



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Carl Rotter, Phyllis Farrell, Bob Smith, Lois Ward, Debbie Anderson, Steve Pruitt, Fred Michelson, and Lois Ward*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:18pm. Lois' name was put on the May minutes twice; Morgan will make the correction. Pending that correction, there was a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening. There was a brief discussion on septic systems, stormwater runoff, and enforcing water quality standards. Phyllis was interested in bringing this topic into the CAC's discussion of current issues.

Nominations

Both the NRC and CAC will elect a Chair and Vice Chair at their respective July meetings. The CAC will also elect a third voting member. Morgan will accept nominations until July 11th. Steve was nominated as Chair; Phyllis was nominated as Vice Chair, and Lois was nominated as the third voting member. Please email any additional nominations to morgan@nisquallyriver.org.

Mission Statement/Goal Planning

The mission statement approved at the May meeting reads: The CAC's mission is "to inspire, support, and promote the Nisqually River Council and citizen efforts to create a sustainable environment, economy and community in the Nisqually Watershed." Steve also shared draft language that placed each member report into three achievable goals: watershed trails, river access and hikes; current issues; and systems management.

1. *Watershed Trails and River Access and Hikes:* The CAC is a valued member/participant in the significant groups that are promoting/working on Nisqually Watershed trails and access issues – and a resource for trail and river users in the watershed. The CAC website provides a comprehensive guide to trails and access. CAC members sponsor regular outdoor activities for recreational, education, and conservation purposes.
 - a. The group felt this language encompassed the CAC's desires and vision for the future.
2. *Current Issues:* The CAC is a resource for education, improved practices, and advocacy on an array of current watershed threats and opportunities, such as neonicotinoids, coal and oil trails, marine protected area threats, water quality/quantity/habitat management, climate adaptation planning, etc. The CAC website directs interested citizens to vital information. The CAC engages the NRC in meaningful dialogue, and supports or takes the lead on any initiatives approved by the Council.
 - a. The CAC had no edits at this time.
3. *Systems Management:* The CAC develops and advocates for a "systems-based" approach to watershed management. The CAC provides input and resources to the NRC. The CAC website advocates for watershed-wide learning of the systems model. The CAC promotes funding and volunteerism for appropriate watershed education initiatives. The CAC creates brochures and video presentations to promote continued education and CAC participation.

- a. Phyllis asked for clarification on the phrase “promotes funding.” Steve noted that in the past, the CAC has helped fundraise for the Nisqually River Education Project; this could be continued as necessary.
- b. A potential strategy for achieving this goal is to approach NRC member agencies requesting presentations on positions & applications to the Nisqually Watershed. Rotating member agencies could be given 3-5 minutes per meeting to share their thoughts.
- c. The group also noted that this goal may provide useful in educating newer members of the NRC about the role and importance of the CAC.

Carl made a motion to present the new mission statement and goal statements to the NRC at the June meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Morgan will bring copies of the language to the NRC meeting, and a more lengthy discussion of the mission statement and goals will be included at the July NRC retreat.

Member Goal Reports

This section will be updated to reflect the newly approved CAC goals at the July meeting.

