



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2012  
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

**CAC Members Present:** *Nicole Hill, Jean Shaffer, Fred Michelson, Debbie Anderson, Bob and Marjorie Smith, Mary Foster, Steve Pruitt, Karelina Resnick, Carl Rotter*

**Staff Present:** *Ashley Von Essen, Justin Hall*

**Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval**

The meeting was called to order at 12:20.

**Community Forest Trust Discussion**

Since the Forestry Committee is being put on hold until a professional consultant can be acquired, the CAC will be looking into the DNR's Community Forest Trust Program. Nicole Hill from the Nisqually Land Trust is willing to provide assistance and advice to the CAC to aid in this process. She will make herself available to answer questions on policies and determining whether potential parcels are viable options for the program.

Karelina moved that a sub-committee be formed to take a closer look at these issues. Ashley will email committee members to inform them of the intent of this sub-committee and to establish interested parties. Members of the sub-committee should familiarize themselves with House Bill 1421, the piece of legislation that was passed establishing the CFT Program. This along with other documents provided by DNR and the draft proposal put together by Steve Pruitt and Bryan Bowden.

At the first meeting, each member should come armed with a potential block of land that may be suitable for the program. With the help of Nicole, members will go through each parcel to determine which is the best fit for the CFT. Nicole will make a checklist of items that should be brought to this meeting, as well as what members should be looking for in potential sites.

**CAC Elections**

Due to the lack of attendance at April's meeting, elections for the CAC Executive Committee were done via email. With minimal response for nominations and voting, Karelina and Steve, who had volunteered to be Co-Chairs, were granted the positions, as was Mary Foster, who agreed to carry on as Vice Chair for the upcoming year. To ensure there are no additional nominations for these positions, Steve opened the floor for interested parties. There was a motion to keep Karelina, Steve, and Mary in their respective seats. The motion was unanimously accepted and there was a second. Congratulations to the new CAC Executive Committee.

Historically, voting positions have been assigned to the Chair, Vice Chair, and one elected representative. If we are to proceed this way, Karelina would take one of the seats, Steve being an alternate in her absence, and Mary would take another. This would leave one seat open to a willing committee member.

By consensus it is agreed that the Chair of the CAC will hold a voting position on the Nisqually River Council. There was a motion to approve this and it was unanimously accepted and seconded. There was also a motion to grant a seat to the position of Vice Chair. There was a motion to approve this, which was also unanimously accepted and seconded. This reflects future policy established for the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Deborah Crosetto and Jean Shaffer were nominated for the third voting position on the NRC. Voting was as follows:

Debby: 3

Jean: 4

The seat goes to Jean Shaffer. This makes Jean, Karelina, and Mary official members of the Nisqually River Council.

### **The Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan**

*Justin Hall, Executive Director of the Nisqually River Foundation*

The original plan for the Nisqually was written in 1985, with an update completed in 2005 with Stewardship Partners called the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan. This update focused on the three main components: community, economy, and environment, which all sit upon the stool of governance. This plan looked at a 50-year scope with a large number of action items to be worked on with local project partners. Since the Council is only able to take on one or two projects each year, this all-inclusive list was difficult to fulfill.

In 2011, a new draft was completed that was not only aggressive, but also more obtainable. The goals, vision, and guiding principles stayed the same, though small changes were applied to the three objectives. Each objective was associated with detailed indicators that would guide the Council in accomplishing their goals. Ashley will email an electronic version of this update to each member to ensure the committee aligns the goals of the CAC with those of the NRC.

### **Role of the CAC in the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan**

Where does the CAC fit in to this plan? What can this committee do to help promote the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan? Upon receiving copies of the plan, members should begin to brainstorm ideas and potential projects that fit into the scope of the NWSP. These thoughts will then be discussed at the next CAC meeting. Justin will also look through the NWSP to establish tasks of priority to be taken on by the CAC.

### **Increasing Membership**

It will be the intent of the committee to increase community outreach and membership. Meetings will be held throughout the watershed, with meeting times becoming more flexible. The CAC will attempt to meet with other organizations not only get more people to the meetings, but to learn more about other organizations in and around the watershed.

CAC members will also look to make presentations to other local organizations, such as the Nisqually Stream Stewards. This will introduce the CAC to a new audience, allowing them to understand the vision and goals

of the committee. Ashley will look through the NRC files to see if a PowerPoint presentation has been made in the past that can be updated for this purpose.

### **Citizen Conservationist Certification**

One potential project for the CAC is to launch a Citizen Conservationist Certification, a Nisqually Sustainable program for individuals and/or residences. A similar certification process would be established, including a checklist to be filled out during a brief consultation. A small contribution would be required for the program, such as a \$25 fee for signage and administration, which would be put back into the watershed to be managed by the CAC. This money could be put towards projects deemed worthy by the CAC or to pay for gas mileage associated with travel for meetings or outreach. Other possible uses could include contributing the funds to the creation of an educational kiosk or a matching piece for fundraising efforts. Ashley will look through NRC files to locate a possible model or template for the certification checklist. Carl, Steve, and Karelina will work together to form a draft template for proposals to be submitted for guidelines of the certification process.

### **Meeting locations**

As stated, meeting locations will move throughout the watershed. Meeting times will no longer be fixed, but will vary with locations and opportunities. This will allow the committee to be more flexible and work with other groups and organizations. Having only day meetings greatly limits who can attend meetings to those who do not work days. The Executive Committee will look to planning the next few meetings and submitting those dates to CAC members.

The next meeting of the CAC will take place Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup> at Sunny Beach Point near the Town of Eatonville, off State Highway 7. The meeting will run from 6 to 8pm and will include a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass.

### **Good of the Order**

Nothing at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 6 to 8pm  
Sunny Beach Point, Eatonville**