



**Meeting Minutes  
Nisqually River Council  
October 19, 2012  
Ohop Grange, Eatonville  
Information: 360.438.8715**

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Ron Averill** – Lewis County  
**Bryan Bowden** – Mount Rainier National Park  
**Cindy James** – WA Dept. of Ecology  
**Doug McClelland** – WA Dept. of Natural Resources

**David Troutt** – Nisqually Indian Tribe  
**Cindy Wilson** – Thurston County  
\* CAC Representatives (2)

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Mary Foster\***  
**Steve Pruitt**  
**Karelina Resnick\***

**Marjorie Smith**  
**Robert Smith**

**Guests**

**Nick Bond** – Town of Eatonville  
**Otis Bush** – The Evergreen State College  
**Lisa Breckenridge** – Nisqually Indian Tribe  
**Joni Eads** – Eatonville 3/50 Project  
**Nancy Franco** – Pierce County  
**Kim Gridley** – Nisqually Indian Tribe

**John Hayes** – Mount Rainier Institute  
**Tristan Peter-Contesse** – Puget Sound Partnership  
**Chris Schutz** – Pierce County  
**Stephanie Suiter** – Puget Sound Partnership  
**Barb Wood** – Thurston County

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Desiree Andersen** – Nisqually River Ed. Project, Intern  
**Justin Hall** – Nisqually River Foundation  
**Joe Kane** – Nisqually Land Trust  
**Don Perry** – Nisqually Indian Tribe

**Christian Sartin** -- Nisqually River Ed. Project, Intern  
**Ashley Von Essen** – Nisqually River Council  
**Sheila Wilson** – Nisqually River Ed. Project

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

**Call to Order** – David called the meeting to order at 9:47am.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda** – There was a motion to approve September’s meeting minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for October.

**2. Introductions, Reports**

**Advisory Committee Reports**

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – No report was given at this time.
- *Chair Report* – David reported that the Nisqually River Foundation would be holding the Daniel J. Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award event next week. Justin will be sharing more of these details later in the meeting.

As chair for the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, David attended a 3-day summit at UW’s Pack Forest in Eatonville. The group discussed key action items that would be developed over the next 6 months. One of these projects would include formulating a watershed investment account. This concept would be introduced as a study bill, in order to analyze the impacts of such a proposal. The goal of this project is to help maintain ongoing financial support for local organizations, creating an account that could provide a substantial and alternative source of stable funding. This could allow projects to move forward with ease, without the burden of raising money to keep organizations in

operation or searching for grants on a constant basis. David anticipates that he will be spending much of his time in Olympia pursuing this project for Nisqually.

At this time, the weir is still in place and operational. Despite best efforts to stop salmon from pursuing their journey upstream, it seems these creatures are very resilient. The tribe has recorded the highest fish counts in history above the weir. The project did see 100 chinook tagged and released upstream. There was also a large population of wild coho observed and handled at the weir site, as well as unexpected sightings of steelhead trout and pink salmon. An ample number of fish have made it to the spawning grounds, which will ensure sufficient gametes for future salmon stocks. The challenge now lies in blocking the fish from swimming upstream, which will result in a redesign of the weir next year. The weir is to be pulled out of the water November 1<sup>st</sup>.

- *Staff Report* – Ashley reported that the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Nisqually Watershed Festival took place, Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The event welcomed some first time food vendors, such as EZ Foods Olympia and Marv’s Marvlus BBQ, and first time main stage acts, Stefan the Water Magician and “The Hoot Show.” The committee was pleased to see that an estimated 1,200 guests made it to the refuge to celebrate the history and culture of the Nisqually Watershed. The committee will be holding a follow-up meeting next month to discuss the successes of the festival, as well as improvements that can be made. Ashley thanked everyone for his or her involvement and attendance at this year’s event.

Ashley also shared that the Nisqually River Education Project has just concluded the aquatic insect collection field trips for Pierce County Surface Water Management. Students and teachers from four watershed schools collected insect samples from 7 Nisqually tributaries in Pierce County. Insects will be sent off to a local aquatic entomologist, Mindy Allen, for analysis.

#### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Joe Kane reported that the Community Forest project is currently in transition from the Phase 1 to Phase 2, in which the committee will look to acquire funds and establish ownership of a particular parcel. New Capitol Markets, a private investment firm in San Francisco, CA, has shown interest in possibly investing in this project, as well as the Payment for Ecosystem Services project.

