



**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office**

Present:

Lois Ward, acting chair
Allie Denzler
Robert Smith
Marjorie Smith

Howard Glastetter
Fred Michelson
Emily McCartan, staff

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Lois called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

2. Tacoma Power Letter

Howard has circulated his draft letter to CAC members. Howard also sent the draft to Paul Brewster (Flood Hazard Mitigation consultant for Pierce and Thurston counties), who reviewed it and felt it was a good idea to send. He suggested sending CCs to several additional folks in Pierce County. The current draft adds a couple of items reflecting edits suggested by Fred. One was a note that we had a forecast of the February storm that predicted an additional 1,300 cfs to the inflow. Howard noted that the result wasn't dangerous in this case, but had the storm not turned, it could have entered minor flood territory while the ground was really saturated. Immediately after the forecast changed, they dropped the outflow and preserved the dam level at 1,205 feet, 2 feet below capacity. TPU's policy seems to be to try to end a storm event at the highest possible level when a dry spell is coming. 1996 was a good example of what can happen when they do that and the storm lasts longer than they thought it was going to, creating possibility of major floods. The letter requests that they keep the reservoir a little lower and take evasive action sooner (around 1,200 feet) instead of trying to go as high as possible.

Robert noted that it's important to remember that the top 20 feet is over half the volume of Alder Lake. Howard shared photos from the 2006 flood, showing damages to homes, county roads, and property. He noted that there were significant damages to Native American property and to Wa He Lut Indian School. In Howard's recollection, the 1996 flood did \$20 million worth of damage to the dam itself, and an additional \$20 million to downstream property.

Lois and others offered some administrative edits to make the letter more accessible to non-technical experts. The CAC decided to add content suggested by Fred about the 1996 flood to provide additional historical context. Howard will make the edits and recirculate to Emily. Emily will incorporate Fred's input on the 1996 flood and forward the draft letter to NRC members prior to the meeting on Friday (3/16). Any discussion at this

month's meeting will probably be brief, to allow members more time to address the concerns and prepare for fuller discussion at the April NRC meeting (4/20) or later.

3. **Recruitment and Elections**

CAC officers consist of a chair and vice chair. The chair and two other designated members are voting members of the NRC. Nominations for CAC officers happen in May, with elections in June.

Phyllis and Lois will both be gone the 2nd week in May. It was decided to reschedule the May CAC meeting for the following Tuesday, May 15.

4. **Updates and New Items**

Thurston County Nisqually Subarea Plan – Howard and Emily attended the initial open house on Saturday, 3/3. The attendance looked great, around 100 people at Emily's estimate. The event was to general community input to inform the early stages of county planning to revise the subarea plan (first adopted in 1992). Celinda Adair from Thurston County Planning Department will be attending NRC meetings regularly, and also offered to come speak to the CAC at some point if desired. Howard provided her with a few photos of Hogum Bay asphalt piles as an illustration of what could happen with Lakeside. Howard feels that the company doing the RAP evaluation seems to be honest. Nothing is mentioned about Tacoma Power in the current Subarea Plan, even though the subarea is significantly impacted by its policies. Fred noted that the counties used to have good cooperation on joint emergency procedures, but not sure how they are connected now. Thurston County is looking for citizens to participate in the advisory committee to help formulate planning goals. Celinda will be speaking at the Sierra Club meeting tomorrow night as well.

Orcas – Fred thinks three transients were spotted north of Anderson Island last week. No update on Governor's Task Force timeline, but conversations are continuing.

Atlantic Salmon – Lois reminded us that the Legislature passed the bill that would end non-native fin fish net pen cultivation. Pens will be phased out over the next 5-7 years. Lois's understanding is that it will end Cooke's pending application for a new net pen. The bill may not stop Cooke from coming up with some native fish to farm, or lawsuit. All the tribes have been supportive of tribal net pen use for native fish.

Offshore Drilling – Lois attended an event last week for public comment on the Trump Administration's opening up offshore drilling along the coasts. Sad that we may not be able to stop it from happening, but a major disaster would galvanize people to action. The event was very impressive and attended by lots of people from Grays Harbor, Ocean Shores, and Aberdeen. Nisqually tribal members opened up the program. Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz spoke and were strong supporters of not allowing offshore drilling. Franz stated that she doesn't have authority over ocean activities but does over the tidelands, so could potentially fight bringing oil into port. Robert noted that news reports emphasize that there aren't many mineral deposits on the coast, so may not be worth bothering to drill in this region.

5. For the Good of the Order

- Emily reminded folks to please on time for the NRC meeting at NW Trek this Friday, because the location is inside the closed habitat area and Trek staff will need to shuttle folks out there.
- Robert was able to extract honey from the two hives Olympia Beekeepers has sponsored at the Governor's Mansion. They both died this year. The seller will replace the hives. They are deciding what to do with the honey.
- Allie announced that she'll be playing with the SPSCC Orchestra this Saturday at 7:30 at the Minnaert Center. Program includes a Schumann Piano Concerto and William Tell Overture.
- The Nisqually Land Trust Auction is also evening of 3/17.
- Allie has begun working at JBLM and was able to tour Nisqually tribal sites with their archaeologist. June 16th is the Nisqually Walk, for tribal members to visit the villages and cemetery on base.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.