



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2013, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Jean Shaffer's House,
8404 Rocky Lane SE, Olympia**

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

Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm.

There was a motion to approve March's meeting minutes. They were accepted and approved as written, as was the evening's agenda.

NRC Nominations

Ashley mentioned that voting for 2013's NRC Chair and Vice Chair took place at last month's NRC Annual Retreat. Sandra Romero accepted the nomination for Vice Chair and David Troutt accepted the nomination for Chair. Motions to elect David and Sandra were unanimously accepted by the NRC.

Steve Pruitt's Leave of Absence

Due to unforeseen family matters, Steve Pruitt will be stepping away for an estimated 6 months. In order to continue his work, the CAC will look to replace him on any committees that may need their assistance.

- **Scenic Byway** – Mary shared that the NLT applied for and was awarded a grant to aid in the development of a Scenic Byway on Hwy 7/Mountain Hwy, the Nisqually Entrance to Mount Rainier National Park. Nicole Hill of the Nisqually Land Trust heads the NLT involvement in the project. Karelina will contact Nicole to ask how the CAC can assist in moving the project forward.
- **Forest Buffer Committee** – Karelina will contact Bryan Bowden to inquire about his interests in continuing this project as long-term goal of the watershed. This project would work to identify lands to serve as a buffer between the urban sprawl of the upper watershed and the active working forests. This buffer would attempt to develop a long-term plan to limit conversion of Nisqually forests for development purposes.

Citizen Conservation Certification

For the assessment, the CCC Committee has decided to pursue one topic at a time. Debby led the conversation on "water," initiating a brainstorming session with a list of ways the community can limit the amount of water used each day.

Ways to conserve water inside:

- EnergyStar appliances to conserve water: showerheads, toilets, faucets, etc.
- Wash full loads in dishwasher/washing machine
- Washing dishes by hand, pick a container that needs washing, such as a large bowl to put dishes in, washing large bowl last
- Washing hands, brushing teeth, rinsing dishes — turn water on only briefly, not letting water run while performing act
- Showers — turn water off while soaping yourself
- Shower with a friend
- Use hot water only as needed to kill germs
- Recycle hazardous materials in their proper place, keeping toxins from going down the drain
- Leaky toilets – perform tests as necessary to control leaking
 - One way to test includes putting food coloring in your tank. If the color seeps into the bowl, you know you have a leak.
 - Leaks can be in a variety of different places, wasting between 300 gallons (slow leak) to 60,000 gallons (running toilet) each month
 - Flapper valve leaks
 - Flush handle
 - Overflow tube leaks
- Russian Heater: Water stored in a pre-heat tank, which is heated by furnace with the aid of a copper coil that surrounds the pipe. Less energy is used to heat water.
- On-Demand Water Heaters, an alternative to regular water heaters. Can be used for the whole house or for particular faucets.
- The further the water is from the faucet, water has to run farther and stayed heated longer

Ways to conserve water outside:

- Recycle gray water
- Plant natives species that don't require much watering
- Collecting water via rain barrels for various uses
- Install raingardens
- Soaker hoses
- Wells Vs. Public Systems

Resources:

- YouTube Videos
- "Garden of Eden," The Movie: www.backtoedenfilm.com
 - Hog fuel can be used for this project (should be aged 6 months or can be used with mushroom compost). Put down 6 inches in early spring before planting. Move chips to plant seeds, replacing chips when seedlings start to come in. Chips will keep the weeds out. This is a good alternative to Roto-tilling, which disturbs worms and upsets soil composition and presence of oxygen.
- Hidden Nature: The Startling Insights of Viktor Schauberg, by: Alick Bartholomew
- Masura Emoto, Ideas surrounding the molecular structure of water
- Environmental Working Group: www.ewg.org

Debby and Ashley will establish a series of water points and/or questions to email out to the group, using the format previously written by Karelina. This will serve as a draft to be submitted and reviewed by the

committee via email. Final revisions and approval of the format and content will take place at the next meeting.

The next topic to be covered by the committee will be "Gardening," which will be led by Mary.

The committee should be thinking about what other topics need to be covered. Jean has been looking at "energy." Steve was looking into "waste/recycling," which will now be passed on to Debbie Anderson.

Nisqually Land Trust Public Access Restrictions

Mary suggested that the committee look at access restrictions currently in place on NLT properties. Mary has begun researching this matter and came across documents that describe long-term goals of NRC, as well as long-term goals for access for the NLT. The committee would like the opportunity to sit down with the NLT/NRC to check the progress of these goals and to inquire about future intentions. They would also like to extend an offer to help promote access on NLT properties, in whatever ways they can. This tactic may prove to be more productive than merely confronting them on their intentions and could provide a more helpful means to opening up access in the future. Mary will email these documents to the group.

Members of the CAC will also ask the NLT about becoming Site Stewards for the organization. This would ensure that the committee continues their involvement with the Land Trust, while enjoying the watershed and providing a service.

There was agreement to move forward with Mary's method of resolving this issue.

Next Meeting

The committee would like to set a day on which to hold meetings each month. The group tentatively decided on the second Tuesday of each month, starting with May 14th from 6 to 8pm. Ashley will send out a doodle to ensure the availability of the other members of the committee. Locations will alternate each month from one end of the county to the other.

For the Good of the Order –

Friday, April 12, 9:45 a.m. NW Trek Adopt-A-Hwy program volunteers will meet at the Trek Maintenance Shop. To get there, take the first left off of Trek Drive (it will be in the S-curves). Take an immediate right; go down the hill and through the gate. Park around the back of the building in any marked spot. Email Jessica Moore for further info: jessica.moore@nwtrek.org

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.