



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

**CAC Members Present:** *Fred Michelson, Phyllis Farrell, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith*

**Guests:** *James Morrill*

**Staff Present:** *Morgan Greene*

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm. There was a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. They were accepted as written, as was the agenda.

**My 92 Mile Hike Around Mt. Rainier: Images & Stories from the Wonderland Trail** – *James Morrill, hiking extraordinaire, Nisqually Sustainable Coordinator*

James recently returned from hiking the Wonderland Trail, a 90-mile hike around Mount Rainier! He and three friends (David, Leo and Dylan) left from Longmire on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Ten days later, only James and David successfully completed the hike. Unfortunately, Dylan and Leo had to stop hiking at mile 30, due to knee injuries.

In all, the hike was a total of 90.8 miles, completed in 10 days. Miles hiked each day varied, ranging from as little as 5 miles, to as long as 14! The four hikers traveled clockwise around the mountain, although most people hike counter-clockwise. Additionally, each person's pack weighed around 40lbs. The packs would have been heavier, but the team stored food at two caches along the route. This meant they didn't have to carry as many supplies from the start. They also shared two tents, which ended up being a relief because several campsites were too small to hold more. Finally, the crew kept a journal throughout the trip. Each entry detailed the start and end points of the day, names of campsites, daily mileage and highlights.

Prior to embarking, James did a lot of planning. He applied for a permit 6 months in advance and each hiker read two guidebooks to prepare. Additionally, the team staged extra food at pick-up areas weeks beforehand. Each person also listed all the gear they put in the packs. The list was very detailed: it included the weight, quantity and description of each item carried, including food!

James shared some of the many highlights of his trip. On the first day, the group saw Andesite Columns, viewed the oldest cabin in the park and crossed the tallest bridge on the Wonderland Trail. The next day, they ended at Golden Lakes Camp at Sunset. From there, they could see the lights of Tacoma!

By the end of day five, Leo's knees hurt too badly to continue hiking. The next morning, Dylan and Leo left the trail and returned to Olympia. Meanwhile, James and David continued on, hiking through several permanent snowfields.

Day six was filled with adventure. James and David hiked past Carbon Glacier, the longest glacier in the lower 48 states at 5.7 miles long! There, they were filling up water bottles when a mother bear and cub

came down the trail. The bears came within 8 feet of James and David, who didn't notice them at first. In an attempt to scare the bears, James blew his whistle, and a second cub ran out! Luckily, the bears gave the hikers a wide berth, and then headed on down the trail.

The next day, they passed by Winthrop Glacier and could hear rocks tumbling from the ice. Reaching this point was a milestone: they were finally in the northeast corner of the park! That day they encountered multiple day hikers and James made a note to return to the area. That night, the campsite had a bear box to hold food. There are many bears in Sunrise that are accustomed to people food, and it's quite a problem. A week before James stayed in that site, a bear had trashed a tent to get food!

On day 9 James and David reached the highest elevation of the whole trip—6,750 feet! Here, they also saw the most wildlife, including marmots and a herd of mountain goats. Elk are commonly seen here too, and it's a great place for wildflowers though September is past the peak season.

The next morning was the last day on the trail, and was also the longest day—they hiked 14 miles in total. That day, however, James crossed the Nisqually River, a special highlight of the trip! The trip ended at Longmire.

Overall, James was very impressed by the condition of the trail. All the campsites were beautiful and well maintained. September was a great month to hike, too—they only had one day of fog! The most important thing, ever, was that they completed the trail with no injuries!

Fun facts:

- A 4x4 foot cutout tarp ended up being the most utilized piece of gear.
- A couple in their 60s have been hiking the trail each year for 10 years. They do it in 5 days!

#### **Staff Report – Morgan Greene**

Morgan is now officially a paid staff member of the Nisqually River Foundation. She is busy over the next month wrapping up the climate adaptation plan, tree planting and festival planning. The Nisqually Watershed Festival was a great success, too!

#### **Member Goal Reports – All CAC Members**

- *Access & Hikes (Ed and Carl)*: Not in attendance. Carl is setting up a Nisqually State Park hike.
- *Membership App (All)*: David Thorpe turned in his membership application today! His membership is approved; it will be brought before the NRC on Friday. Once the Council approves him, Morgan will send out a welcome email to the CAC.
- *Emeritus Board (Karelina)*: Not in attendance. Morgan is having trouble arranging an Executive Committee meeting; Morgan will send an email to Fred and Karelina discussing possibilities of different meeting arrangements.
- *Youth Council (Karelina)*: Not in attendance. An update will be provided next month.
- *Youth mentoring (Debbie & Phyllis)*: Debbie, Phyllis, Don and Sheila met in August. They decided not to start a new project, but to coordinate better with existing projects. Phyllis has not heard from Debbie since then.
- *Neonicotinoids (Fred & Bob)*: Fred met with Mark Emerich recently, who shared that the city of Seattle passed a resolution saying any city owned property will not be treated with neonicotinoids. Mark also believes that US Fish and Wildlife has passed a similar resolution—this has not been confirmed yet. There are a number of lawsuits pending regarding the chemicals. Fred is still working on the letter to Bud Hover, but he feels as though it would be better if a full committee or caucus

signed the letter. Examples: Audubon Society, WA State Beekeepers Association. Mark said he would take the letter to different groups to get signatures.

- *Climate Change (Morgan)*: The first draft is done; final draft due by November 18th. Implementation will begin shortly after. Morgan will also be presenting on the plan at an upcoming NRC meeting.
- *Tribal Member on CAC (Bob & Fred)*: Morgan sent an application to Grace Ann, who seemed excited about joining the CAC. She has yet to receive the completed application, but will keep the CAC in the loop.
- *CCC (Karelina)*: Not in attendance. Morgan will ask Karelina if she can send some of the documents out to the CAC for their opinion. Fred will be included in the email.
- *Protected Marine Areas (Ed)*: Not in attendance. Ed is contacting WDFW currently.
- *Coal & Oil Trails (Grace Ann)*: Not in attendance. This is a local issue and should be included. Phyllis believes there will be a hearing in Olympia regarding the issue.

Member reports will continue to be a part of the monthly agendas. Morgan will schedule approximately 20 minutes each meeting, so that members can regularly report on progress.

#### **Carl Rotter's Nisqually State Park Hike – Carl Rotter**

Carl did not attend the meeting because he is out of town. However, he would be interested to lead a hike in the new Nisqually State Park in the near future. Dates and times TBD, but Carl would like to plan something for November. Fred will get some dates from Carl, and Morgan will set up a Doodle poll to share with the CAC.

#### **For the Good of the Order –**

Karelina would like to remain the vice-chair, with Fred remaining as the chair. Bob will remain as the third voting member. At the next meeting, the CAC will take a vote on the change.

Morgan passed out a draft contact list. This includes all the names of people who responded to her emails. Both Phyllis and Debbie's contact information is missing, so Morgan will add those in.

- Next CAC Meeting: Scheduled date falls on Veteran's Day. A new date will be scheduled ASAP.
- Important Dates:
  - NRC Meeting, Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:30 at Pack Forest.
  - Eatonville Salmon Fest is on October 18<sup>th</sup>!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.