



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Nisqually River Council Meeting**  
**December 18, 2015**  
**NW Trek**  
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

**Council Members**

**Amy Cruver** – Pierce County  
**Darric Lowery** – WA Dept Fish & Wildlife  
**Amber Martens** – JBLM  
**Glynnis Nakai** – Nisqually Nt'l Wildlife Refuge

**Gary Stamper** – Lewis County  
**David Troutt** – Nisqually Indian Tribe  
**Charrisa Waters** – Thurston County  
**\* CAC Representatives (3)**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

**Phyllis Farrell\***  
**Ed Kenney**  
**Steve Pruitt\***

**Karelina Resnick\***  
**Marjorie Smith**  
**Bob Smith**

**Guests**

**Roger Andrascik** – Stream Stewards/Land Trust  
**Hannah Andrascik** – Pierce County citizen  
**Chris Conklin** – WA Dept Fish & Wildlife

**Chris Ellings** – Nisqually Indian Tribe  
**Rachel Mueller** – NW Trek  
**Brian Sullivan** – Nisqually Land Trust

**Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Morgan Greene** – Nisqually River Council  
**Justin Hall** – Nisqually River Foundation  
**Joe Kane** – Nisqually Land Trust

**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 9:58 am.

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

**2. Reports**

**Advisory Committee Reports**

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC had an end-of-year celebration potluck last week. Members reflected on accomplishments in 2015 and goals for 2016.
- *Chair Report* – The Executive Committee (EC) met this week to reevaluate the role the EC plays, and to follow-up on action items initially developed during NRC meetings. The EC also discussed ways to better focus meetings on NWSP topics.

In other news, the Olympia ran an editorial congratulating Billy Frank and his family in light of the renaming of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Since the November meeting, the Frank family accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Billy's behalf. With the renaming of the Refuge, thoughts on the celebration are just beginning to be brainstormed. Further reports to follow. Planning for Canoe Journey is very active, and there are opportunities to become involved for those interested.

David reported that Pack Surf and the Land, Water and Conservation funds were retained in the budget. Finally, David is working with SRF Board to find ways to increase funding for capital projects related to Salmon Recovery. This will involve NRC input, and David will continue to provide updates.

- *Staff Report* – Morgan reported that the Nisqually River Water Trail planning team hosted a meeting at the Nisqually Indian Tribe library last week to provide better communication with tribal members. The next step is to develop recommendations and produce a draft plan by March. The Eatonville Salmon Fest wrap-up meeting highlighted that this year's Festival was most well attended yet. Likewise, Morgan, Sheila and Ashley met to discuss successes and weaknesses of the Nisqually Stream Stewards course.

In other news, Morgan provided a copy of the 2016 NRC meeting schedule, which includes monthly NWSP topics. The monthly theme will provide an outlet to plug ideas and follow-up conversations into the agenda. The list is available here: <http://nisquallyriver.org/who-we-are/nisqually-river-council-meetings/>.

### **Allied Programs**

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Roger Andrascik was elected to the NLT Board last night. Roger was also heavily involved with the Nisqually Stream Stewards, and is excited to stay involved in the watershed now that he's retired. Sadly, Barb Wood passed away suddenly 2 weeks ago. The NLT is working to acquire some of her land; her husband is still on board. On a happier note, the NLT closed on a small property in Hogam Bay last week. It was the last piece of estuary left unprotected. The carbon credit deal has received national attention; the final step is simply a 'check in the box.'

Joe attended Pierce County Council meetings regarding changes to the Conservation Futures program, and was amazed by the number of citizens who came to protest those changes. In the end, the Council voted 6-1 to negate any changes. Finally, the annual Conservation Dinner will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Indian Summer Golf Course. Tickets will cost \$50 more than last year, but will include a \$50 voucher for use at the auction.

- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila reported that in lieu of field trips, December is dedicated to grant applications and reporting. She submitted a \$60,000 grant application to NFWF, and is working on applications for No Child Left Inside, and one to benefit obese children.

Looking ahead to next year, salmon tossing field trips will occur in January, as will a community volunteer tossing on January 9<sup>th</sup>. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Eye on Nature field trip fundraiser at Fish Tales—the location is now family friendly! Student GREEN Congress will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>; the keynote speaker will be Hanford McCloud and the Canoe Family. An anonymous donor recently offered \$100 stipends to each teacher who attends. Finally, Sheila is working on the NOAA grant although work will begin fully in April.

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – The NRF has its annual planning retreat early in the month to discuss plans for next year, examine the budget, and to develop the NWSP agenda for 2016. The Tribal 2% Charitable Dinner was held on Wednesday, and the NRF received \$5,000. Justin noted that several sources of funding have fallen through, and that the budget hole will be fairly significant. Justin will present on the complete budget in January. In the past, the NRF has been a staffing solution for partner organizations; Justin charges a small overhead fee in exchange for hiring capabilities. Additionally, Morgan has time available to work for NRC member organizations to complete projects such as the Delta Data report.

Morgan and Sheila have spearheaded an effort to complete strategic planning over the next year. The NRF received \$5,000 from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and is exploring partnerships with the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound. The process will begin in the second quarter of 2016. Aleks has headed an effort to update the NRC and NREP websites—feedback is welcomed.

