



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Fred Michelson, Karelina Resnick, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Ed Kenney, David Thorpe, Phyllis Farrell*

Guests: *David Stepetin*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. There was a motion to approve November's meeting minutes. They were accepted as written, as was the agenda for the night.

Fred started the meeting with news on the Lynch Creek Rock Quarry, a proposed 500-acre gravel mine near Eatonville. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been released; public comment is open through the end of this week. The mine would be located above Ohop Lake and would be the largest sand and gravel operation in Pierce County. For background information, Lynch Creek is listed on the 303(d) list, though the DEIS claims the mine would not further degrade water quality. The operation will be large: it is expected to transport 18,000 tons of material per year by truck and 300,000 tons per year by rail. The number would later climb to 750,000 tons in years 5-10 and 1.5 million tons of material in years 10-20.

The group agreed that one of the largest impacts would be on truck traffic in Eatonville, particularly around the middle school and nearby athletic fields. On another note, the plan is to buffer the creek by at least 100 feet. Karelina will try to obtain information on Eatonville's response to the proposed mine. Fred is unaware of other comments from entities like the Tribe or NRC. For those who are interested in looking at the DEIS, Fred will send along the link. Individuals can comment for themselves, but not as a member of the NRC or CAC. The DEIS contains site maps, mitigation plans, etc. This will be something to keep an eye on.

Phyllis wondered about the advantages: will there be an abundance of new jobs, for example? According to the group, there is likely not going to be a tremendous amount of new jobs, though it may re-create jobs that were cut a few years ago. Also, according to the DEIS, most of the material is destined to go to Thurston and Pierce County.

Yelm Sewage Update – Ed Kenney

A 1992 settlement agreement between the City of Yelm and Ed Kenney, National Fish and Oyster, Nisqually Delta Association and Black Hills Audubon required Yelm to upgrade its sewage plant to tertiary treatment, producing class A water for reclamation. Discharge of Yelm's sewage to the Nisqually River would only occur during those times when a use for the reclaimed water could not be found within the city itself and the Centralia Canal was not available as a discharge point for maintenance reasons. Beginning in 2002, Yelm began producing Class A reclaimed water and in most years only sends this high quality water to its Nisqually River outfall in August or September when the City of Centralia completes its almost yearly maintenance. Fortunately, this is during the time that Yelm is using most of its reclaimed water and the water quality is

generally quite high.

Last month Ed and the other settlement stakeholders met with representatives from the city of Yelm to see if it was possible to remove the Nisqually outfall. They learned that the sewer system had undergone recent improvements despite some significant challenges, especially during the cold winter and spring of 2011. Approximately 30% of the city's reclaimed water is used inside the city most years, primarily in summer, with the rest being discharged to the Centralia Canal, except for a very small amount to the Nisqually River itself during periods of canal maintenance. The settlement partners were happy to hear of Yelm's ongoing commitment to meet the challenges of providing excellent sewage treatment for a rapidly growing population. Despite difficulties and the continuing need for an emergency outfall on the Nisqually, Yelm's efforts to adequately treat its sewage have largely been viewed as a success. Olympia used the system as a model when it designed its own system soon after.

Phyllis wondered how Yelm would plan to face growth: Over 5,000 more families could move to Yelm in the next decade. According to Ed, Yelm's NPDES permit allows it to treat 1 million gallons of sewage every day, and it is now treating just over 400,000 gallons. However, the difficulty of properly treating that amount in winter will cause the system to be upgraded sooner than expected. Yelm is now planning for that eventuality.

Other jurisdictions in the area are also planning sewage systems. The Tribe is planning to have 100% of their water go back into ground water, and avoid the river completely. That's Eatonville's goal too—Karelina will ask what they're doing about it. Roy is now proposing to do a similar project. This will be a topic on an upcoming meeting, particularly in regards to Eatonville.

Staff Report – Morgan Greene

Morgan is officially done with her climate adaptation planning—her last webinar was yesterday! With Justin gone this week, she's been holding down the fort and is busy updating the NRC display and NRF website.

David Stepetin, Outreach Coordinator for the Nisqually Natural Resources Department, attended tonight's meeting to share his youth engagement projects. The Nisqually Environmental Team (NET) is being developed as a reflection of the current age of many natural resource professionals. A large number of professionals are getting close to retirement age, and this is an opportunity to increase awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related careers. This is a personal topic to David, who has had a tremendous career in natural resources and wishes to share that passion with students. He is limited to working with Nisqually Youth, but hopes that STEM careers expand beyond his scope too. David received funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to hire the first 4 NET interns. He also plans to attend more tree-plantings, assist with the Nisqually Canoe Journey and develop an AmeriCorps program.

Karelina shares a lot of values with David. She's noticed a lack of young blood in the NRC and is interested in developing a Youth Council so that school groups can attend meetings, training sessions, presentations and more via Skype. Perhaps this is a great way to start collaborating! Morgan will set up an email between Karelina and David for further conversations. David mentioned 'career days' at area colleges that can be a great way to connect with hundreds of students.

Perhaps all heads need to come together to arrange this. Phyllis remembered Sheila encouraging her to keep it simple to start. There are many established groups working towards similar goals.

