



**Meeting Minutes  
Nisqually River Council  
August 27, 2014  
Ohop Grange  
Information: 360.438.8715**

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Roger Andrascik** – *Mount Rainier National Park*  
**David Troutt** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**Doug McClelland** – *WA Dept of Natural Resources*

**Amy Cruver** – *Pierce County*  
**Edna Fund** – *Lewis County*  
**\* CAC Representatives (2)**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Member**

**Fred Michelson\***  
**Bob Smith\***  
**Marjorie Smith**  
**Bryan Bowden**

**Mary Foster**  
**Phyllis Farrell**  
**Karelina Resnick\***

**Guests**

**Chris Ellings** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**Chris Schutz** – *Pierce County*  
**Ashley Von Essen** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**Darek Dabrowski** – *Stream Steward Volunteer*  
**Laura Dabrowski** – *Stream Steward Volunteer*  
**David Thorp** – *Stream Steward Volunteer*

**JW Foster** – *City of Yelm*  
**Don Perry** – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*  
**Charly Kearns** -- *Nisqually Land Trust*  
**Tamara Talley** – *Stream Steward Volunteer*  
**Ed Fund** – *Lewis County Resident*

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Morgan Greene** – *Nisqually River Foundation*  
**Justin Hall** – *Nisqually River Foundation*

**Sheila Wilson** – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*  
**James Morrill** – *Nisqually Sustainable*

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

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order 9:41.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda** – There was a motion to approve both the June and July meeting minutes. They were accepted as written, as was the agenda.

**2. Mount Rainier National Park Update – Roger Andrascik, Mount Rainier National Park**

Roger, Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources, took this opportunity to share current projects within his division, as well as projects occurring in the park as a whole. In short, the Natural and Cultural Resources Division has a vast focus; according to Roger, he oversees all the “-ologists”—whose backgrounds lie in social and natural sciences. His presentation can be found here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nrc-presentation-38608207>.

Within the Natural and Cultural Resources Division, there are multiple program areas: atmospheric sciences, geology, aquatic ecology, vegetation and soils, wildlife ecology, archeology, tribal relations, ethnography, cultural landscapes, museum collections, inventory and monitoring, science learning, recreational ecology, and planning and compliance.

Each of these program areas monitors or researches different aspects of the unique treasures of Mount Rainier. For example, the park studies night skies, soundscapes and air quality. It monitors geologic hazards, floodplains, and fisheries. Vegetative conditions surveys help inform managers as to which meadows need restoration. Wildlife surveys—especially for Northern Spotted Owl and fox—have helped the park keep track of where animals are. In a similar vein, Roger’s division works to reduce wildlife habituation by promoting awareness of the dangers of

feeding animals. Unfortunately, a number of animals including bears, foxes and mountain lions have become habituated to humans; it's important to keep wildlife wild.

Other natural resource research includes glacial studies, the impacts of climate change, the health of mountain lakes and the complexities of landscape dynamics. In fact, Roger noted that between 2006 and 2014, the Nisqually Glacier has been retreating an average of one meter every ten days. In all, these natural resource-focused program areas help inform park managers of the challenges and successes at Mount Rainier. The information collected is gathered and shared through the Science Learning Network (<http://www.nwparkscience.org/>); Mount Rainier, Olympia and North Cascades National Parks all contribute knowledge.

Roger also explained the research being completed to better understand the cultural aspect of the park. This includes archeological digs, tribal relations, museum collections, citizens science programs and hardworking volunteers. In fact, vegetation condition surveys have required over 23,000 hours of volunteer time! Of particular interest is the formation of a tribal day-use and campground that will soon be available. It will be a great place for tribal members to connect to the mountain. Features of the new area may include a sweat lodge and cooking area.

