



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2012
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resource Office**

CAC Members Present: *Karelina Resnick, Steve Pruitt, Mary Foster, Jean Shaffer, Bob and Marjorie Smith, and Debbie Anderson*

Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen, Justin Hall*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm.

Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan

The Nisqually River Foundation and Council will begin moving towards utilizing 3-year work plans to organize action items and finances. This will allow the Board, members of the Council, and staff to see the future direction of the organizations and to allow for a more pro-active approach seeking projects and appropriate funding. To begin work on this process, NRF staff will attempt to track what project partners are doing to further the work of the NWSP. This inventory of tasks will measure the progress being made and towards which objectives, revealing components in need of more attention. To do this, staff will be collecting data from each organization via a one-page questionnaire. A questionnaire has been drafted and is available for review by CAC members. This data will then input into a working spreadsheet of the 3-year action plan. This framework will assist in identifying the projects in need of completion and who may contribute to these key action items.

This strategy will be presented to the Nisqually River Council and the Board of Directors to determine if this is the best way to spend staff time. This project will be a time-consuming task, but could prove to be an extremely beneficial way to measure the productivity of the watershed and partner organizations. Data collected will allow colleagues to compare and contrast the productivity of the Council over the years and work being done in neighboring watersheds.

NRF staff may look to developing a database, with the help of Bill Dorner, to allow easier input and access to data.

The CAC would like to take on portions of the NWSP, especially those that pertain to championing the local economy, taking part in community outreach, and environmental education. The CAC can promote certain aspects of the NWSP by inciting knowledge, education, and enthusiasm and by spreading it other cities, counties, and watersheds.

The CAC is currently working on two major projects, the CCC and the FBC. The CCC program speaks to the Environment component of the NWSP, specifically to that of the Watershed Education objective (indicators

1, 2, and 5). Implementing this program, with the help of the Nisqually Stream Stewards course, may be extremely beneficial in measuring the activity and involvement of the watershed community. In conjunction with the certification process, workshops would be provided to aid in educating the community about the NWSP, being socially sustainable, and spreading the word of the CCC program. Small forestland owners who participate in the program would be encouraged to write individual management plans to protect and enhance the long-term goals of their property.

The NWSP and the development of 3-year work plans will be ongoing and suggestions will continue to be taken as to potential projects for the CAC. Justin will provide more information on actions items as data is collected on current and ongoing projects. In the mean time, it is decided that CAC should focus on the objectives of the FBC and CCC. These committees will use the one-page questionnaire to determine the usefulness of the document and to see how these programs fit into the NWSP.

Sub-Committee Reports

- **Citizen Conservation Certifications –**

Progress will be made to further the website for the CCC. Ashley will be working on this task, which will include the development of web pages that provide site visitors with a calendar of important dates and opportunities and watershed partners and resources. Karelina suggested seeking support from CAC members to help design the content of the site, as well as piecing together particular pages and resources.

Karelina would like approval for the CCC to develop a template and rating system for one particular unit, starting with homeowners and renters in incorporated areas. Karelina is looking for volunteers to take on one component of the assessment tool. Over the next three weeks, CAC members should locate and identify necessary resources for participants to access in their communities and online. Ashley will email the first draft of this tool to CAC members to ensure everyone has a copy for the original to expand upon. Components were assigned as follows:

Mary Foster -- Gardens and Trees
Steve -- Waste and Recycling
Jean -- Energy
Bob and Marjorie -- Animals
Karelina -- Water and Air

Drafts should be emailed to committee in approximately 3 weeks and will be reviewed at the next CAC meeting (to be scheduled for one month from now).

- **Forest Buffer Committee —**

The sub-committee seeks to benefit our watershed, both environmentally and economically, by acquiring properties and developing a strategic buffer zone to protect forestlands. Formerly the DNR Community Forest Trust Sub-committee, the name has been changed to the “Forest Buffer Committee.”

The committee has developed a program introduction and nomination form, which have been distributed to the NRC contact list. The committee seeks approval from the CAC for these documents, as well as authorization to review submitted forms and present potential candidates to

the NRC for approval. Once approved, the NRC will provide the FBC with validity and support when the proposal is taken to DNR or the legislator in search of funding. This project may also pave the way to use DNR's CFT legislation to promote the idea of a buffer zone in the Nisqually Watershed. Designating a forest buffer zone will aid in keeping conversion rates of at-risk forestlands down in selected areas. There was a motion to authorize the FBC committee in its endeavors. The motion was unanimously accepted and approved.

Good of the Order

- Graham Self-Reliant Group: Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month.
<http://selfreliantcommunity.wordpress.com/>
 - Karelina will be hosting a workshop on container/cistern development
- Eatonville Self-Reliant Group: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month
<http://selfrelianteatonville.wordpress.com/>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

**NEXT MEETING: September 19, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:30pm
Steve Pruitt's House, 41525 Mountain Highway E, Eatonville**