



**Meeting Minutes  
Nisqually River Council  
April 20, 2012  
Wilcox Family Farms  
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*  
**Mark Thibo** – *WA Dept. of Natural Resources*  
**\* CAC Representatives (2)**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Debbie Anderson**  
**Deborah Crosetto**  
**Paul Crosetto\***

**Karelina Resnick**  
**Marjorie Smith**  
**Robert Smith\***

**Guests**

**Travis Bowen** -- *Intern, TESC*  
**Otis Bush** – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*  
**Wendy Brown** *WA Invasive Species Council*  
**Gabby Byrne** – *Alliance for a Healthy South Sound*  
**Paul Johnson** – *Teacher, Meadows Elementary School*

**Rachel Larson** – *Intern, UW Pack Forest*  
**Renee Mitchell** -- *Pierce Conservation District*  
**Pat Saunders** – *UW Pack Forest*  
**Chris Schutz** – *Pierce County*  
**Debbie Young** – *Tacoma Power*

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

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

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

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

**Call to Order** – Deborah Crosetto called the meeting to order at 9:17am.

**Approval of Agenda** – There was a motion to approve the April agenda. It was approved as presented.

The meeting began with a special welcome from Jim Wilcox. Jim shared his appreciation of the work being done by the Council and how grateful the family is to be apart of it.

**2. Introductions, Reports**

**Advisory Committee Reports**

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Deborah Crosetto reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee met in February at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, following the NRC meeting. Jean Shaffer gave a presentation sharing the forest practices she utilizes for her small forest. She gave the committee an overview of treatments used by foresters and her decision for implementing natural selection forestry. The meeting moved to Jean’s home, where she gave us a personal tour of her parcel of land.

Deborah shared that she attended Eatonville’s urban planning workshop, which discussed the Town’s plans for future growth. A joint effort by the Town of Eatonville and the University of Washington, the workshop allowed the community to participate and provide feedback to the Town planner. Visit the following site to check out the notes from that meeting.

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/EatonvilleCommunityReportApril2012.pdf>

The next CAC meeting will take place today at 12:15pm, immediately following the NRC meeting. The meeting will include a tour of the Wilcox Family Farm.

- *Forestry Committee* – Fred reported that the committee met last month to continue the process of developing a plan for forest owners. Fred met with members of the committee and the Council individually to take a look at progress and suggest future direction. It is believed that the committee should look to hire a consultant to construct the forestry plan and will search for a source of funding to financially support this position, an estimated 30,000\$.

The committee will be looking to gather GIS material with help from Jennifer Cutler, NIT, to identify what parcels are at immediate risk for conversion and to create a visual of what the watershed looks like. This will allow the committee to develop short-term and long-term goals.

The committee is also looking into Climate Solutions University’s Model Forestry Policy Program (MFPP) for assistance and support of not only putting together a forestry plan, but also preparing the watershed for climate change adaptation. Check out the following link for more information.

<http://www.mfpp.org/csu/>

The Forestry Committee will be meeting Thursday, April 26 at the tribe’s Natural Resources Office from 1:30 to 3:30pm. The meeting will include a presentation by the Department of Natural Resource’s Community Forest Program.

- *Chair Report* – There was no chair report at this time.
- *Staff Report* – Ashley Von Essen reported that the employees of the Nisqually River Foundation met to discuss the future of the River Council’s website. The site will be undergoing changes to increase its usability by both the organization and interested parties. A calendar will be added, which will aim to include important dates and events for the Council and project partners.

Ashley also reported the first-ever Nisqually Wild and Scenic Film Festival will be taking place Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Hands-on booths will be

running from 10am to 2pm and films from 11 am to 3pm, both days. We are still looking for volunteers to help run activities and answer questions.

A spring edition of the Nisqually River Notes should hit the stand in time for the River Council's May meeting.

### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe Kane reported that the Land Trust held their 20<sup>th</sup> annual auction March 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Martin's University. The event had an amazing turnout and has shown to be the most successful to date, raising between 73,000 and 74,000\$. Master of Ceremonies JW Foster and Cindy Shorno were the live auctioneers for the evening. There was also a presentation to honor George Walter, who just stepped down as the Land Trust's Board President. George was given a seat on the 8-day rafting trip down the Colorado River, donated by the Grand Canyon Expedition Company.