Park staff outside of the Natural and Cultural Resources Division remain just as busy, too. Other projects include:

- Nisqually Entrance to Paradise Road construction. It's ending soon!
- Paradise Area and Carbon River trail maintenance
- Ohanapecosh Campground Electric/Water line installation
- The Foundation Document, a synthesis of the general management plan. The plan is coming this fall, and will need public comment.
- A Natural Resources Condition Assessment, or a synthesis of the research in the park that highlights gaps and needs for future studies. It will also be a public document.
- Wilderness Stewardship Plan
- Camp Muir hut and toilet repairs
- Paradise Inn annex repairs (Funding is slated for 2017)

Roger ended by mentioning that 2016 is the National Park Service Centennial. It won't just be a celebration: the NPS will also take a look at their vision and develop plans for the next 100 years. Goals will include bringing in youth and people of color, two groups that are currently under represented.

## Reports

### Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – Fred shared the CAC report. First, Fred, Karelina, Justin, David and Morgan recently met to discuss several items. The biggest topic was increasing NRC agency representation, particularly from DNR, TPU and JBLM. They also discussed drafting a letter to Bud Hoover in regards to bees, neonicotinoids and the regulation of the chemicals. Fred will draft the letter, which will then be shared to Morgan and David. He will also draft a letter to Ecology along the same lines.

The CAC is working to develop a rough annual agenda; there are about 9 categories as of now. A topic of great importance is expanding CAC membership by collaborating with the NREP, NLT and NSS. The goal is to get 6 new members by the end of the year. The agenda will be finalized in September.

The last two meetings have been very productive. Elections were held in July; the chair will now be on a rotating schedule. Fred is the current chair (for 3 months), and then Karelina will take over for an additional three months. Bob Smith is the third voting member during the 6-month period. All three positions will be re-evaluated then. At the August meeting, George Walter discussed water planning and Don brainstormed several ideas in connecting Stream Stewards with the CAC.

Karelina would like to establish an Emeritus Board as a part of the NRC. David also suggested forming a NRC Youth Council, in which student representatives from schools throughout the watershed would have an opportunity to attend meetings. The establishment of both the Emeritus Board and Youth Council will require NRC action. A motion was made to establish the board, with the Executive Committee establishing bylaws, a membership outline and a clear purpose. This will be brought back to the Council for approval. The motion was accepted.

- *Chair Report* – David has been on vacation for the past month. While he was gone, he reflected on the Nisqually Community Forest. It will make big differences in the watershed and in the region.
- *Staff Report* – Morgan has continued her work with climate adaptation planning. Thanks to the many people who have continued to come to meetings, including Roger, Fred, James, Jean and Phyllis. For the last few months, the focus has been on researching climate and non-climate impacts within the Nisqually Watershed. They've brainstormed many solutions, too. Now the focus is on developing an action plan so it becomes implementable. At the next NRC meeting, Morgan will have a list of draft goals for the Council to review.

### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Charly spoke in Joe's absence. Joe submitted two major grant proposals on behalf of the Nisqually Community Forest. The money would be used to purchase two sections of land near Ashford. Another grant will be submitted by the end of the month. In total, about \$7.5 million in acquisition are being requested. Big news: the timber managers have agreed to postpone timber harvesting on the sections. Recently, Chris and Joe gave a presentation to the WWRP Board highlighting the importance of the Nisqually Community Forest in terms of landscape restoration and salmon enhancement.

The Ohop Restoration Project is continuing very smoothly. Construction on the new channel is nearly completed, and they will be working to connect the river channels next week. A fish-out is scheduled for Monday August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Land Trust has several upcoming events. The annual meeting is on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Lacey at Fellows Park. The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Nisqually Watershed Festival is on September 27<sup>th</sup> and all volunteer dates have been schedules for the next 8 months. Wednesday morning work parties will be continuing; all dates are posted on the NLT website.

The tree plantings near Bald Hills Road are thriving. The NLT replanted about 35-40 acres of pastureland but due to the sandy soils, they quickly learned that irrigation was necessary. More plantings will occur this winter, especially at the Anderson Property and in the Ohop Valley!

