



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 22, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, and Ed Kenney*  
**Staff Present:** *Morgan Greene*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. There was a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. They were approved, as was the agenda for the evening. Ed provided some clarifying details to the Yelm Wastewater report.

**Hirst Water Case – Phyllis Farrell**

The recent Whatcom County vs. Hirst water case has large implications for development in rural areas, because it places water management under the Growth Management Act. The case helped to show the cumulative impacts of wells on ground water, among other things. Phyllis attended a Senate Committee hearing on the case, where legislative attorneys presented on the statewide implications. In her opinion, this may be good news for the Nisqually Watershed as it will make new development difficult. The group wondered if the case will have a direct impact on the watershed; Morgan will talk to George to understand his opinion. Based on the response, she will arrange a presentation at an upcoming meeting. Ed expanded the conversation by noting that the Department of Ecology has last 4 water-related cases in a row, including several that were centered in Yelm. An article on the Hirst Water Case is available here:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/nwro/hirst.html>.

**Yelm Wastewater Follow-up – Ed Kenney**

Ed reported that Bill Van Buskirk, Yelm Wastewater's new manager, followed up after last month's meeting with a copy of the draft facilities plan. Ed noted that Yelm City Council voted to approve the "medium action" route outlined in the plan; but he remains confident that the work necessary will be completed. The CAC decided that the new Public Works Director of Yelm would also be an interesting presenter to have; Morgan will coordinate with JW.

Ed reviewed key aspects of the facilities plan; in particular, he was impressed with plan's desire to "provide continued reliable reclaimed water production...producing an uninterrupted, year-round supply of Class A reclaimed water." The key objectives of the plan are to:

- Produce uninterrupted year-round supply of Class A reclaimed water
- Plan for expected 2030 growth flows
- Provide reliable wastewater treatment service to produce reclaimed water with less than 10 milligrams/liter Total Nitrogen
- Meet high standards for water quality
- Maximize the use of existing Water Reclamation Facilities
- Implement treatment technologies
- Delivering construction and operation of an upgraded facility in phases

The plan is awaiting approval from the Department of Ecology; approval is expected before the end of the year. In general, Ed is hopeful that the Wastewater Plant is headed in the right direction.

**CAC Member Goals:**

- Watershed Trails/River Access & Hikes: Ed reported that the mountains are getting their first significant snow of the year. Chains are required in all vehicles entering the park, and the gate is only open from 9am to 4pm. Several mountain passes are closed. Ed is on the Cascades Carnivore Project, and reported that wolverines have been detected in the park for the first time. Red foxes are moving towards the eastern side of the mountains too. Wolves are supposed to be on the west side of the Cascades within a few years.
- Current Issues: Lois would like to learn more about dams. JBLM is working on a draft report and suggestions on the HIMARS rockets; Morgan will plan to get a better idea of the timeline.
- Water Quality: Ed will have more information about the leading causes of pollution in Puget Sound at the next meeting.
- Systems Management: Steve was not in attendance.

**NRF Staff Report/Strategic Plan follow-up**

The Nisqually River Water Trail planning process has been extended into the New Year, and Morgan will continue to update the group on that progress. Tuesday November 29 is Giving Tuesday, and the Nisqually River Foundation is always looking for donations. There is a Facebook Event that can be shared, if desired.

**For the Good of the Order**

Lois would love to hear the pros and cons of dams at some point. Morgan will ask around in the Tribe's Natural Resources department to see if anyone is interested in speaking on this topic.

Ed recently returned from Panama. He was able to see a poison dart frog. He did not bring his diving equipment.

**Important dates:**

- Next CAC meeting is scheduled to be on Tuesday, December 13, from 6-8 pm.
- The next NRC meeting is on Friday, December 16 from 9-12 at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.