



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Steve Pruitt, Ed Kenney, Phyllis Farrell, Ben Dennis, Fred Michelson, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, and Lois Ward*
Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

There was a motion to approve October's minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening.

CAC Member Goal Updates

- **Access & Hikes (Ed):** November is Ed's favorite time to hike in the watershed. On a clear day after a storm, he recommends heading up to Paradise to view ice formations, including those that are pushed from decaying wood. Starting November 1, all vehicles entering the Park must carry chains, and it's best to check for road closures before heading up there. This time of year, the gate opens at 9, and closes at 5. You will be ticketed if you don't have chains, and if you're there after dark! When not hiking in the Park, he recommended wearing orange because it is hunting season. Other hazards for this time of year include falling tree branches—it may be a good idea to stay in open areas. Finally, the Paradise sledding slope is not open; it won't open until the area receives 3 feet of snow. Ed predicts that this current snow might produce that, because snow is expected to drop below 4,000 feet overnight.

Ed attended the Nisqually River Water Trail float last week. The group saw quite a few salmon, as well as many bald eagles. The put-in was an excellent location; Ed hopes this site is one of the sites that is developed.

- **Neonictinoids (Fred & Bob):** Nothing at this time.
- **Membership (All):** See below.
- **CAC Outreach Presentation (All):** Steve recommended that the name of the "Dog and Pony Show" goal be changed to "CAC Outreach Presentation." Morgan will update the minutes to reflect the changes. See below for more details.
- **Marine Protected Area (Ed):** Last year, Ed went diving on his 50th Marine Protected Area, and shared his thoughts with the CAC. He and his wife recently returned from a trip to Argentina; while he was there, the President of Chile announced the establishment of the world's largest MPA: it stretches from Peru to Easter Island. The whole area is a "no take" area, which is the kind of management regime that Ed most likes. The government has promised to maintain fishing rights for all fishermen in the area. More information can be found by searching online for "Nanzca Ridge". There is no similarly protected area in Washington State. Some areas have tried to start protected areas, but largely without community support. Ed has noted that without the buy-in of fishermen/the communities, the areas will not work.

Steve wanted to know where the income of the MPA's came from. There are two ways: 1) fishing revenue from outside the protected area; 2) diving tourism money. Fishermen must buy licenses, equipment, etc., and divers must buy guides, equipment, etc.

- Coal & Oil Trains (*Grace Ann*): Fred noted that taxes were raised on oil transport in Washington State; taxes also increased on fuel sales. The revenue will help prepare for spills. He believes that the region has the potential to be inundated with oil if the proposed coal/oil terminals are built. Fred noted that although derailments don't happen on a daily basis, they are costly when they do occur. The State is saving money in order to prepare for the event of a large spill. He also noted that several Tribes are fighting the development of these terminals. Fred added that the CAC is collecting information on actions that impact the watershed, either directly or indirectly. He hopes the CAC can offer new perspectives that are not always on NRC radar. Ben wondered if the Nisqually Tribe had a policy on Oil Trains. Morgan will ask David Troutt about this, and will provide an update at the next CAC meeting.
- Systems Management (*Steve*): Steve introduced this topic last month, and wanted to provide a historical background to the management approach. In this context, an "events" understanding of history is based on the idea that all *events* gradually build to a point, or transformational event, resulting in system-wide changes. For example, Steve noted that the American Revolution could be considered an event that ultimately resulted in a new system of democracy. On a local scale, the last glacial age could also be considered an event. The retreat of those glaciers culminated in the formation of the Nisqually Watershed. In addition, the arrival of Europeans and advent of technology could be considered an event as it is difficult to find anything that has not been impacted by the "Technosphere."

Steve suggested the NRC also be classified as an "event." The Council could be an agent that considers all past actions, realize a transformation, and result in a new watershed. By an upcoming meeting, Steve hopes to have these thoughts written up to illustrate how the NRC can use systems management in the watershed.

CAC Mission Statement – All

Joe Kane's advice is to limit a Mission Statement to less than 20 words. A common mistake is to try to cram all details into one statement.

Brainstorming:

- Steve noted that the CAC's *purpose* is to support the NRC. In his opinion, a *mission* is a way to measure the group's progress in achieving its purpose.
- Marjorie, Lois and Phyllis felt as though it was important for the Mission Statement to illustrate the link to the NRC. Examples included: "advising the NRC," and "supporting NRC efforts." The support role was a large part of the draw for both Lois and Phyllis.
- Fred shared several paragraphs illustrating what he believes the CAC does. The group particularly liked the following paragraphs:
 - We, the Citizens, are committed to this watershed being enhanced and protected in a natural state where biodiversity still thrives and to the extent those lands are already held, or available for purchase or conservation easement by the NRLT, or volunteered for conservation sponsorship grants, we will assist manage, volunteer, and our added strength to their being a plus place on the planet.
 - We assist in producing and supporting a watershed wide comprehensive sustainability plan that provides for thriving eco services, sustained economy and communities.

