



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Jean Shaffer, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Karelina Resnick, Fred Michelson, Carl Rotter, David Hymel and Steve Pruitt*

Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

There was a motion to approve December's meeting minutes. They were accepted as written. The CAC will recommend the acceptance of Phyllis's application to the NRC at this Friday's meeting, due to December's cancellation. There was one addition to the agenda, allowing Fred a few minutes to speak.

Project Organization and Prioritization

- **Current Projects**

- Nisqually Community Forest
 - No report given at this time.
- Citizens Conservation Certification
 - This project is in process, efforts being led by Steve, with intentions of using the Good Neighbor Handbook (GNH) as a resource. The public will be able to visit the website to connect with the NRC and CAC through the use of the CCC and the handbook. Karelina has volunteered to work with Steve on this project.
- Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan
 - It is the intention of the River Council to address the NWSP each month, instead of only at the annual retreat. This month's topic will be Recreation. In the future, Ashley will be sure to highlight the month's topic in CAC meeting reminders, along with attaching the NWSP, to prepare for discussion.
- Upper Nisqually Scenic Byway
 - The Scenic Byway is an opportunity to promote local businesses of the Upper Watershed with signage, provide potential funding sources, and/or aid in coordinating efforts for future projects. Nicole Hill, of the NLT, has been spearheading attempts to place the Road to Rainier on the Scenic Byway map. She has been working with a number of partner organizations and locals to put this project together. Funding has been acquired, with more being sought. This could be a major project of the CAC and the NRC in the near future.

The CAC is looking for ideas for future projects to take on, in addition to those listed above. Phyllis inquired about potential projects that could include the Legislature and are of interest to the CAC. Steve mentioned that the Stewardship Plan could be reviewed in order to see how it could be better supported by the Legislature. It is important to remember that the NRC and CAC are non-regulatory organizations that do not

take political sides. Karelina will support Phyllis in looking at potential projects and will send her any pertinent information she comes across.

Neonicitenoids

Fred mentioned a book he read, "Fruitless Fall: The Collapse of the Honey Bee and the Coming Agricultural Crisis" by Rowan Jacobson. The book describes colony collapse due to the use of neonicitenoids and other toxins that have contaminated the environment, some of which have been contributed by over the counter medicine production. He shared that the Bayer, as well as others, performed unsafe experiments throughout WWII, practices that continue even today. Bayer continues to use neonicitenoids to dust their seeds to rid crops from pests, though they highly promote the positive traits and tasks fulfilled by bees. Fred would like more information about what agencies spray pesticides in the watershed and at what level. Also, what other toxins are infiltrating the watershed, such as the antibiotics that are contained in cattle feed? Bob added that next month, ironically, Bayer is putting on a beekeeping workshop at WSU-Pullman.

Steve brought an article, "Sweet stuff in water tracked," that mentions that only certain parameters are tested in both soil and water.

Karelina shared information about the lawsuit concerning the Grocery Manufacturing Association being sued for list of donors that contributed to illegally collecting and donating \$7 million dollars to defeat the I-522 campaign, as well as another lawsuit filed to strip and detain the \$7 million to pay for any future penalties. Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who filed the initial suit, is now being counter-sued for even allowing the initial suit to take place, claiming that campaign disclosure rights were enforced unethically.

Fred would like permission to look into the details of Pierce County's use of pesticides, in which he will share with the NRC.

Eatonville Raingarden Project Update

David shared that there are some new rain garden resources that have recently been released, such as the Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington published by Stewardship Partners, as well as another booklet that he will share with Ashley digitally. Each of these publications highlight the fact that Ohop Creek and the Mashel River are very important Nisqually tributaries due the critical salmon spawning territories found within their reaches. The Town of Eatonville has been working with a number of partners, including the Nisqually Tribe, to treat stormwater before it runs into the system, improving water quality in Ohop and the water quantity in the Mashel.

Eatonville's Stormwater Plan was recently completed and is up for review by the Town Council next month. The Town is looking to add a stormwater fee to their utilities, helping cover costs associated with maintenance. The Plan will utilize "Green Streets", roadside raingardens, as well as other LID projects, listing costs associated with each. Funding has not yet been acquired, but potential resources have been identified.

The NRF has a contract with Native Plant Salvage (NPS) to install 6 to 8 rain gardens on commercial properties in the Town, with the help of Eatonville high school students. David would like to see status update from NPS to see when these installations are going in the ground. Ashley mentioned the students are being trained on raingardens right now, with shovels in the ground by spring. David mentioned that a schedule might be helpful for the CAC, in order stay informed about volunteer opportunities.

The Town is contemplating a membership to the Pierce Conservation District, which would make them eligible for funding from PCD and other affiliates. The fee for joining is estimated at \$6400, a small fee being assessed for each parcel. The Town Council must approve this by vote and has the potential to become a political battle.

David inquired about the status of Pierce County's Nisqually River Basin Plan, the prioritization of the plan and its objectives, and the supposed funding attached to its implementation. At the November NRC meeting, Dan Wrye stated that the County was reassessing the plan. David stated that the NRC and watershed citizens haven't had the opportunity to contribute to this plan and should keep it on their radar because of funding attached to this project.

NWSP -- Recreation

The CAC took a moment to review the NWSP objective to be discussed at this Friday's NRC meeting. The group read through the indicators outlined by the NWSP, with Carl questioning why the group hasn't looked into adding more trails and increasing access. Steve shared that Jessica Moore gave a presentation at the November meeting about completing an intricate trail system that would connect NW Trek, the Town of Eatonville, Mount Rainier National Park, and the Nisqually State Park. The project is gaining momentum in the watershed, with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being circulated, stating intentions to build and connect trails in the Upper Watershed. The committee is in process of sharing this MOU and gaining support for the project's intent. They have not yet begun to pursue funding. Steve asked for permission from CAC to support this project to further the NWSP. There was a motion, which passed unanimously.

The master plan associated with the Nisqually State Park calls for a partnership between State Parks and the Nisqually Tribe. They have been working together, though a formal partnership has yet to be recognized. It has been decided that the Tribe will cover 40% of costs, with State Parks picking up the remaining 60%.

For the Good of the Order –

- Bob asked why there isn't any Tribal representation on the CAC. He once posed this question to David Troutt never received an answer. He will pose this question again to David at Friday's meeting. It could be very powerful to have a Tribal member present, not just a Tribal employee.
- Next CAC meeting: Tuesday February 11th, 6 to 8pm at the Tribe's Natural Resources Office
- Important Dates:
 - NRC Meeting, Friday January 17th at the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.