Next Thursday, the Land Trust will be closing with Hancock Forest Management on the last piece of the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative. This project began with one parcel and has continued to grow over the years. The price tag, set at \$2.38 million, is the largest transaction completed by the Land Trust to date. The property lies between Elbe State Forest and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, outside the national park. A particular parcel, the Ashford 80, owned WA Department of Natural Resources, is to be turned into a natural resources conservation area. This will aid in efforts to anchor the Mount Rainier Initiative. Next, the Land Trust will be looking to the north, wherein lies the potential future acquisitions.

A map of the Mount Rainier Gateway Initiative has been made available on the NRC’s SlideShare website. To access, please visit: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nrc-october-19>.

The NLT’s Annual Salmon Bake welcomed 125 people, a record number for this event!

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila reported that yesterday was the Nisqually Watershed’s Water Quality Monitoring Day. 37 teachers monitored yesterday, with 7 more to participate next Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Sheila thanked the many volunteers from local partner organizations for donating their time to help make the day run smoothly. Organizations included Nisqually Land Trust, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Nisqually River Foundation, Nisqually Indian Tribe and many more!

Sheila also reported that tree planting fieldtrips start on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he has been working with the Payment for Ecosystem Services Project. The organization is currently searching for potential forestland owners or

those who own land to be converted forestland to participate in the program. Participation is open to the public. For more details, visit:  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/ForestResearch/Pages/nisqually\\_watershed\\_srvcs\\_de\\_mo\\_proj.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/ForestResearch/Pages/nisqually_watershed_srvcs_de_mo_proj.aspx).

The Daniel J. Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award event will take place Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Braget Farm from 5 to 6:30pm. A light salmon dinner will be served, along with beer and wine. The art to be presented to Norm Dick has been completed. This event, which serves as a fundraiser for the Nisqually River Foundation and marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nisqually River Council, has collected \$40,000 in sponsorships. At this time, anyone who wishes to join in the occasion will receive a complimentary ticket. Those attending should prepare to dress warmly, due to the lack of doors on the front of the building.

Saving the Ocean with Carl Safina will air a 2-part episode titled “River of Kings”, detailing the ongoings of the Nisqually Watershed. The series aims to put a twist on the doom and gloom that currently surrounds conservation and natural resources, by sharing uplifting stories and positive strides being made around the world. To be released online in early November, the Nisqually River Foundation will look to hold an event in conjunction with KCTS-9, who will be picking the show up in February. The event will serve as a fundraiser and a viewing party, and will hopefully include the show’s host, Carl Safina.

- *Stream Stewards* – Don Perry, who was unable to make today’s meeting, left a report with Ashley. The Nisqually Stream Stewards and volunteers NatureMapped wildlife and invasive plant species at the Braget Marsh Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. This was the first event at this site.

The next volunteer opportunity will be tube and stake removal at Ohop Creek on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to noon. Please contact Don for more details and directions to the site.

There will be a planting event Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to noon at the Braget Knoll. Please contact Don for more details and directions to the site.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – With Chris Ellings on paternity leave, Kim Gridley, the new lead entity coordinator for the tribe’s salmon recovery program, will give today’s salmon recovery update. The Pierce County Knotweed Project has been listed as a Project of Concern, as have all knotweed control projects. This means that the tribe will need to look into acquiring funds, outside of the SRF Board program, to ensure that this integral project remains intact for the upcoming year.

Kim is working on the next phase of the Ohop Restoration Project. She is currently submitting grants in hopes of acquiring funds to keep the project moving forward. Phase 2 will include obtaining ownership of the Burwash Property, downstream of the Phase 1 site.

Kim also attended the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council conference at Pack Forest. As lead entity coordinator, her role was to participate in “Watershed Speed Dating.” This activity required her to give a 7-minute overview of salmon recovery in the Nisqually Watershed to each of the participating watersheds.

This year marked the first year for selective fishing in the commercial tribal fishery. The Nisqually Tribe is the first to commit to particular catch limits for the purpose of a selective fishery. Through the use of tanglenets and beach sets, the tribe caught between 4,000 and 5,000 hatchery fish, releasing around 500 wild fish. David Troutt reported that it has been a challenging year, but next year will reflect changes learned throughout this season.

