes has hit the stands!

### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – There was no report for the Nisqually Land Trust at this time.

We want to welcome JW Foster, the new President of the Land Trust’s Board of Directors and the City of Yelm’s new representative for the council!

JW did report that the Land Trust’s auction will March 24<sup>th</sup> and tickets are available for purchase and donations we be accepted until the day of the auction. The event will be held at St Martin’s University Worthington Center from 4 to 9pm. Check out the website for more details!

<http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org/>

JW also reported that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Dollars for Scholars Auction would be taking place at March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Yelm High School from 4 to 7pm. Check out the link below for more details!

<http://www.ycs.wednet.edu/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceID=859&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=2768&PageID=1>

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila Wilson reported that she has taken on 5 new interns this quarter from the Evergreen State College. With the added help, NREP has been able to service teachers much more effectively, providing more pre-trip presentations and service-learning opportunities.

NREP has been able to monitor 38 water quality sites throughout the watershed this school year. Tree planting fieldtrips saw 900 students put 4,300 trees into the ground. With the program growing every year, this seems to be numbers that NREP is prepared to maintain.

The program was able to execute 8 of 20 salmon toss dates before the freezer died.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Student GREEN Congress will be held March 23rd at the Evergreen State College. This year there will be a VIP tour for adults to be able to see the ongoings interworking of Congress. There will be a fundraiser for this event Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the McMenamin's Spar Café in downtown Olympia from 4 to midnight. Half of the night's proceeds will help fund environmental education for the attendance of approximately 400 students.

Add website address for flyer!

There will also be a fundraiser for "Eye on Nature" fieldtrips at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. This event will be held Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9:30pm.

Add website address for flyer!

Kasey Kelley, the full-time intern that has been working with NREP for this calendar year will be leaving at the end of quarter. ☺ Kasey has been working to put together a Wild and Scenic film festival that will be held at Yelm High School April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The event has partnered with the Yelm Home and Garden Show, and will feature a variety of local and Wild and Scenic films, as well as will have hands-on activity booths from local organizations. This will be the first one in Nisqually!!

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin Hall began his report with a tribute to David Troutt, showing his headline being read on Jay Leno!! Troutt on Salmon Board!

Justin had the opportunity to speak at the Puyallup River Watershed Council on January 25<sup>th</sup>. He spoke on the Nisqually River Management Program and the vision, values, and goals of the Nisqually River Council.

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/home/enviro/water/ps/prwc/2012/01-25-12NisquallyWStewardshipPlan.pdf>

Justin also attended "A Water Gathering: Collaborative Watershed Governance", a watershed conference in Vancouver, Canada. He gave a presentation on the ongoings

of the Nisqually Watershed, as well as the Nisqually River Management Program. He will head back up to Kelowna to deliver another speech in early March.

Justin also reported that he and Ashley attended the Visit Rainier Stakeholder Summit, which aimed to promote tourism in Washington State, in hopes of curbing the negative impacts of the closing of the state tourism office. This gave NRF the opportunity to make connections with the local business of the upper watershed and endorse the Nisqually Sustainable program.

Justin has volunteered to represent the council at the LIO, Alliance for a Healthy South Sound developed by the Puget Sound Partnership. Thank you, Justin, and congrats!! The next meeting will be held March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

- *Stream Stewards* – Don Perry reported that there would be an upcoming volunteer event on Land Trust property. Don has also been working towards finding mentors and high school students from Eatonville High School to take part in the Eatonville Stormwater Initiative. Students will participate in the Stream Stewards training and take part in the installation of a rain garden in the Town of Eatonville as part of their senior culminating project needed to complete graduation requirements. The project aims to see 4 rain gardens put in this year.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Chris Ellings reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nisqually Chinook Project Review took place Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the tribe's Natural Resources office. The meeting highlighted the ongoings of chinook management in the Nisqually, allowing attendees to review the program and to discuss what has been done over the past year and where the program can move in the future. Despite best efforts to do spawner escapement surveys, it has been noted there can be a number of inaccuracies, leading to a high amount for possible error. It is hopeful that the implementation of the weir will help rectify the issue. The next program review will allow us to see the results for the selected fishery being executed on the Nisqually. This will mark the first time a selected fishery for chinook will be done for a treaty fishery.

The tribe has expanded their fish research to cover the entire aquatic reserve, including McNeil Island. Permission had to be granted to get on the island and this will be the first fish-use assessment of the area. There has already been Nisqually chinook sightings in the near shore environment.

Chris announced that at the River Council's Annual Planning retreat, to be held next month, he would be presenting the proposed SRF Board schedule.

### **3. The Evergreen State College**

*Lucia Harrison, Professor and NRC's 2011 Spark Plug Award Recipient*

Lucia has been a professor of art at the Evergreen State College for 30 years, and began working in the watershed in 2008, undergoing the Nisqually Stream Stewards training in 2009. She has been working to get students and the community involved ever since. Over the past few years, Lucia has succeeded in arranging tours with workers and professionals of the watershed, introducing over 150 students to the restoration and sustainability efforts of up and down the Nisqually.

In 2011, she taught a program at the Evergreen State College that directly connected her student with the Nisqually watershed. She sponsored the Nisqually River Education Project at the 2011 Student GREEN Congress, involved her students in water quality monitoring efforts along the Nisqually River and provided local organizations with educational interns interested in service-learning projects.