Member Goal Reports – All CAC Members

NRC – CAC December 2014, Meeting Minutes

- *Access & Hikes (Ed and Carl)*: Carl was not in attendance. Ed will have a hiking date in January. New gates hours at Mount Rainier National Park are 9am-4pm and road construction in the park is completed. Also, Eatonville's trail system is now open!
- *Membership App (All)*: Unfortunately, Lois is struggling with some health issues and will be unable to turn in her CAC application until later in the New Year. All other CAC members: think about friends or family who might like to join!
- *Emeritus Board (Karelina)*: Morgan asked David for January dates to establish an Executive Committee meeting.
- *Youth Council (Karelina)*: Phyllis shared a suggested purpose: Invite youth participation and perspective to the NRC to inspire long-term stewardship. Perhaps the CAC could work with River Ridge High School and Eatonville High School, which already have environmental clubs. She remembered Sheila's advice after the last NRC meeting: start small, and connect with existing groups.

The group brainstormed ideas on how the Youth Council might work. Students could be invited to CAC or NRC meetings to start. Also, if students are doing projects, CAC members could volunteer to help out. Karelina is a part of the Eatonville Superintendent's Community Advisory Council, so she may be able to leverage resources, participation and more. She also has contacts at Evergreen who were interested in getting involved with this effort; she will follow up soon. Furthermore, using Skype could bypass some of the issues of transportation, insurance, and background checks. Other details still must be filled out—what are the agendas? Who will attend? Who will coordinate? Would this happen during or after school? How would meetings be arranged?

Phyllis, Debbie, Karelina and Fred will meet outside of CAC, along with anybody else who is interested. They will narrow down the track and purpose of this Youth Council and to begin to answer some of the above questions. Morgan will arrange a Doodle poll between interested members.

- *Neonicotinoids (Fred & Bob)*: Fred will not be publishing his letter to Mr. Hover until spring.
- *Climate Change (Morgan)*: Morgan is researching potential implementation grants, though nothing has come up yet. Phyllis is interested in having Morgan present on her work to local groups. Morgan needs more details before committing, so Phyllis will send her details.
- *Tribal Member on CAC (Bob & Fred)*: Nothing at this time. Another tribal member would be fantastic – perhaps some Nisqually youth or David S.?
- *CCC (Karelina)*: The CCC is a potential a certification program that would act as a parallel to Nisqually Sustainable, Salmon Safe, and other programs but for homeowners, not businesses or farms. There would be a small fee, so the CAC would gain some financial independence. Several years ago, Karelina and others put together information on various categories, with ways to improve landowner practices. Steve Pruitt agreed to sort it out and put it all together. Ideally, the 50 pages would be boiled down to a 2 page questionnaire that referred people to a website that contained more data and suggestions on how to live in a more sustainable fashion. Karelina wondered if other CAC members would be interested in compiling the information.

Bob noted that perhaps the Nisqually Valley News would be willing to publish a page on the program, once the ideas are collected. There is a small pamphlet that Karelina developed originally. Also, the Nisqually River Education Project (NREP) page (www.nrep.nisquallyriver.org) has the new Nisqually Watershed Pledge that goes through similar topics as the CCC, though it's tailored to children. Morgan will pass out a link to the Pledge.

- *Protected Marine Areas (Ed)*: Nothing at this time.

- *Coal & Oil Trails (Grace Ann)*: Grace Ann was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Fred shared an article about trains in Washington.

Review/Edit Goals – All

Should any of the above goals be edited or removed? Should any new goals be added? Is this format working? No comments at this time—email Morgan with any suggestions prior to the January meeting. Remember: if something is named, someone needs to take charge of the topic. Any topic goes! Some goals will take a lot of effort; some will drop off as they're accomplished.

- **Bob**: Neonicotinoids might be bad, but maybe not as bad as pesticides used in the past. Perhaps the CAC could discuss these new revelations a bit more. Bob will try to find a related article he recently read. Phyllis is interested in learning about the application against ghost shrimp in water, too.
- **Karelina**: She would like to see the CAC look closer at organic food, GMOs and the impacts on our bodies and soils. David will think about taking charge on the topic. Topic ideas: Farm-to-School, Slow Food, and more. Also, what goes in the river as a result of crop spraying?
- **David**: David is mulling over two of his own projects and would like to talk to Morgan about them. His worry about the previous topic is that it's a huge issue; perhaps it could be narrowed down.
- **Phyllis**: How do pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals impact the Nisqually River? Additionally, how might the CAC get involved with the Thurston Bountiful Byways Program or Pierce County agritourism? Perhaps Donovan Gray could give a presentation.

CAC Facebook Page – Carl Rotter/Morgan Greene

Carl has brought up the idea of establishing a CAC Facebook page or group for members to share information. Pages are public and groups can be more private if desired.

Carl's ponderings:

- Should it be public or private? Will membership open to all, or just CAC members?
- What will the name be? Suggestions are Citizens Advisory Committee and 101 Things to Love About the Nisqually.

The CAC agreed to establish a closed group. Karelina, Ed and Carl will be admins, but Morgan will set it up. The admins will be in charge of approving or denying membership, but all group members are welcome to share pictures or event updates.

Discussion on Guest Speakers – All

- Presentation topics for David Troutt: Please email Morgan with any suggested topics.
 - Some suggestions: Nisqually History for Newcomers; Get to Know David Troutt; Structure of the Tribe: Who To Call When You Have A Question; How Are Our Projects Funded?
- Any other ideas for other speakers over the next couple months: email Morgan, soon please.
 - Donovan Gray: Water quality and pesticide use
 - Water Reclamation in Yelm

For the Good of the Order – All

Let's get good attendance at the January meeting for David!

- Important Dates:
 - Next NRC Meeting: Friday December 19th, 9:30-12:30 at NW Trek in the theater.
 - Next CAC Meeting: January 13th 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.