### **3. The Eatonville 3/50 Project**

*Joni Eads, Eatonville Dispatch*

Joni has come today to spread the knowledge of the 3/50 Project, a grassroots program that is being seen and utilized across the nation. Objectives do not include bashing box-stores or speaking negatively against corporations, but merely promoting local businesses and creating tighter knit communities. The idea is that participants choose three independently operated businesses that would be missed if their doors were to close. Their task would be to not only to spend \$50 there in a month, but also to familiarize themselves with services and products provided and through word of mouth, spread knowledge and recommendations. Opening and maintaining active lines of communication in communities of all size will promote socialization, bring locals together, and keep local money local.

The Eatonville Chapter of the 3/50 Project meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Visitor Center from 6 to 7pm. These meetings provide a core group for networking, sharing and caring, brainstorming, and community support for businesses owners throughout town. The next meeting, to be held November 6<sup>th</sup> will focus on the citywide celebration for the upcoming holidays. This groups also works in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and Cottage Merchants to promote local products and service and make sure each business can find their niche.

### **4. Mount Rainier Institute**

*Bryan Bowden and John Hayes, Mount Rainier National Park*

Mount Rainier National Park and the University of Washington have been in talks to establish an educational institute, similar to that of the North Cascades Institute. John Hayes has recently been hired as the Institute's director and will use the next three years to get the project up and running. Growing up in the Midwest, John spent much of his time traveling from one national park to another, developing a passion for the great outdoors.

Though still in the early stages of development, the Mount Rainier Institute is to be housed at the UW's Pack Forest. This overnight educational center for middle and high school students will give attendees a multi-day, immersion experience. Both the national park and Pack Forest will be the stage for classrooms, with future plans for fieldtrips throughout the watershed. The Institute will eventually expand to include younger students, as well as adults. The goal is to create a world-class education center that will implement a scientific focus, highlight STEM materials and standards, as well as natural resource education, while integrating other disciplines into the curriculum.

Goals of the program's participants include building confidence, knowledge, and leadership skills, fostering hope, and encouraging an appreciation for nature. John, along with other local stakeholders, would like to see the Institute become a key part of the environmental education throughout the watershed, not just a fieldtrip that students attend. The overall objective is to promote lasting connections between students and the natural world and incite a passion for change, as opposed to instilling fear of the gloom and doom for the future of our planet.

Pilot programs are to begin within the next year to allow for adjustments and fine-tuning, followed by the recruiting of watershed schools. Start-up is scheduled for fall 2014. In three years time, it is the intention that the Mount Rainier Institute be completely self-sustaining through miscellaneous grant and funding sources, along with and collected tuition and fees. The program is looking to collaborate with other local environmental education programs, such as NREP, to build upon resources instead of spreading them too thin.

John's presentation has been made available on the NRC's SlideShare website. To access, visit: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/introduction-to-mount-rainier-institute>

## **5. Nisqually Watershed Characterization Update**

*Barbara Wood, Utility Planner for Thurston County*

Watershed characterization is a science-based examination of the features of a watershed, and how those features interact to affect the watershed's natural environment. These characterization studies assist policymakers and local stakeholders in making regulatory and land-use decisions. This study will provide useful data for preserving, conserving, restoring, and enhancing the region's natural resources through the use of technology to formulate effective uses of land and water quality policies. Data will also be used to set up mitigation opportunities and formulate future plans for conservation and planning, while contributing to an updated basin plan.

This study, funded by the EPA, looks to identify land-cover classifications and areas of impervious surfaces in the Nisqually basin, while developing a prioritized list of natural resource sites. The study also takes in to consideration how these features affect ecological processes and whether they are functioning properly, giving a snapshot in time for overall health of the watershed. These processes include the movement of water, wood, sediment, heat, and pollutants.

Currently, the data shows the Nisqually Watershed is "right on track". Research will continue to be conducted until April 2013, when the study is due to be complete. A formal presentation will be given to the Nisqually River Council at that time.

Thurston County's methods and further details are available on their website. Visit:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/waterresources/chara/chara-home.html>

Watershed characterization maps are available at the following websites:

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Project-Area-Aerials-Display-Map-8.5x11.pdf>

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Project-Area-Landcover-Display-Map-8.5x11.pdf>

<http://nisquallyriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Project-Area-Subwatersheds-Display-Map-8.5x11.pdf>

## **6. Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan Discussion**

No report was given at this time.

## **7. For the Good of the Order**

- NatureMapping at the Peterson Farm, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Daniel J. Evans Nisqually Stewardship Award Event, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 6:30pm.

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, November 16, 2012, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Auditorium*