- Lois' draft statement was: "Supports and promotes efforts to preserve and protect the Nisqually Watershed."
- Phyllis' draft statement was: "The NRC CAC Mission is to support and advise the Council's efforts to restore and enhance the environments of the Nisqually Watershed."
- Steve's draft statement was: "Create a sustainable Nisqually Watershed."
- The group liked Fred's second paragraph (above). It included the 3 branches of sustainability. However, the group wished to change some of the language to include "support," "advise" and more action words.
- Steve wished to find a word to imply show the link between the NRC and community: the CAC advises the NRC and educates citizens.
- **Final brainstormed draft mission:**
 - "Inspire, support and promote NRC and citizen efforts to create a sustainable environment, economy and community."

Morgan will share the draft Mission to the CAC for comment. It will be revisited at the December meeting.

CAC Outreach Presentation – All

Pending approval of the draft Mission statement, the outreach presentation must also consider the audience, need, and desired results of the outreach campaign.

Brainstorming:

- Steve noted that Fred's desire for action words is necessary to inspire widespread action on the behalf of citizens.
- Fred wishes to develop a 15-minute film that describes the CAC, including its history, successes and future. He believes it should cover a long period of time, and be done with professional help. It could use materials already filmed by the Council. Fred doesn't believe the film needs a specific audience: once its been developed, he hopes that the film is applicable to everyone.
- Steve noted that the video would be useful to show to funders, citizens, educators and elected officials. In addition to the 15-minute film, however, Steve thinks the group should answer: 1) What is the CAC?; 2) What does the CAC do?; and 3) What does that mean? In his opinion, the CAC is a diverse community that promotes change, meaning any individual can be a part of the group, and also inspire change.
- Phyllis believes that the 2 biggest issues that the NRC and CAC can use to inspire future participation are water quality/quantity, and salmon recovery. Any piece that emphasizes those activities will strike a chord with citizens. Then, she believes, the message could be "you have a role in this; this is a venue for your participation." The message could also be expanded to include all 3 branches of sustainability.
- Fred noted that the group needs several things: a videographer, funding, and/or a script written by a CAC member up to the task. Fred wondered if the Tribe had any funding that could be channeled through to the group.
- Steve verified that the idea of a video resonated with the group. They all liked the idea, but noted that it should be 15-minutes long at the very most. Even the NRC video is a little bit long.

The next steps are to explore opportunities in completing a video. The group will identify funding sources and other options. Eventually, the CAC aims to present the NRC with a full package, including identified funding and implementation steps. Potential resources include: Evergreen, Clover Park Technical College and Saint Martins University. Perhaps it could be completed as a student project. Phyllis will talk to Allie about Evergreen programs; Steve will contact Clover Park. All members should do their own research too.

For the Good of the Order – All

Fred mentioned that the Nisqually Delta Restoration Project started the long-term evolution of the land. It will take a long time for the area to become what it will become. The Nisqually River and McAllister Creek have changed drastically because the tides now have a greater area over which they can spread. He asked the group to remember, on Veteran's Day, that people serving in the military do not have a say in where they are going or what they are going to do.

Phyllis remembered the Sierra Club last week. David Troutt spoke, as did Kristen Harma, or the Chehalis Basin Partnership. The talks gave Phyllis a better sense of the differences between the two watersheds.

Lois recalled that after the 2009 dike removals, large pieces of land floated by her house for the next 2-3 months. It pointed out the magnificent and incredible event taking place at the delta.

Bob has counted the pink mortalities by his house. Just before the high water, he had 229 dead fish along the shoreline, but has never seen more than 3 eagles at one time.

Marjorie noted that the river is running muddy! She is not going to argue with the river, because it just wants to keep on running. She is more of a prairie chicken anyways.

Ben introduced himself to the group. He retired from advertising in Seattle, before moving to the Methow Valley working on fisheries issues. He then moved to Oregon, and began working on gravel mining issues along the East Fork of the Lewis River. The lower 9-miles of the river have been ravaged by mining. After years of work, he finally started to notice some positive changes. He is at the CAC meeting because he wanted a change of scenery and because he is interested in South Puget Sound. He's interested in the development of the outreach program. He also shared an article he wrote on habitat river restoration. It is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/habitat-river-restoration-a-brief-history>. He is also the conservation chair of South Sound Flyfishers, and is considering developing a map of access to the Deschutes River.

Steve declared next month's meeting to be a Holiday potluck, with a mostly social agenda. Fred is unable to attend. He also noted that on December 9th, the Nisqually State Park will be hosting a planting event around the new parking area. Morgan will share details soon.

Important Dates:

- Next NRC Meeting: November 20, from 9:00-12:00 at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.
- Next CAC Meeting: December 8, 2015 from 6-8pm. Please bring a dish to share.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.