



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
November 20, 2015
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Amy Cruver – *Pierce County*
JW Foster – *City of Yelm*
Amber Martens – *JBLM*
Stephanie Suter – *Puget Sound Partnership*

Darin Swinney – *Mount Rainier N.P.*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
* **CAC Representatives** (3)

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Bryan Bowden
Phyllis Farrell*
Ed Kenney
Fred Michelson

Steve Pruitt*
Karelina Resnick*
Marjorie Smith
Bob Smith

Guests

Ryan Dicks – *Pierce County*
Chris Ellings – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Teresa Lewis – *Pierce County*
Kjristine Lund – *Pierce County Flood District*
Martin McCullum – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*

Dixie Reimer – *North Thurston Public Schools*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Jim Stanton – *North Thurston Public Schools*
Ashley Von Essen – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Kim Bredensteiner – *Nisqually Land Trust*
Morgan Greene – *Nisqually River Council*
Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*

Aleks Storvick – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*
Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*

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

Call to Order – David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:11 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda – There was a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for the day.

2. Pierce County Flood Control Zone District– Kjristine Lund, Executive Director, Lund Consulting

The Pierce County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) is similar to a water district and is governed by the Pierce County Council. Bryan Bowden has been the NRC representative for the District, but would like to pass on the torch. The FCZD uses Opportunity Funds to complete flood risk reduction projects, which are prioritized in a 6-Year Plan. A successful project was the Calistoga Setback Levee on the Puyallup River, during which 1.5 miles of levee were moved to more than double river width. Upcoming project locations include reducing the Clear Creek Levee (near Tacoma), North Levee Road (near Tacoma), and Orville and Neadham (near Orting).

There are 4 projects located in the Nisqually Watershed. The Upper Nisqually Reventment is currently being designed and will be implemented in 2017. It will result in the construction of 12 Engineered Log Jams (ELJs) to protect the road. Other projects are the Nisqually Park Levee, McKenna Area Floodplain Acquisition and Mashel River Bridge.

In addition to the Pierce County Council, the FCZD has an Executive Committee and Advisory Committee. The Executive Committee is tasked with administrative duties, reviewing and recommending resolutions to the Board, and monitoring and overseeing project implementation. The 15-member Advisory Committee reviews and

recommends projects for the 6-Year Plan, budget and levy rates, opportunity fund programs and comprehensive plan development. The Advisory Committee meets 4-6 times per year from 9-12 at the Pierce County Public Works building.

Steve offered to be the new NRC representative. There was a motion to accept this; it was approved. To become an Advisory Committee member, Steve will need to be nominated by the Pierce County Executive Committee and elected by the Advisory Committee.

Kjris' presentation is available at: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/pierce-county-flood-control-zone-district>.

3. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC is working on a plan for focused engagement over the next year. More details will be provided at the December NRC meeting.
- *Chair Report* – David had an opportunity to present to the Sierra Club last month. He has also been attending Alliance for a Healthy South Sound meetings. David also noted that the Pierce County Conservation Futures Fund saw recent changes. Amy provided clarification by noting that Pierce County collects index taxes to fund the Conservation Futures Fund. The recent changes were Jim McCune's attempt to balance funds and budgets. The changes would not have had an impact on the money collected for the Fund over the next few years. As of now, nothing has changed but discussion on the prioritization of projects will be held in the future.
- *Staff Report* – Morgan reported that the Nisqually River Water Trail Advisory Committee floated a short section of the upper River earlier in the month. The Committee also hosted an open house on November 5th to gather opinions of community members. The Committee will start to develop recommendations and produce a draft plan by March 2016. In other news, the NRF received \$5,000 from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to support a strategic planning effort next year.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – JW announced the NLT's winter newsletter was recently released. If you have not received the newsletter, please contact the Land Trust to get on the mailing list. The end of the year appeal letter is also out. In other news, the carbon credits were verified by an agency in California. The final step is for approval from an overarching agency. With that news, JW announced that the carbon credits were sold to Microsoft, and represent the first carbon sequestration credits in the state of Washington. Additionally, 250 surplus credits were auctioned at the Washington Environmental Council's Gala last week. Morgan will arrange a presentation on the credit system at an upcoming NRC meeting.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila has been busy with tree planting over the last month: 21 classes visited Ohop Creek and 19 classes visited Red Salmon Creek, including a surprise visit from UW students. In all, 120 chaperones and 820 students participated. There is a final community planting event at Red Salmon Creek tomorrow from 9-12. Thanks to Nisqually Land Trust and all the volunteers who helped this year! There are 26 classes interested in salmon carcass tossing this year. Sheila is researching several grants, but recently learned that Peter Donaldson's grant that would fund the Youth Council was not successful.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Most of Justin's time has been spent on Community Forest planning. The AHSS has been working through the Near Term Actions process. Near Term Actions are projects that can be completed in the next 3-5 years, and the community forest is a part of that list.
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Ashley reported that approximately 400 people attended this year's Eatonville Salmon Fest, which is an increase over last year. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for December 4th. Ashley is coordinating an effort to produce the Yil-Me-Hu newsletter, which will be available in December or January. In other news, the SRF Board List remained the same as NRC approved it in July. The remaining Ohop Project funds were reallocated to other projects on the list. Everything on the list is fully funded, with the exception of alternative projects. The awards will officially be announced in December.

