



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

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Fred Michelson, Steve Pruitt, Ed Kenney, and Lois Ward*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm. There was a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. They were approved as presented, as was the agenda for the evening. Lois clarified that she was not at the State Park opening event as the minutes showed.

HIMARS Rocket Update

Fred shared a history of the HIMARS rockets. JBLM will be test firing these rockets to determine if they are suitable to use at JBLM; in the past, they've been launched in Yakima. The rockets are slated to be fired March 15-17, at 10:00am, 2:00pm and 7:00pm. Three rockets will be fired at each time, about 10 to 15 minutes apart. The rockets won't be fired over I-5 or surrounding communities. In the CAC presentation to the NRC, it will be noted that the CAC wants to partner with the NRC to take the appropriate next steps.

Phyllis also wondered about helicopter training in Olympic National Park. Fred reported that this training exercise is still ongoing. He was unsure of the affects on marine mammals.

Member Goal Reports

- Access & Hikes: The Water Trail committee floated the river from the Mashel confluence to McKenna Park yesterday. Ed noted that one of the barriers to increased public access is the potential impacts on threatened fish. However, in his opinion, the river conditions yesterday were ideal based on river clarity: the boaters couldn't see fish, and the fish couldn't see the boaters. Ed plans to make a recommendation to the planning committee to limit access based on river clarity rather than times of year.

In other news, Ed is not recommending any snow hiking right now, especially at Mount Rainier. Lately, the Park gates haven't been opened on time, leaving very little time to hike before returning to leave gates on time. Additionally, the avalanche danger is extreme right now. Instead, Ed recommends hiking areas lower in the watershed.

Fred shared an article about a book called "A Guide to 100 Peaks at Mount Rainier." More information is available at www.peakbagger.com.

- Neonicotinoids: Fred noted that Rusty Burlew's website (www.honeybeesuite.com) is informative and full of beautiful pictures. There are 250 species of native bees in Washington State alone!
- CAC Outreach Presentation: The UW Videography program sent Fred a bid for developing the CAC video, but it was out of the group's price range. Fred has since been brainstorming ways to raise money for the project, and researching other groups to contact. Phyllis felt that the novelty of the NRC is the collaboration of all entities, and that the CAC is an important part of that collaborative atmosphere. She feels that provides a basis for asking for grant funds from different sources,

because it could provide a blueprint for other citizens groups. Perhaps it's a good idea to find smaller grant sources to get the group started, or to work with college and/or high school students who might be willing to do it for free. Steve suggested that by the next meeting, each CAC member come prepared with 3 "hooks" that the video/outreach presentation should include.

- Marine Protected Area: Ed noted that there has been a lot of news worldwide about acquisitions and improvements to MPAs, but there is no movement towards a similar system in Puget Sound. This in part stems from the current management systems in the area. Ed's latest focus has been increasing the amount of artificial reef in Puget Sound which helps increase habitat for multiple species.
- Coal & Oil Trains: The passenger trains are being separated from coal and oil trains in the Nisqually Watershed. This is the construction project happening on Mounts Road by the JBLM golf course. Passenger trains will head north up I-5; the coal and oil trains will remain along the beach.
- Systems Management: Nothing at this time.

Tacoma Methanol Plant

The request for the permit is on hold, but the group felt as though the issue wasn't dead. According to the news, the company was surprised by the public outcry about the project.

Climate Change

Fred shared an article on unseasonably warm weather in February. A station at Long Beach recorded a 78-degree day on February 8th. Paradise was 70 degrees that same day.

For the Good of the Order

Ed shared details on his recent trip to Patagonia.

Fred would like a presentation on tax rates on imported and exported oil and coal at an upcoming NRC meeting. Both Lois and Phyllis will share the names of potential speakers with Morgan.

Important Dates:

- The next NRC meeting is on March 18, 2016 at Northwest Trek from 9:30 to 12:30.
- The April CAC meeting will be CANCELLED.
- Student GREEN Congress is on March 15. The Stream Stewards will be hosting an event at the Nisqually Tribe's Garden on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.