



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Carl Rotter, Ed Kenney, Phyllis Farrell, Karelina Resnick, Debbie Anderson, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith and Lois Ward*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. There was a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. They were approved as presented, as was the agenda for the evening.

Member Goal Reports

- *Access & Hikes:* Carl reported that the Nisqually State Park construction project is nearly complete. The new facility includes a mounting block, pit toilet and parking lot. Carl is coordinating with Tom Pew to present on the work to the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce. The CAC wondered if there were any plans for UW to sell a portion of their land to State Parks to better accommodate for river access; this question will be asked on Friday at the NRC meeting. Carl also plans to attend the Parks Commissioners meeting next month; a report will be given at the February CAC meeting. Both Ed and Carl agreed that talking to the Commissioners is the best way to achieve action.

Carl also noted that the Bud Blancher trail is well used and much appreciated. Phyllis would be interested in learning more about future CAC-led hikes as well as those hosted by the Nisqually Land Trust.

- *Neonicotinoids:* Fred started by reporting that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is launching a 2-year trial period in eliminating a required 30-minute break for truckers carrying beehives. Without the wind provided by the moving trucks, the hives can easily overheat causing fatalities. Additionally, the EPA completed the first scientific risk assessment on the impacts of bees after treating various crops with neonicotinoids. The study found that negative impacts occurred on treated cotton and citrus crops, but not on other major crops like corn, berries and tobacco. The study measured the parts per million brought back to the hive. It only studied honey bees, not native pollinators. The article is available here: <http://wasba.org/epa-says-pesticide-harms-bees-in-some-cases/>. Fred is encouraged because it's the first time the EPA has acknowledged harmful consequences of neonicotinoids. Required actions—Fred still wants to write a letter to the WA Dept of Agriculture and Dept of Ecology. He is currently in research mode, and will complete the letter once all the facts are laid out.
- *CAC Outreach Presentation:* See below.
- *Marine Protected Area:* Ed just returned from his 54th visit to a MPA. The Hawaiian island was just bought by Oracle, and he was concerned about the impacts, but realized the only way to fully capture the impacts is to have boots-on-the-ground. He found massive amounts of invasive fish species had moved into the waters. Ed noted that the invasive species are all brilliantly colored, beautiful fish, like the blue dragon nudibranch. The water temperatures aren't yet warm enough for them to produce, but the adults are there in droves. He noted that an advantage of MPAs are the biologists and users that follow—its easy to have eyes on the ground to track changes.

- *Coal & Oil Trains*: Fred informed the group about the Municipal Research Services Center of Washington (MRSC), a non-profit organizations that provides unbiased research on multiple topics. In particular, Fred noted the group has multiple resources on coal and oil trails in the state, which can be accessed here: <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Transportation/Congestion-and-Mobility/Coal-and-Oil-Transportation-in-the-Northwest.aspx>

Roger Andrascik also shared information on the proposed methanol plant in Tacoma. It would be the world's largest plant and would convert natural gas into methanol. The plant would require lots of water and energy to run. Public meetings are scheduled in Tacoma. An article is available here: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/politics-government/article47202115.html>.

- *Systems Management*: Topic will be revisited in February.

Membership Expansion – next steps

At the November meeting, Fred offered to head a subcommittee to determine the best way to move forward with the project. Fred will meet with the UW Department of Videography next week to explore options. Phyllis has also mentioned the project to Allie Denzler. Karelina suggested working with Masters Students, which may be a cheaper (or free) option. Fred noted that the materials are likely already in place for the video, but the time would be spent more developing scripts and rehearsing materials. He anticipates this taking a couple of years to produce.

The goal of the project is to educate the public as well as to recruit new members. Lois noted that it should also include a vision for the future. Karelina noted that a simpler, cheaper thing is to develop a brochure to hand to potential members. She recalls the group deciding to develop 3 things: a brochure, a video, and a PowerPoint. The brochure will be developed first.

New Meeting Locations

- Olympia Federal Bank (Yelm)—free location, centrally located
- Prairie Motel—may require a fee
- Retirement building in Yelm – Phyllis has used it for free before
- New Office location—Morgan will ask David about this

For the Good of the Order

Fred shared an article on small mouth bass that have been transforming from male to female, likely as a response to water pollution.

Carl wondered about the Nisqually River Water Trail. Additional access sites potentially include at the Yelm-Tenino Trail and Nisqually Pines. Bob Smith's road (Castle Lane) is also available for emergency use. As a reminder, the scope of the project is from State Park to Luhr Beach.

Fred noted that the property recently purchased by the Land Trust is the final piece of unprotected land in the estuary. He worked extensively with George Walter to make the deal come through. It was purchased using mitigation funds.

Meeting adjourned 7:26pm.