The NLT is updating its Strategic Plan. The thing that's been resounding has been the high reputation of the land trust. JW noted that every action of the NRC and CAC has helped contribute to the positive image.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila is back from vacation and the 2014-2015 school year calendar is complete. Water Quality Monitoring Training is on September 20<sup>th</sup>; monitoring will occur on October 16<sup>th</sup>! There will be a large number of planting projects this year. Sheila is looking forward to the upcoming Ohop fish-out, and will be conducting interviews next week for the new Americorps position. There is also funding for a paid internship, too. Additional funding is available to conduct surveys to document student learning.

Lastly, the E3/EETAC of Thurston County is producing a new pamphlet and website that highlights environmental groups in the area. NREP will be highlighted; if other groups would like to be advertised too, please let her know!

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that James Morrill is contracted to run the Nisqually Sustainable program. Additionally, both festivals are coming up very quickly: Nisqually Watershed Festival is on September 27<sup>th</sup> and the Eatonville Salmon Fest is on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Planning is going smoothly, though a request for sunny skies is needed! She-nah-num Seafood Company will be cooking salmon at both festivals!

Justin is now a member of two boards, and is excited to be involved with the Nisqually Community Forest and the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge's Friends Group. Since the US Fish & Wildlife Service came up with new regulations, Justin has been working to make the Friends' transition go more smoothly. He's also working on making the board become more active in the administrative aspect.

Lastly, Justin is busy with grant reporting. He is still looking for funding next year, but is hopeful that all gaps will be filled by December.

- *Nisqually Sustainable* – James was contracted a month ago to coordinate the Nisqually Sustainable program. He’s working with local businesses to reduce energy consumption and increase sustainability. In the fall, he will be hosting training classes in Eatonville. He aligned the trainings with WSU Storm water Center, who will facilitate two workshops around the idea of storm water reduction. He also worked with a few businesses to create showcase videos that highlight what businesses do and the value of the Nisqually Sustainable program. He would like to share a few of them today!

So far, videos have been made for the Yelm Earthworm and Castings Farm, Eatonville Mountain Community Co-op and the Stringtown Lavender Farm. The videos will be on the NRC website, and will be on TCTV. They can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDDP5UHgQeo&feature=youtu.be> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHxdeS9v-UE&feature=youtu.be>.

James will talk to the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce, especially to gain support for the workshops, and will continue to enroll new businesses in the program. Chris would love to highlight old-timer community members to learn more about the past watershed community.

- *Stream Stewards* – Don is pleased to announce 16 new Stream Stewards, many of whom are in attendance today! Two of the new Stream Stewards are Nisqually community members and many are interested in learning more about the CAC. This week, the Stream Stewards helped Don collect benthic macroinvertebrates at five locations throughout the watershed. Other volunteer efforts include the fish-out, the weir, and the two upcoming festivals. The Stream Stewards will also continue working in Ohop Valley, including a salmon tossing trip in the spring.

Don gave a presentation about the Ohop Bio Blitz. It was held in April and was a collaboration between NW Trek, NLT and the Stream Stewards. A “bio blitz” is an intensive biological survey used to develop a baseline inventory. It’s similar to, but more intense than, NatureMapping. All sorts of mammals, plants, reptiles, and invertebrates were documented over the course of 6 hours. Over 30 volunteers assisted in the bio blitz.

This newly created baseline inventory will be important in monitoring changes as the restoration progresses. In all, 300 different taxa were observed within the valley. The volunteers were able to document scat, animal tracks, several northwestern salamanders, pacific tree frogs, rough skinned newts, egg masses, beaver activity, bones, and more. Many interesting plants were discovered too, including the false hellebore and slough sledge. His presentation is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/ohop-bio-blitz-2014>.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Ashley reported that the SRF and PSAR applications were due last Friday. At the July retreat, the NRC approved a ranked list. The tribe will learn about their awards at the start of next year. The Puget Sound Recovery Council voted to forward the entire list along to state legislature. In total, there is around \$130 million in requested funding.

Chris and Joe met with a reporter for the News Tribune on Monday to talk about Ohop Restoration. It will run next week! Keep your eyes out!

