



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Phyllis Farrell, Fred Michelson, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith and Lois Ward*

**Staff Present:** *Morgan Greene*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm. There was a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. They were approved as presented, as was the agenda for the evening.

**Member Goal Reports**

- *Access & Hikes:* Lois noted that Nisqually State Park officially at the end of last month. Several CAC members attended, including Lois, Bob, Marjorie, and David Hymel. Bob offered to share a report of the event at the next NRC meeting. Fred noted that the water trails committee also has several CAC members on it. Morgan noted that the trails committee received a lot of feedback about people who enjoy being close to, but not floating on, the river, so these opportunities are also being documented.
- *Neonicotinoids:* The more Fred formulates ideas about what to write in the letter, the more information he finds that is necessary to include. There are 2 main types of neonicotinoids, and they impact more species than just honeybees. Bob noted that a Harvard study recently published declared neonicotinoids as the main cause of bee decline.
- *CAC Outreach Presentation:* Fred went to UW Video and met with the department's manager. Fred tried to explain the project, the CAC, the NRC, and the watershed's history. Fred believes it should be a 15-minute video, but the manager recommended a 5-minute video instead. Fred also learned that it would take a while to produce correctly, and that it's important to include a clear direction for the future. The manager will send Fred a cost estimate this week.

In past discussion, Phyllis recalled that the video would be about the NRC and the power of the CAC to help the Council. After this conversation, she wondered if the focus should instead be on how citizens groups can support the efforts of non-profits/community organizations. This leads it be more than just an environmental focus, but empowers citizens to become more involved in their community. Bob also liked this idea.

Lois noted that the group seems to have the cart before the horse. For instance, Lois and Phyllis are trying to build up the Sierra Club, and are starting on a smaller scale. They attend a few events with a display board, and will gradually develop more materials. She also noted that the CAC needs to decide its audience before making anything, because this will influence the content included. Fred noted that the CAC does have a display board. He also noted that he thinks a video is the best format to use, especially in the digital age.

Morgan noted that the NRC is exploring the idea of hiring an intern; this project could be added to a list of tasks for the intern. Some members of the CAC were interested in this being an option. Although an intern would likely not be around long enough to produce a video, he/she could help with clarifying the audiences, developing a brochure, and more.

Phyllis asked Morgan to do some research on other citizen groups in the region; perhaps they have similar outreach materials. Morgan will share anything she learns. In the meantime, Fred will wait to hear from the UW Manager, and will contact other video departments to understand options.

- *Marine Protected Area*: Ed was not at the meeting.
- *Coal & Oil Trains*: Fred reminded the group to go to the link he shared at the last meeting to answer questions about this topic: <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Transportation/Congestion-and-Mobility/Coal-and-Oil-Transportation-in-the-Northwest.aspx>. Phyllis also suggested getting on the mailing list of Don Rahm ([rahmdoncdc2451@msn.com](mailto:rahmdoncdc2451@msn.com)); he sends emails with links to articles summarizing events, research, legislation and more.

Phyllis noted that Sandra Romero is active on this topic. She also noted that if federal agencies take precedence over state and local regulations, citizens could also influence their congressmen/women.

- *Systems Management*: Steve was not at the meeting.

#### **Tacoma Methanol Plant:**

Phyllis wondered if this should be a monthly goal. Fred thought that this topic should be brought before the NRC, to determine what (if any) actions should be taken. The CAC could write a letter with comments on the project, with guidance from the NRC. Before that, however, Phyllis suggested researching any impacts to the Nisqually. Lois didn't think this should be a goal, instead she suggested that the CAC bring up the issue at the next NRC meeting.

#### **For the Good of the Order**

Important Dates:

- The next NRC meeting is on February 19, 2016 at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.
- The next CAC meeting is on March 8 at the new Tribe's Natural Resources Office.
- Winter Water Quality Monitoring Day is on February 11 and Student GREEN Congress is on March 15. Please email Sheila to sign up to volunteer.

Fred will share his pictures of the rowing team with Morgan, who will distribute.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.