

**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
March 12, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office**

Present: Fred Michelson, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Glen Thomas, Jeaniel Thomas, Phyllis Farrell, Ed Kenney, Lois Ward Emily McCartan and Justin Hall (staff)

1. Call to order and introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

2. Member Updates

Planning Unit – next meeting is tomorrow. We are working on implementation and some further studies of possible projects that we did not have time to complete by the deadline.

Legislative Updates – