



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Fred Michelson, David Thorpe, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith, Debbie Anderson, Phyllis Farrell, Ed Kenney, and Grace Ann Byrd*

**Guests:** *Lois Ward*

**Staff Present:** *Morgan Greene*

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. There was a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. They were accepted as written, as was the agenda for the night.

**David Troutt Presentation Brainstorm – All Members**

David was unable to speak at tonight's meeting, but rescheduled to attend the December 9th meeting. All CAC members are welcome to email Fred or Morgan prior to that meeting to suggest topic ideas. He will have approximately 30 minutes to speak.

**New Member Application Approval: Grace Ann Byrd – All Members**

Grace Ann recently turned in her CAC application, copies of which are available tonight. There was a motion to approve her application. It was approved. Welcome, Grace Ann! Morgan will send a welcome aboard letter soon!

**Staff Report – Morgan Greene**

Morgan has been busy with tree planting and climate adaptation planning. The tree-planting season wrapped up successfully, with 3,550 plants in the ground! Additionally, her final climate adaptation plan draft has been completed, and she'll be presenting on the topic at Friday's Nisqually River Council (NRC) meeting.

**Member Goal Reports – All CAC Members**

- *Access & Hikes (Ed and Carl):* Carl was not able to attend tonight. However, Carl hosted a hike at the Nisqually State Park that several CAC members attended. Carl mentioned that Lisa Breckenridge would be willing to host another hike between November 21-26<sup>th</sup> for those who are interested. To sign up, please contact Morgan as soon as possible.
- *Membership App (All):* The CAC has already accepted two new applications, but is still working toward their goal of 6 new members this year. Lois requested a CAC application; Morgan will email her one.
- *Emeritus Board (Karelina):* Karelina was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Morgan requested Executive Committee dates from David, and is still working to coordinate everybody's schedules.
- *Youth Council (Karelina):* Karelina was unable to attend tonight's meeting. However, Fred emailed Sheila requesting a meeting to talk about the feasibility of establishing the Youth Council. The plan is for Fred, Phyllis, Karelina and Debbie to speak with Sheila at the next NRC meeting.

- *Youth mentoring (Debbie & Phyllis)*: Phyllis tried calling Sheila, but has not connected yet. She will call again tomorrow. Debbie also thinks that the focus needs to shift from forming a new mentoring project, and increasing CAC involvement with existing student programs like Nisqually River Education Project (NREP) and after school programs. There are a number of volunteer events with students available, and strengthening current programs for now will allow for further time to implement a youth mentoring program.
- *Neonicotinoids (Fred & Bob)*: Fred has been researching and printing information on the neonicotinoids issue. He's noticed it is becoming more of a national issue. As far as his letter to Bud Hover, he has outlined the sections of his letter and has compiled his sources.
- *Climate Change (Morgan)*: Morgan's final draft was turned in today. She is also presenting on the planning process at the Friday NRC meeting. Implementation will begin soon, pending funding.
- *Tribal Member on CAC (Bob & Fred)*: Welcome, Grace Ann! Grace Ann will keep the CAC informed on the tribal perspective of topics.
- *CCC (Karelina)*: Not in attendance.
- *Protected Marine Areas (Ed)*: Ed spoke about Protected Marine Areas in September. In a quick follow-up, Ed has been researching the underwater aquatic reserve that starts at Tolmie State Park and wraps around Steilacoom. At first, Ed didn't think the reserve was accomplishing much, but in fact, the reserve is so new that the impacts are just beginning to be noticed. The reserve allows for a baseline on the number and species of fish to be developed. Additionally, the reserve focuses on protecting the shoreline, as opposed to the open water. Ed does believe that this is the best area for a Protected Marine Area.

In his quest to establish a Protected Marine Area, Ed also spoke with state employees to learn more about jurisdiction; he learned that WA Department of Natural Resource (DNR), WA Department of Ecology (DoE) & WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) would all play a role. However, Ed thinks a better alternative is to have the Tribe and local fishermen lead the way. Since the area is co-managed, Ed believes the Tribe and fishermen should generate support and then submit a request for the establishment of a marine protected area. Funding is only available for sites that are requested. Grace noted that tribes are already restricted enormously; there may be hesitation in establishing further fishing restrictions.

The next steps are to get an audience with the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Ed could also give a presentation to the NRC, or to David Troutt.

- *Coal & Oil Trails (Grace Ann)*: In Washington, oil comes from North Dakota and coal comes from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana, all by railroad. With recent booms in extraction, several new rail lines and terminals are proposed throughout the state. A map of proposed sites is available at [www.coaltrainfacts.org](http://www.coaltrainfacts.org).

Many of the current sites are already huge. The Cherry Point terminal, north of Bellingham, supplies Washington with 20% of all its gas and 85% of the jet fuel used at SeaTac. It already processes 225,000 barrels of crude oil a day. Furthermore, the proposed terminal would receive 30 miles of coal trains per day, and process over 44 million metric tons.

The rail lines and terminals often go through numerous small towns across Washington and British Columbia. The traffic poses transportation challenges, slows First Responder times, school attendance and more.

The proposed terminals are subject to both National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) regulations. Many areas have gone through the public comment period in developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Most periods ended last week; draft EIS' will be completed by next year. According to Grace, tribes were not notified of the scoping periods.

Grace spoke briefly on the local impacts of the trains, which impact natural resources and the climate. The fish and shellfish species, along with diverse fishermen, already have their fights well laid out. On top of that, coal pollutes land, water and air via dust. From the Power River Basin to Bellingham, the trains are already emitting enormous amounts of coal dust. Once it rains, the coal leaches into McAllister Creek and Nisqually River. Also, the cars are unsafe and have not passed inspection. This greatly increases the risk of train derailment. Rail maintenance is another issue.

The railways are adjacent to Red Salmon Creek, McAllister Creek and the Nisqually River. The areas are high priority for salmon recover, and help provide drinking water to Olympia, Lacey and Yelm. Trains travel just 1.5 miles from the Nisqually Youth Center, which serves as an emergency center for the Tribe. Grace is aware of 4 derailments locally, too: 1) at McKenna Bridge; 2) near the Wa He Lut school; 3) on the old 99 Hwy and 4) near McAllister Springs. These derailments, and the threat of future ones, places risks on drinking water and natural resources. For more information on environmental impacts, visit the Department of Ecology website here: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/OilMovement/index.html>.

The CAC discussed next steps. Grace says the Cowlitz Tribe wrote a resolution against the coal and oil movement. She would like to see a copy of it and pass it along to Tribal Council. The CAC will also bring this topic up at the next NRC meeting, especially in the terms of assessing local impacts.

**Guest Speaker Brainstorm – All**

Please email Fred or Morgan any suggestions for future guest speakers.

What about someone from Emergency Management Depts to talk about plans impacting Nisqually?

**For the Good of the Order – All**

Debbie will be Grandma for the 4<sup>th</sup> time!

There is an EIS in the works to protect the marbled murrelet. Organizations are recruiting people to show support for further protection of the bird. There is a hearing at the DNR Board Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-11. Lois has the information.

- Important Dates:
  - Next NRC Meeting: Friday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00-12:00 at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.
  - Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.