



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

CAC Members Present: *Steve Pruitt, Ed Kenney, Phyllis Farrell, Karelina Resnick, Debbie Anderson, Marjorie Smith, and Lois Ward*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Steve waived the approval of November's meeting minutes. It will be revisited in January.

Highlights of 2015...

Tonight's meeting is a celebration of the work of the NRC, CAC and other watershed groups, especially over the last year.

--*Steve*: The biggest success of 2015 was a decade in the making: Steve originally met with neighbors in the Ohop Valley in 2004 to begin explaining the potential benefits of restoring the valley. Over the last 10 years, the neighbors have seen the benefits of the restoration, including landowners who were initially wary of the project. One of those neighbors recently sold some of his land to the Nisqually Land Trust so the next phase of restoration can begin.

--*Karelina*: On a similar note, Karelina began working in the Ohop Valley 8 years ago during the first Halloween planting party. Planting and watching trees throughout the restoration area has been amazing for her, especially because the older planting sites are forming forests now! To Karelina, that's the kind of thing that got her involved in working with the CAC and NRC.

--*Phyllis*: Phyllis loved the float trip with the Nisqually Land Trust, the CAC visit to the fish counter, and attending the Land Trust fundraiser. She was encouraged to hear about support for salmon recovery projects in local government, and enjoyed presentations by Chris Ellings and scientists at Mount Rainier. The group has been a real learning opportunity for her. Phyllis was also grateful for the hike along the Bud Blancher Trail.

--*Lois*: Lois has lived on the Nisqually delta for 40 years, but she didn't know anything about the Nisqually River. The past year has been a wonderful learning experience. She enjoyed sharing the Land Trust river float with her family, and is so impressed by the Ohop Valley Restoration and Stream Stewards program. It created a sense of appreciation for the water that flows in front of her house and where it comes from. The other joy was that in October 2014, her grandson was born, which keeps Lois very busy.

--*Ed*: It has been satisfying to be a part of the process to get JBLM, DuPont, a gravel company and an environmental coalition to direct Sequelitchew Creek back through its original path. The group has made a lot of progress. Historically, the creek had a good run of coho, but no longer runs where it used to. It's been "adopted" as a part of the Nisqually Watershed.

--*Marjorie*: Marjorie has been following Billy Frank's honors in the Nisqually Valley News. It's touched her to see the honors that's he has received, especially after the oppression he faced. She is also inspired by the Land Trusts restoration efforts, especially to see the trees growing up.

--*Debbie*: This past year, Debbie's schedule has made it hard to attend NRC meetings. She first got involved in 2004, when her brother completed the Stream Stewards class. After all the years, the watershed is still special to her. She loves talking to others about being a good steward, including her 5 grandkids.

--*Morgan*: Morgan enjoyed co-leading the Stream Stewards program and thinks that she, Sheila and Ashley make a great team. She especially enjoyed meeting all the Stream Stewards and is continually inspired by the work they've done. Morgan is also grateful for the strong partnerships within the office and among all watershed groups.

In 2016...

--*Morgan*: Morgan is in the midst of two 2-year projects. Next year she will complete a plan to increase access to the Nisqually River, and will continue to synthesis data collected from the Nisqually Delta Restoration Project. She is looking forward to launching a strategic planning process at the Foundation.

--*Ed*: After the holidays, Ed is going to start organizing a Nisqually Team Climb of Mount Rainier. Morgan, Justin and others are interested in joining him. Phyllis would also love to have Ed arrange some more group hikes next year.

--*Phyllis*: Phyllis would like to continue lobbying and inspiring new Nisqually stewards. She'd also like to be involved with more leadership roles. More and more, so much of the work seems to rely on private funding; she'd like to see a shift to more government support and funding.

--*Karelina*: The biggest project for Karelina is the Friends of the Nisqually Watershed—there are some interesting thoughts about where to go, and to make the watershed identifiable as an entity is on the list of to-dos. Lois is excited to be a part of it.

--*Steve*: Steve would like to start seeing people that he doesn't know—either on TV or in newspapers, etc—start to identify themselves as residents of the Nisqually Watershed. Steve is looking forward to seeing all CAC members in 2016. In his opinion, there's never been a time when the possibilities have been greater, the resources greater and the people more present. The group's strength is in its diversity, and its great that members all have something different that gets our motors going.

For the Good of the Order

Lois will get Ed and her daughter in touch.

Phyllis wondered about the Nisqually River Delta Association—are they still around? Do they ever come to the Nisqually River Council?

Alder Lake levels are rebounding.

Meeting adjourned 7:26pm.