Finally, some of the Community Forest funding originated from PIDA, and an extension was needed to finish the project, which required approval from the NRC. Due to a short timeline, the Executive Committee approved the project on the NRC's behalf. It was a 60-day, no cost extension.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – The Tribe's Natural Resources Department recently completed a strategic planning exercise, which was an opportunity to lay out activities for 2016. Some of these projects include:

- *Model the impacts of different land management scenarios on fish populations, under the context of climate change.* The model will examine the Mashel Watershed, with scenarios including full build-out of Eatonville and with the Community Forest.
- *Reexamine management on Chinook stock, the weir, and the hatchery.*
- *Develop a coho hatchery genetic plan.* The original coho management plan needs to be updated, but this process will capture climate change impacts as well as current conditions.
- *Continue a marine mammal predation study to look at sealion feeding on adult salmon.* Scat analysis will test genetics to determine species of fish consumed.

In other news, the fall and winter salmon returns have been horrible. Pinks were an order of magnitude less than projected; natural Chinook were virtually non-existent and had to be supplemented with hatchery Chinook; coho runs are off to a slow start, and chum haven't been noticed yet. Lastly, Chris noted that the Department is aware of erosion occurring on the Eatonville Log Jam. An engineer is looking at the damage and will determine how best to fix it. The log jams were designed to be planted to provide strength, so it may be necessary to fence them off.

### 3. NWSP Brainstorming—Projects, funding, presentations:

The NWSP is the NRC's guiding document and has been updated a couple of times. It has a basic mission and overall goals, as well as 11 indicators. All the topics revolve around the three arms of sustainability: environment, community and economy. Each year, Justin and Morgan are able to take on about 3-4 additional projects. Examples for this year include Community Forest, Nisqually River Water Trail and Delta Data. What should be our priorities over the next 1-3 years?

Chris noted that it will be important to tie any work into the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound, which is the link to key funding sources. Justin and Chris will present these ideas at AHSS meetings, but a large discussion should be held with the consultant for the Alliance's strategic planning process.

- *January/Recreation:*
  - Greater Eatonville Cultural Heritage Area—Karelina is helping connect with the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce to take over leadership.
  - Highlight the two anchors of watershed, especially with the renaming of the Refuge & 100 year anniversary of National Park Service.
  - When examining recreation, considering school transportation should be included. Promoting the development of recreation opportunities that are compatible with sensitive environments should also be important.
- *February/Biological Diversity:*
  - Presentations – reintroduction of the fisher; marine mammal study
  - Action items – Host a bio blitz, for either a school or a community group. Ohop Valley could be a great location. Promote the foraging of invasive species. Develop metrics to measure the uniqueness of the Basin's biodiversity.
- *March/Community Wellness:*
  - Action – reconnect with local growers and encourage Salmon Safe practices.
- *April/Ecosystem Functions:*
  - Action – develop metrics, including the amount of carbon sequestered in the watershed. Host a 'State of the Watershed' day. Develop a list of research questions & solicit to universities, to help fill gaps in inventory. JBLM attends the TESC research fair with a similar goal.
- *May/Culture and Arts:*
  - Action – Make a calendar that highlights Culture and Arts functions. Provide calendars online of food seasonality.
  - Presentations -- Greater Eatonville Heritage Area; Hanford and Canoe Journey
- *June/Economic Viability of Natural Resources:*
  - In the past, the NRC has worked with groups to increase local production, and the Community Forest will also work towards this indicator.
  - Action – establish a secondary mill in the upper watershed.
  - Presentation – brush picker (example of a non-traditional NR use)
- *July/Retreat:*
  - Elbe Train; MTTA Huts; Inn at Paradise; Hikes

- *August/Sustainable Tourism:*
  - Tying together the NRWT, Bountiful Byways, and other “trails” could result in a network of self-guided tours.
  - Action – become more active on the Bountiful Byways Advisory Committee. Morgan will get in touch with Becca to learn more, and will send out a request for participation through NRC.
  - Presentation: NRF presentation on the projects worked on beforehand.
- *December/Watershed Education:*
  - Nisqually River Education Project and Nisqually Stream Stewards
  - Action item – 2016 will be the year of increased social media. Topics to highlight: the impacts of building rock dams.
- **MISC:**
  - Creating measurable and definable metrics to each indicator—necessary to tie into AHSS.
  - Any links to GMA? Involved with Shoreline Master Program updates? → We’ve had presentations on both topics in the past, but we haven’t been an active voice. Getting involved in the pre-planning processes with governments is a good idea.
  - The NRF staff will spend time developing workplans to move forward with NWSP project suggestions. A plan to move forward will be presented at the January meeting.
  - Focusing on climate adaptation, sustainable tourism, ecosystem services and developing a state of the watershed report card should be top agenda items for 2016.

A copy of the NWSP is available on the NRC website. The Powerpoint presented at the meeting is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-watershed-stewardship-plan-project-brainstorming>.

#### 4. **For the Good of the Order**

Sadly, Don Perry passed away about a month ago. His mark on the watershed includes a decade of leading the Nisqually Stream Stewards class.

Last week, the Land Trust formally deeded the Manke Property to the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 12:21pm.

*Next Meeting: Friday, January 15, 2016  
UW Pack Forest, 9:30-12:30  
NWSP Topic: Recreation*