



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Ed Kenney, Lois Ward, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, and Fred Michelson*

Guests Present: *Glen and Jeaneil Thomas*

Staff Present: *Morgan Greene*

Welcome and Introductions

Lois called the meeting to order at 6:12pm. There was a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening.

Fred suggested that Ed share his water quality sleuthing with Chris and/or Ashley. Bob noted that Gary Edwards, Thurston County Commissioner, is focusing energy on Victoria's wastewater pollution.

Member Goals

- Watershed Trails/River Access and Hikes: Ed reported that Mount Rainier National Park has fluctuating avalanche danger, including an "extreme" risk on Monday. The Nisqually side is the most dangerous side right now, and chains are required on the road. Snow tires are best, but all weather tires can be difficult. Eatonville's Bud Blancher Trail is a great hiking spot and even connects to the Little Mashel Falls in Pack Forest. The chances of seeing eagles are very high right now, especially around the Eatonville area. Also, the male owl has been spotted at the Refuge; this is typically the time when the owls mate and produce young. The water trail project is still moving forward, including the development of a website, map and guide for the lower section of the river.
- Current Issues: Nothing at this time.
- Water Quality: NREP's winter water quality monitoring day is on Thursday, February 16. Volunteers are appreciated! Email Sheila Wilson to help. Student GREEN Congress is March 23, and volunteers are also needed for that event.
- Systems Management: N/A

Sequalitchew Creek Restoration – Ed Kenney

The area surrounding Chambers Bay, DuPont and Steilacoom provide the best gravel in Washington State. Years ago, Ed, Fred and other partners joined forces to prevent the destruction of Sequalitchew Creek from the development of a huge gravel pit. After years of collaboration, Ed and multiple stakeholders are close to reaching an agreement to allow some gravel mining while restoring the creek. He'll provide updates as available.

Lake St. Clair/McAllister Creek Ecosystem Services project – Lois Ward

The City of Olympia and the Nisqually Indian Tribe recently completed the very first Ecosystem Services transaction in the Nisqually Watershed, in collaboration with the Nisqually Land Trust, Nisqually River Foundation and other partners. The deal protects the drinking water of the cities of Lacey and Olympia, while protecting forests and providing recreation opportunities. Justin Hall was very involved in the project, and could answer any additional questions that arise.

NRF Staff Report – Morgan Greene

The next CAC meeting overlaps with the Eye on Nature fundraiser; the group suggested it be moved to Wednesday, March 15 instead. Morgan will email the CAC to ensure this is a time/date that works for the majority of the group. Consider attending the fundraiser, too! It's at Fish Tale Brew Pub on March 14 from 5-9pm. There will be a raffle and silent auction, and a portion of every pint is donated to the program.

Morgan received follow-up from Peter Thermos with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, on two bills in the legislature this session. One is a paint stewardship bill, and the other is for a secure medicine return program. Morgan will forward the information.

Finally, the NRC has been invited to attend the Climate Action Convention in Olympia on March 25. All staff members are busy that day, so Morgan is interested in sending a volunteer to staff the NRC booth for the day. Please email her if you are interested.

For the Good of the Order

The Sierra Club is airing "Before the Flood" at North Thurston High School's Performing Arts School on March 12 at 1:00pm. They are also looking for community groups who would like to set up booths or displays free of charge. After the movie is a brief panel discussion about local climate action.

Important dates:

- Next NRC Meeting is on February 17 from 9:00-12:00 at Yelm Community Center.
- Next CAC meeting is on **rescheduled** for March 15 from 6-8 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.