



**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
July 10, 2018 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office**

Present: Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Fred Michelson, Ed Kenney, Ben Dennis, Emily McCartan (staff)

1 Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:09pm. The agenda was amended to include Snake River dams, I-1631 and a proposal regarding Upper Columbia.

2 Member Issues

Aquaculture issues – no update. The attorney for the plaintiffs in the Zangle Cove case was out of the office this week when Fred contacted her. There are four lawsuits going on currently.

Thurston Mineral Lands – 5,600 acres are currently designated for possible mining. The Planning Commission recommended Option 1A, which co-designates some agricultural land for possible mineral extraction with case-by-case review. The environmental community also has concerns about the potential reduction of the current 1000 ft buffers to as low as 50 feet. Several of the commissioners have indicated they would like to have the buffers established in the permitting process, rather than in the comprehensive plan, which would mean that citizens would need to follow every single permit application to identify areas of concern. The commissioners are under a lot of pressure from mining companies and economic issues. Several components of the Comprehensive Plan are on hold. Howard is pressing the county to do water quality testing under current RAP storage in wellhead protection areas. Emily will invite county staff to an upcoming CAC meeting to provide more information.

WRIA Planning – Emily updated on the first WRIA planning meeting. George Walter is leading this process for the Tribe and has convened the interagency water planning group. Agency membership is the same as for previous planning rounds (2514). Lois will be the CAC/citizen representative going forward. Fred noted that they need some additional study because not much is known about the hydrology and how much water is available for wells in the area. There is interest in having Kevin Hanson come talk to the CAC if he's available. Lois and Phyllis plan to attend a post-Hirst symposium in August.

Snake River Dam – Lois attended a presentation at the Nisqually Reach Nature Center last night from James Waddell of DamSense about Snake River Dam removal. He believes there is no reason not to breach the four dams as soon as this year. Electricity

demand from Bonneville is going down, making the dams less essential for generation and more of a burden on ratepayers. Shipping is also not a significant concern on the Snake because of rail availability. DamSense believes that the salmon increase from removing the dams could be key for orca survival. We will explore getting additional information from James or another source at a future meeting. More information is available at <https://damsense.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/5-Means-for-Breaching-4LSRDs-JW-19-Sept-2017.pdf>

I-1631 (carbon fee) – Ben reported that I-1631 has received more signatures than any previous initiative. It would impose a fee on fossil fuels produced in or coming into the state – first of its kind in the country. It improves on the objections from I-732 by sending revenue to impacted communities and investment in renewable energy, habitat improvement. It will be on the ballot. Most of the Tribes, environmental, and labor groups have endorsed it. It is projected to generate \$1B per year. Whether fossil fuel companies pass that on to consumers is another question. Aerospace, agriculture, some other industries are exempted (protected legislatively). On the whole, it has very broad support.

Upper Columbia Report – Ben noted an in-depth Upper Columbia hydrology report submitted to Bonneville Power in March. He feels it provides an excellent template for restoring a river. He provided staff with a hard copy of the first pages and the electronic file and is hoping that the information can be broadly disseminated because it is generally applicable.

Climate Change – Ed noted that rising water temperatures in the Sequelitchew have forced them to give up on bringing Chinook back into that creek in the summer and fall. The Nisqually is likely in the same position where the water will become too warm at the time hatchery (fall) Chinook are running. Sequelitchew has shifted focus to coho and chum, which come when the water is cooler. Winter fish (steelhead and coho) are increasing, when we have cold water. Ben noted that coho are very sensitive to water quality problems. Fred stated that he continues to feel that the delta restoration project is proceeding because lots of sediment is coming down the river, and he feels that spreading out the water over the entire delta must make it less navigable, shallower, and warmer. There was general consensus that there were far fewer fish today than in the 1970s.

4 Staff Report

Emily reported that the Nisqually River Foundation received two large federal grants, one from NOAA B-WET for the Education Project and one from the Bureau of Reclamation for watershed planning work. Nisqually Stream Stewards will start next month. The Nisqually Watershed Sustainability Report is proceeding – she will be presenting the draft for comment and review at the NRC retreat next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.