Joe reported that he has been devoting time to the Nisqually Community Forest project. The project is aiming to purchase 20,000 to 30,000 acres of forestlands in the Upper Nisqually. Joe noted that besides state and federal entities, most of the Nisqually watershed is owned and managed by two private timber investment management organizations, Hancock Forest Management and Conservation Forestry, LLC. Local forests are being harvested and shipped so efficiently, Hancock now ships product directly from Tacoma to China. Also, 20% of Pierce County is owned by a single entity, the Mashel River being owned by an unknown investment company. Local organizations and people of the Nisqually watershed should be attempting to regain ownership of local lands, taking control out of the hands of outside firms. Ownership would provide revenue and bring jobs to the community

Joe gave a Tedx Talk at Tacoma's Museum of Glass on April 17th. He presented the Community Forest program and its intentions to take back ownership of forestlands in the Nisqually watershed.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila Wilson reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Student GREEN Congress was held at the Evergreen State College Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sheila offered thanks to those around the table that came out and contributed to the event. VIP tours were given to local project partners and organizations to maintain and continue to build partnerships in the watershed. Les Purce provided a great Evergreen welcome, along with a performance of the Geoduck Fight Song!

Eye on Nature fieldtrips are underway at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in conjunction with Daniel Hull, Executive Director of the Nisqually Reach Nature Center. These trips allow students to connect with the natural ecosystem of the Refuge and learn to identify local flora and fauna by sight, sound, and evidence.

NREP will also be working the Land Trust doing survival surveys on plantings previously done by school groups. This will help the organizations assess how productive restoration plantings are and what can be done to improve survival rates, if necessary.

Sheila recently gave a presentation at the Yelm Community Schools office to the superintendent and the principals of the district. The presentation highlighted the Education Project's alignment with current and future state standards, including STEM and EALRs. There will be a continuing strategy to keep this conversation going with intentions to expand the program and include more teachers. Sheila will attempt to attend meetings for each of the school districts in the Nisqually watershed.

In the fall of 2012, NREP will be working with Pierce County to sample aquatic macroinvertebrates in reaches of the Nisqually and not previously tested.

Summer Teacher Institute will take place June 25, 26, and 27 at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The theme for this year will be "Coming Home: Salmon, Sense of Place, and Time: A time of learning, sharing and renewal while experiencing the outdoors." There will be a number of local speakers, field workshops, and Native American Curriculum and will align with the National Next Generation Science Standards.

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin Hall reported that the Nisqually River Foundation Board of Directors met Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting Justin presented the 2012 annual budget, including seven categories/projects that NRF will undertake throughout the year (NRF Operating, Nisqually Sustainable, Nisqually River Education Project, Nisqually River Council, Low Impact Development, Refuge Technicians, and Ecosystem Services). The budget was approved unanimously amongst the Board.

Justin also reported that the Foundation would be honoring Norm Dicks with the Dan J. Evans Stewardship Award this year for the work he has done in the Nisqually watershed. The event is tentatively scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, pending Norm's availability, from 4:30 to 6:30pm at the Braget Farm Conference Center. The event will be used a way raise funds for the work of the Foundation and the River Council. More details to come.

- *Stream Stewards* – Don Perry reported that he and the Stream Stewards contributed to the Scotch broom pull along the Mashel shoreline on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Don attended the Eatonville Community Meeting as well. He reported that there was good attendance with a lot of enthusiasm from members of the community. Overall, the gathering was very positive about the future of Eatonville and their current economic status.

Don has also been attending several local events in attempt to inspire students to look towards green jobs and a greener future, along with promoting the Eatonville Stormwater Initiative. The program aims to students involved with the project by installing a rain garden in the town. One student has committed to the project and will use the Stream Stewards training course as a part of his senior culminating project. The project aims to see 4 rain gardens put in this year.

There are still seats available for the 2012 Stream Stewards course. Classes begin June 6<sup>th</sup>.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Chris Ellings gave a brief overview of the current SRF Board projects that are up for review. Chris shared that the Board is not looking to follow a particular theme, but looking at the future of salmon recovery and adhering to a particular strategy, while staying within monetary restrictions, which is around 415,000\$.

Letters of Intent for projects are available at the following links.

[http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/PCD\\_Knotweed\\_SRFBLoI-1.pdf](http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/PCD_Knotweed_SRFBLoI-1.pdf)

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/SRFB-2012-LOI-McKenna-Assessment.pdf>

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/SRFB-2012-LOI-Ohop-Valley-Acq.pdf>

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/SRFB-2012-LOI-Powell-Wetlands-Acq-1.pdf>

[http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/SRFB\\_2012-LOI-StapletonRiparian-revised-1.pdf](http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/SRFB_2012-LOI-StapletonRiparian-revised-1.pdf)

### **3. Update of the Washington Invasive Species Council**

Wendy Brown, Executive Coordinator

The Washington Invasive Species Council was established in 2006 and brings together 19 members, drawing from agencies, tribes, counties, and other organizations. Their mission is to empower those engaged in prevention, detection, and eradication of invasive species while developing a statewide plan of action. The Council facilitates coordination of a number of projects and programs throughout Washington and ensures organizations build off one another, in an effort to combat invasives, both flora and fauna. Some species of concern include: American bullfrogs, quagga and zebra mussels, New Zealand mud snails, Japanese knotweed, nutria, and gypsy moths.