### 3. Update: Pierce County Ordinance 2013-30S2

Citizens contacted Mount Rainier National Park in response to changes regarding electric lights in Pierce County. At the July retreat, there were many unknowns, so Morgan has done a bit of researching. Here is what she has to offer:

- A. Electronic message signs shall be allowed in the following areas:
  - a. Outside designated community plan areas and
  - b. Within all community plan urban zone classifications
- B. Upper Nisqually Valley Prohibited Signs. The following sign types are not permitted in the Upper Nisqually Community Plan areas...electronic signs.

These changes are not related to the comprehensive plan update. Instead, it was private citizens who went to the GMA Hearing Board who wanted to change regulations. The hearing board then requested the County Council take action to make the recommended changes.

With this new information, it appears as though the changes will not impact the Upper Nisqually Community Plan Area. However, Morgan has a few other questions to clarify, and will continue to figure out answers. She will be in touch with a person from the Planning and Land Services, and will try to answer other questions. She'll report back as soon as possible.

#### **4. NWSP Discussion – Sustainable Tourism; Update: Biodiversity**

This month's NWSP topic, sustainable tourism, has 4 indicators. Morgan has been continuing her research to establish a baseline inventory.

- *An abundance of sustainable recreation opportunities exist within the watershed.* There are multiple hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing opportunities in the watershed. Additionally, there are a few places that people can kayak. However, there are many other types of recreation that are less sustainable, or can cause a greater impact. This includes mountain biking, atvs, and horseback riding. However, Morgan found several different groups that work to education recreationists on leaving no impacts. Additionally, the WA DNR provides information on minimizing impacts. Perhaps the NRC could work with these groups to increase awareness, maintain trails or do other work.
- *A vital agriculture tourism industry exists.* There are many examples of agritourism in the watershed. The Thurston County Bountiful Byways project leads tourists to farms in the watershed; Pierce County's new farm app also helps connect local agricultural businesses to consumers. Morgan was unable to find examples in Lewis County, but will continue her research. Overall, however, this indicator appears to be thriving.
- *Scenic vistas and viewpoints are protected.* The Nisqually Land Trust has been spearheading a project to protect a scenic byway in the area. Thurston County also provided the Nisqually GIS team with scenic vista data points; although they aren't necessarily protected, they are documented.
- *Non-traditional experiential tourism is supported.* More clarification is needed as to what this means. Morgan did some background research on "experiential tourism." Essentially, it is tourism that is based on creating memories, not just generating souvenirs. Other examples of experiential tourism include hands-on activities led by local experts, trips that take people off the beaten path, and feature experiences unique to a particular area. Nisqually examples could include Pioneer Farm. This indicator needs more attention!
- *Suggestions for further research/Actions to take:*
  - Connect with the Sierra Club: what trail maintenance do they do? Also, there is a wealth of recreation knowledge in the CAC. Finally, there are efforts to plan a river trail throughout the Nisqually.
  - Perhaps we could establish a salmon restoration tour or trail, similar to the WA Salmon Trail. It could allow people to connect with local landowners and view restoration sites.
  - The comprehensive plans for Thurston and Pierce counties highlight scenic viewpoints. It could be a good place to gather more information. The Alaris work fits into this indicator nicely, too.
  - A watershed children's garden could allow children to learn more about the salmon lifecycle hands-on. Additionally, a hotel trail in the watershed could increase tourism throughout the whole watershed as well as highlight unique and local treasures.
  - The Eatonville Salmon Fest should be modeled off the Issaquah Salmon Fest, which draws thousands of people annually.

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

Edna invited the NRC to a party held at the Lewis County Courthouse. It was just listed on the Historic State Registry, and on September 10 there will be a celebration! It will be from 3-7pm; dress in period attire and take a tour!

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, September 19, 2014, 9:00am – 12:00pm Nisqually Weir  
NWSP Topic: Sustainable Businesses; Update: Community Wellness*