



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Debbie Anderson, Fred Michelson, Steve Pruitt, Ed Kenney, and Lois Ward*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. There was a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. They were approved as presented, as was the agenda for the evening.

Mission Statement Approval

The draft mission statement is to “Inspire, support, and promote Nisqually River Council and citizen efforts to create a sustainable environment, economy and community.” The group voted to change it to read: The mission of the CAC is to “inspire, support, and promote Nisqually River Council and citizen efforts to create a sustainable environment, economy and community in the Nisqually Watershed.” There was a motion to propose the new mission statement to the NRC; the motion was approved unanimously. Fred suggested that the CAC webpage be updated to include the new mission statement once its been approved by the Council.

Member Goal Reports

The group discussed several new topics to be added to the monthly list of topics. Phyllis and Morgan will be attending Thurston Regional Planning Council climate adaptation meetings, and will update the group as needed. Ed will begin a conversation on nitrogen budgets in the river, and tools to track it over time. Steve noted that this topic could be expanded to include stormwater runoff, nitrogen, and reporting water quality throughout the watershed. A staff report will be included as well. Finally, Steve suggested that the list of topics be re-written as specific goals. Steve, Phyllis, and Morgan will meet in the next few weeks to work on this language; the goals will be finalized next meeting.

- Access & Hikes: The CAC should have representation on groups that are promoting/working on access issues.
 - Land-based Recreation: Ed is not recommending any hikes between Powell Creek and Eatonville right now due to a recently explosion in tick populations. In other news, snow levels are already melted to above 5,000 feet. While there is a great snow zone between 7,000 and 12,000 feet, the conditions above and below that are not conducive to snowshoeing. The park has extended its hours again, and chains are no longer required.
 - Water trail planning: Morgan reported that a draft plan is available and will be spread to the greater public in the next couple of months. The last Advisory Committee meeting was more lively than expected, but Morgan is hopeful that all stakeholders will be able to reach a compromise that is acceptable to all. Steve noted that river access has been a highly contested issue for years.
- Neonicotinoids: Fred recently went to Home Depot, and still was unable to find any plants that hadn't been treated with neonicotinoids. Fred met with the manager of the Lacey Lowes and was told that certain Farm Mark brand plants were not treated with neonicotinoids. Additionally, by 2018, Lowes will not sell any plants treated with the chemicals; Fred will complete further research.

- CAC Outreach Presentation: Fred called TESC, but they haven't returned his call yet. He will continue to follow-up, and will update Morgan as needed. Fred remembered Karelina had wanted to produce a brochure first, although he doesn't think that takes the place of the video. He would be willing to help develop a brochure, if others are willing to take the lead.
- Marine Protected Area: Nothing at this time.
- Coal & Oil Trains: Fred reported that the good news is that, largely because of efforts by the Lummi Tribe, the Army Corps of Engineers denied permits for a terminal at Cherry Point. The company could still appeal the decision or work out a compromise with the Lummi Tribe. In other news, there is another proposed terminal in Longview, and the Columbia Riverkeepers asked Fred to provide comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Comments are due June 13. Fred showed maps of the headwaters of the Missouri River and Yellowstone Watershed, including the Tongue River and Power River, to describe the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and other Tribes that fought the Federal Government for taking their land and resources (<http://tinyurl.com/jkf2rfy> and <http://tinyurl.com/j28ns4f>). Ironically, this is the same location where coal would originate in the proposed Washington coal/oil terminals. According to Fred, the fight to deny the Cherry Point Terminal lead by the Lummi Tribe is akin to those tribes fought after the Civil War. The last battle is to keep the Columbia River Terminal at Longview from being permitted. Fred noted that it is revealing how our tribes continue to try and keep the environment and plant from being polluted.
- Systems Management: See below.
- Tools to track/understand water quality: There are 3 main issues of interest under this topic: stormwater runoff, nitrogen, and tracking water quality throughout the watershed. Additionally, Steve reminded the group that Dan Wrye's presentation had offered the NRC an opportunity to coordinate and develop a standardized procedure for testing, analyzing, and reporting water quality. Steve suggested that David Troutt attend a future meeting to discuss possibilities. This topic will start in information gathering phase, before developing strategy or actions.
- TRPC Climate Adaptation Plan: Phyllis and Morgan will be attending these meetings and will update the CAC as planning moves forward.

Systems Management – Steve Pruitt

According to the Systems Management perspective, the whole watershed is one system which functions in one cyclic process, each process creating a whole new watershed. Each cycle has an introduction, transformation, and product. This began 15,000 years ago when huge ice sheets covered the entire Puget Sound region, changing or creating the Nisqually Watershed into the geologic landscape it is today. The most significant new introduction since then was the movement of Native Americans into the area. The product of the cycle was the Biosphere—an ecological environment that had almost no negative impact from human involvement. The white settlers arrived, bringing technology and an ideology that nature is something that should be harnessed and controlled. Unlike in the biosphere, the watershed was viewed as a vast array of resources, and changed the purpose of the watershed from sustaining its natural state to providing for human wealth and comfort. This was the Technosphere. Now, many people have come to realize the harmful impacts humans have had on the environment. The 3rd major introduction in Steve's opinion is the realization that humans acted unsustainably. This led to the 3rd transformative event, or the creation of the NRC. This cycle is the Knowosphere.

Next time: How to use the Knowosphere to create a partnership between the Biosphere and Technosphere.

For the Good of the Order

Fred shared a News Tribune article on melting ice and shifting jet streams. It is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/gkrj8x3>.

Important Dates:

- The next NRC meeting is on May 20, 2016 at Northwest Trek from 9:30 to 12:30.
- The June CAC meeting is on Tuesday June 14 from 6-8pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.