- Access & Hikes: Ed sent a report that Steve shared in his absence. Climbing rangers have opened the summer trail to Panorama Point above Paradise, which is easier than the winter trail. It still has snow on it. Carl noted that the gate is open at the Nisqually State Park, and requires a Discover Pass to park in the parking lot. He noted that trailheads near Snoqualmie Pass are always packed with people; the Nisqually has not been able to tap into that full potential yet.
- Neonicotinoids: Fred spoke to the manager at Lowes, who noted that by 2018, the store would not sell any treated plants. In the meantime, Lowes offers plants from Farm Mark that are not treated with neonicotinoids. Phyllis noted that the Thurston Regional Transportation Plan now has language related to removing fish barriers and fostering bee friendly habitat creation; the County also banned neonicotinoids on their property. Debbie will ask if Jason’s Nursery in Yelm sells chemical free plants; Lois will follow-up with The Farm. Steve envisioned that the CAC website would eventually have a list of nurseries that are vetted and approved by the group.
- CAC Outreach Presentation: Nothing at this time.
- Marine Protected Area: Nothing at this time.
- Coal & Oil Trains: Lois reported that an oil train derailed on the Columbia River recently. Phyllis attended a hearing on the Longview Coal Terminal; approximately 1,500 people attended. She was there for about 3 hours, and provided written comments. Multiple Tribes stemming from Montana, Oregon, Idaho and Washington, provided representatives. Fred noted that that town has always been an industry town, and needs the jobs the terminal would provide.
- Systems Management: See Executive Committee report
- Tools to track/understand water quality: See Executive Committee report
 - Septic Systems/stormwater runoff: Nothing at this time.
 - Nitrogen budget: Nothing at this time.
- TRPC Climate Adaptation Plan: Morgan reported that the first Advisory Committee meeting was held last week and will meet approximately once per month for a year. The first meeting helped lay the framework for the planning process, including brainstorming successful outcomes, top impacts, and other concerns. The number and diversity of people at the table impressed Phyllis, who plans to attend also.
- Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met last week, though Sandra was unable to attend. The meeting had three topics: standardized water quality monitoring; systems management; and the Thurston County Bountiful Byway Advisory Committee.

At the meeting, David mentioned that he is pursuing ways to give the Tribe more authority to influence water quality standards on waters flowing through the reservation; there will be more updates as the process continues. Carl noted that surface water management is more than water quality: it also relates to outflow locations, water table height, and other details. Fred also noted that EPA and WA Dept of Ecology set strict standards for water quality in the state. Given the many questions, the group suggested that this be a topic of education at future meetings.

The second topic was on the Thurston Bountiful Byway Advisory Committee meeting. Two CAC members attended a meeting several months ago, and had less than positive experiences. Steve is going to connect with Sandra to see if there is a meaningful role for NRC/CAC members, or if Sandra should act as the liaison between the groups. Finally, the Executive Committee spoke about a Systems Management approach to watershed management. Steve will talk to Clint Hackney about possibilities for being a consultant in the process.

- **Staff Report:** The NRC meeting is on Friday at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Morgan is looking for members to be a part of the nomination subcommittee, which will lead the process in electing a new Chair and Vice Chair. Both Lois and Fred agreed to help out. The 2016 Nisqually Stream Stewards class has reached its capacity, with 20 people on the waiting list. Congratulations to Lois, Bob and Marjorie who completed their 40 hours of volunteer service after having joined the group last year. Planning has begun for the Nisqually Watershed Festival and Eatonville Salmon Fest, which will take place on September 24 and October 15, respectively.

Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan and CAC Role in NWSP Implementation

This will be moved to a different meeting.

Continuing Education Training

Steve, Phyllis, and Morgan met last week to discuss the possibility of offering education and training for CAC members. Lois believed that it might be interesting to learn more about other volunteer opportunities; it could relate to NSS topics.

For the Good of the Order

Carl moved that the NRC commend David Uberaga for his excellent work as a National Park Service employee, including as Superintendent at Mount Rainier. He recently retired. Bryan and/or Roger could help provide details on what to write.

Phyllis received a memo on a bill from Denny Heck that will amend the National Water Pollution Control Act to improve water quality in Puget Sound. It has sections that relate to discussions today.

Ed Kenney asked that Phyllis talk about the visit to the Yelm Wastewater Facility. Ed, Fred, Lois, and Phyllis visited the facilities in April and believed that, despite a good group of staff, monitoring and maintenance wasn't being completed as regularly as needed.

Important Dates:

- The next NRC meeting is on June 17, 2016 at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge from 9:00am to 12:00pm.
- The July CAC meeting is on Tuesday July 12 from 6-8pm. Elections will take place at this meeting. The August meeting will be cancelled; CAC members are invited to attend a Stream Stewards class instead.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.