Lucia believes that the Nisqually River Council is a model for the nation and positive change, and it has been a great influence for her students to see people from different walks of life working together towards common goals.

Thank you so much Lucia for all the work you've done in the watershed and the connections you have made and brought to the watershed.

Lucia's PowerPoint presentation has been made available on the SlideShare website!  
<http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-river-council-spark-plug-presentation>

#### **4. Rain Garden Update**

*David Hymel, Rain Dog Designs*

David Hymel came to in the watershed in 2006, and beginning with the Nisqually Stream Stewards training program. Inspired by the training, David began working more steadily in the watershed taking an interest in low-impact development (LID), such as rain garden implementation. Noticing that rain gardens were easy to install, relatively inexpensive and a great way to collect and treat stormwater run-off, David began spreading this knowledge and showing homeowners and community members what they could do help.

Pollution of the Puget Sound has an incredible effect on marine life in both saltwater and freshwater systems. Utilizing rain gardens is a great way to help absorb and divert polluted storm waters from running into our rivers and streams and into the Puget Sound. Rain gardens use native plants and have the ability to remove a wide array of pollutants at high percentages and reduce local flooding.

Rain Dog Designs has installed 150 rain gardens in the Puget Sound. They have also teamed up with Stewardship Partners in reaching the goal of installing 12,000 rain gardens in the Puget Sound; a project began out of inspiration of what was being done in the Nisqually watershed. This project has gained a lot of publicity, inciting Café Vita to make a rain garden coffee, in which a percentage of profits will be donating to the project. Rain Dog Designs also offer free rain garden workshops for those interested in putting in their own rain garden.

The Town of Eatonville has put in a number of rain gardens at place of businesses and private homes. In fact, the Town has 1 rain garden for each 125 people, the most rain gardens per capita in the nation. Being a critical salmon-spawning habitat due to the Mashel River and Ohop and Lynch Creeks, the Town, along with a number of project partners, is attempting to infiltrate 100% of their stormwater through the use of rain gardens implementation. Funding for the Eatonville Stormwater Initiative has been provided by the EPA, Stewardship Partners, and the Nisqually Tribe, to name a few.

More and more is being learned about rain gardens everyday, and researchers are always looking for key answers to developing issues, such as long-term maintenance. The Stormwater Center is looking at the species and health of the plants being used, and soil types, to monitor the effectiveness of these rain gardens

David's PowerPoint presentation has been made available on the slideshare website. Check it out to see before and after pictures of a variety of rain garden installations!

<http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/rain-gardens-11711063>

For more information on Rain Dog Designs, visit them online at: [www.raindogdesigns.com](http://www.raindogdesigns.com)

## **5. Update on the Aquatic Reserve**

*Daniel Hull*

*Executive Director, Nisqually Reach Nature Center*

The Nisqually Reach Nature Center (NRNC) is a non-profit organization that takes part in scientific research, citizen science and environmental education. The center works to inspire connections throughout western Washington through school presentations, bringing kids into the center and out on the beach to connect them with what is happening in their own backyard. NRNC also works to get community members involved, asking them to become stakeholders in the environment and the beauty of the Puget Sound and take value in the place in which they live.

The process to acquire the Aquatic Reserve began 4 years ago and was just signed into inexistence last September, preserving 14,000 acres. The Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, a spectacular eco-gem, along with the amazing project partners that are connected to the watershed, inspired the movement of reserving this land. Research is currently being done to

get a better idea of sediments and habitats types and locations being used by flora and fauna. We can then take this information to help us better understand near shore and offshore communities and help assess cumulative impacts and where future monitoring and restoration can and will take place.

The Nature Reach Center is always looking to get more people involved in the ongoings of the watershed and the South Puget Sound. The more people that are inspired, the more people will get involved, and the more the scope can be expanded. There is currently a list of 50 volunteer divers waiting to contribute to underwater research for the Aquatic Reserve. There is also a want to expand research around the McNeil and Anderson Islands, which is currently being taken on by the Nisqually Tribe.

During the process of creating the Aquatic Reserve, the Audubon Society announced that the Important Bird Area (IBA) of the Nisqually Delta underwent an expansion that would make it a total of 15,000 acres.

Daniel's PowerPoint presentation has been made available on the slideshare website.  
<http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/aquatic-reserve-program>

Visit the NRNC online at: [www.nisquallyestuary.org](http://www.nisquallyestuary.org)

You can also visit the Nisqually Reach Nature Center on Facebook!  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nisqually-Reach-Nature-Center/56354847790>

## 6. Annual Retreat

Last year's annual retreat, attendees rewrote the Nisqually Stewardship Plan around the key element of sustainability. This year's event, we are aiming flush out what our 3-year work plans will look like. The morning work session and lunch will be held at Oddfellows Park. For the afternoon session, we will be going on a tour of the newly established Aquatic Reserve aboard the tribe's new sailing vessel, the Hickson.

## 7. For the Good of the Order

Nothing at this time.

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm.

***Next Meeting: Saturday, March 17, 2012, 9am – 3pm  
Oddfellows Park and boat tour of the Aquatic Reserve.***