Their strategy is based on prevention, early detection and rapid response, education and outreach, and eradication and control, with a focus on outreach and prevention. The Council has been identifying pathways invasives are utilizing to spread into our region that aren't currently being addressed by state and federal agencies. These include: ballast water, aquaculture and live food industry, field, fishing and scuba gear, and roads, vehicles, and tires.

The Council has worked to develop prevention protocol for working outdoors on both land and water. For example, fieldwork has great potential for moving and transferring invasives by attaching to gear and boots. Decontamination protocol can be as simple as cleaning gear, having 2 sets of gear for both land and water, and keeping contact to a minimum.

The Council is currently promoting their latest outreach campaign, "Don't Move Firewood". The goal of this campaign is to convince people to buy local firewood to avoid moving wood from location to location, which may be infested with disease or insects.

Check out their educational outreach website, which provides important information on invasives of concern, how to report a species, pathways, and possible solutions. Visit: <http://www.wise.wa.gov/>

For more information, visit them online at: <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/index.shtml>

Wendy's presentation has been made available on the SlideShare website. Visit: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/washington-invasive-species-council-presentation>

#### **4. National Board Certification with NREP**

*Paul Johnson, Meadows Elementary School, Lacey*

Paul recently underwent the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards rigorous certification process. The National Board Certification is an internationally recognized, advanced teaching credential that is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program. Benefits include increased salary and career opportunities, a strengthened practice, enhanced education, and the ability to transfer from one state to another without additional certification.

Initial certification in Washington lasts 7 years, which must then be followed by a Professional Certification process. Instead of pursuing the Professional Certification, Paul chose to attempt his national Board Certification as a way to promote growth in himself and his teaching skills, as well as to gain experience. Each teacher must submit a variety of portfolios and assessment exercises to be reviewed and scored by a minimum of 12 teachers.

One of the units Paul chose to focus on was the watershed education he had integrated into his 4<sup>th</sup> grader's curriculum at Meadows Elementary School. Paul began working with Sheila Wilson and the Nisqually River Education Project in 2009, contributing to water quality monitoring on reaches of the Nisqually River twice a year. Paul and his students also participated in NREP's culminating event, Student GREEN Congress at the Evergreen State College.

Paul used Google Map's interactive tutorial to track and record his monitoring locations and water quality data collected from McAllister Creek. Paul not only tested the site for NREP's data collection, but above and below the site as to assess the differences in data as well as the interconnectedness of river systems and their tributaries. His students had the opportunity to utilize the scientific method to make observations and discuss data outcomes, as well as to answer questions such as why multiple replicates are necessary. The kids were asked to brainstorm reasons behind particular outcomes, what those outcomes say about the ecosystem, and what can be done to prevent or fix the problem. He also took a number of video recordings of student completing water quality tests in class.

Not only did his students learn about the current status of McAllister Creek, but their inquiries led them learn to the history of the land that most of them call their backyard. Paul also participates in the Salmon in the Classroom program, which allows students to acknowledge the importance of these endangered species in river ecosystems and their life cycle.

## 5. Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan Objectives Brainstorming

This month's objectives included that of the Environment category, which included:

### 3.1 Protect, restore, and enhance ecosystem function

Objective 1: Prairie lands with a predominance of native species and minimal populations of invasive species.

- Prairieland acquisition
- Introduce opportunities for ecosystem services
- Urban planning for added growth
- Increased zoning policies
- Invite Morse Preserve to future Council meeting
- Fort Lewis presence at Council meetings

Objective 2: Forestlands with a diversity of species and age class; complexity within stand, and complexity inter- and intra- stand.

- Invite Earth Economics to a future Council Meeting
- Seek funding for NLT staff

Objective 3: Snow and ice lands with sufficient amounts to support healthy hydrologic cycles

- Invite Mount Rainier to future Council meeting to present status of glacial melt and effects of climate change
- Development of a Climate Change Plan by Tacoma Public Utilities
  - Tacoma Public Utilities is looking to monitor changes and trends caused by climate change

## 6. For the Good of the Order

Mark Thibo informed the committee that Dennis Carlson has resigned from Washington's DNR and is in the market for a part-time job opportunity.

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 11:59am.

*Next Meeting: Friday, May 18, 2012, 9am – 12pm  
UW Pack Forest Conference Center*