The Lead Entity and the Nisqually Land Trust seek approval for a project scope change on the Upper Ohop Project. There are \$25,000 leftover that the Land Trust wishes to return to the project, but in a different means that originally anticipated. The money would be spent to tackle about 7 acres of Reed Canary Grass, as well as some planting and maintenance. The motion to accept this change was approved.

Chris reported the Salmon Recovery Program has started two studies, one to examine sediment loads in the river, and another to monitor marine mammal populations in the Delta. Because of low water and poor water clarity, it has been difficult to obtain accurate Chinook and pink return numbers; however, Chris believes this is one of the lowest runs the river has seen since the hatchery opened. Now that the reservoir is full again, he hopes the counter camera will be more accurate during winter salmon runs. Chris S. wondered if it would be valuable for TPU to give an update, particularly on sediment budgets. Morgan will follow up with this, and will schedule a presentation for an upcoming NRC meeting.

- 3. North Thurston Public Schools Hatchery Program** – *Jim Stanton, Volunteer and Dixie Reimer, Science Coach*
The North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) collaborates with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Clear Creek Hatchery Staff to provide hands-on activities for students revolving around the salmon lifecycle. The program was launched in 2007 when Jim first got fish from the Hatchery for class dissections. Today, the program has two parts: taking student crews to Clear Creek Hatchery, and dissecting salmon in the classroom. This year, 4 crews visited the hatchery, with 4-8 students and a teacher per crew. In total, 25 students representing all 4 District high schools volunteered at the Hatchery.

During each visit, the students worked on all tasks associated with spawning, including stunning and milking fish. At the end of the season, 614 fish were taken from 2 hatcheries, including 422 from the Clear Creek Hatchery. Seventy-five classes dissected salmon, including 55 middle school classrooms and 20 high school classes at 6 different schools. In total, 2,100+ students participated in a dissection. According to these estimates, 1,430+ students (51 classes) dissected Nisqually fish.

The District must comply with Next Generation Science Standards, which place importance on place based, hands-on learning. The program fits smoothly into those standards because it relates to curriculum on food webs, ecosystems and more. Dixie noted that the project is successful because of strong partnerships and community ties.

The presentation is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/clear-creek-hatchery-north-thurston-public-schools-volunteer-project>.

- 4. Pierce County Sustainability 2020** – *Ryan Dicks, Sustainability Manager*
Ryan started the Pierce County Sustainability Program 6 years ago, and quickly developed a work plan to guide efforts. The Sustainability 2020 plan will replace the original plan through 2020. Ryan noted that the program has done a great job in the last few years to reduce energy costs, protect human health and improve the environment. With over 3,000 employees, 1,000 vehicles and 70 buildings, county-based actions add up quickly. The program has 4 main goals: save money; limit waste; protect the environment; and protect human health. Within the new plan, there are 10 focus areas and 15 specific goals.

The focus areas and goals are:

- Air Quality—Stay in attainment for PM2.5 and attaining the PSCAA daily health goal by 2020.
- Energy—Reduce energy use intensity in County-owned buildings by 30% over 2009 levels; Reduce natural gas use in all County operations by 50% over 2009 levels.
- Human Health—Incentivize County employees to create a personal health plan; improve the health of County residents.
- Purchasing—Reduce office supply purchases by 20%
- Recycling—Reduce tonnage of landfill waste by 30% over 2010 baseline; reduce household waste to 3lbs per person per day
- Resource Lands & Forestry—Grow the agricultural economy by 10%; hire or contract a County forester to create a unified management plan on County owned forest land
- Climate Change Resilience—Complete a climate change resiliency strategy

- Sustainability Education—Educate County employees and residents about saving money, reducing waste, protecting environment and protecting human health
- Transportation—Reduce fossil fuel use by 20% by 2020 in County fleet/ferry; 35% of employees use a commute trip reduction mode of transportation to get to work
- Water Quality—Increase stream quality in at least one watershed to a “B” with all others at a minimum of “C+”; reduce water use by 30% in County facilities.

A complete list of focus areas, goals, sustainability workplans, and ways to get involved can be accessed at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/Index.aspx?NID=2058>. Ryan is accepting comments and feedback on the plan; he will disperse contact information through Morgan.

Feedback/Questions:

- Stephanie noted that preparing for increased population should be included in the plan.
- Chris E. noted that stewardship of backyards could be included under the water quality focus area. Erica Guttman has many useful tools.
- David and Ryan will discuss carbon neutrality; David has several tools that may be useful.

5. For the Good of the Order

Martin noted that, on November 24th, Billy Frank Jr. and Bill Ruckelshaus will be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor.

Stephanie always sees a bald eagle at the Nisqually, including one sitting outside of the building right now.

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, December 18, 2015
NW Trek, 9:30-12:30
NWSP 2016 Brainstorming*