



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Steve Pruitt, Carl Rotter, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith, Ed Kenney, Lois Ward and Ed Kenney*

Guests: *Marless Blackbird*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:13pm. There was a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening.

Port of Olympia Fracking Sands – Marless Blackbird

Marless was invited to join the CAC by Grace Ann. Both Grace and Marless are actively involved in protests regarding fracking and coal and oil train exports. Marless recently returned from Standing Rock, and is now investing her time in protesting fracking sands being shipped through the Port of Olympia. The group she is involved with recently started a petition to mark fracking sands as hazardous materials, rather than cargo as they are currently. The CAC suggested contacting the new Thurston County Commissioner, Gary Edwards. Phyllis also noted that the Sierra Club endorsed 2 of the Port Commissioners because of their environmentally friendly platforms. Marless believes the support of community groups and Tribal Nations will be key in activism. Steve suggested that the CAC stay up-to-date with this information via Grace; Morgan will stay connected with Grace and will report to the CAC when Grace is unable to attend meetings.

Round Robin:

- 1) Phyllis – Phyllis enjoyed last month's NRC meeting on wolf recovery. She was impressed by the Wolf Advisory Group's scientific approach to management. The election results continue to weigh on Phyllis' mind, including its potential impacts on the Nisqually Watershed and Puget Sound.
- 2) Lois – Lois also enjoyed last month's NRC meeting. She appreciated the nonpartisan views of the presentation and appreciated learning more about what people can do to reduce wolf-human conflicts.
- 3) Ed – Ed will provide an update on water quality issues/sources next month.
- 4) Carl – Fishers were recently released in Mount Rainier National Park. Carl is also interested in learning more about the Hirst Water Case and how it will impact the Nisqually Watershed, specifically the drilling of private wells in Pierce County.
- 5) Bob & Marjorie – Thurston County is implementing a tax charge to all houses with septic systems. According to the County, this tax is designed to treat the failing septic systems & groundwater protection as a community-wide (County scale) problem. Bob and Marjorie enjoy reading High Country News; last month's issue had an article on wolf conservation issues.
- 6) Steve – Today Steve met with Pierce County to talk about the bridges on Ohop Valley Road east of Pioneer Farm. The Salmon Enhancement Group and County agreed to take a more collaborative and community-based approach to solving the problem of rotting bridge ends. Additionally, Steve noted that Department of Ecology is working to develop new water quality standards, which will be released next year. Each jurisdiction currently follows different methods to reach those standards.

He noted that Dan Wrye has agreed to participate in planning standardized methods across each jurisdiction in the Nisqually Watershed. They have submitted a proposal to Department of Ecology to see if they'll consider using the project as a pilot program.

- 7) Morgan – Thank you, Ed, for the fun day in the field last week! Go check out his blog post at nisquallyriver.org!

Member Recruitment – *Karelina Resnick*

Karelina sent Morgan an email this week, suggesting that member recruitment be added to the list of monthly CAC goals. She also suggested creating meeting formats that are more active, rather than discussion based.

For the Good of the Order

Important dates:

- NRC Meeting: December 16, 2016 from 9-12 at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Next CAC meeting is scheduled to be on Tuesday, January 10 from 6-8 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.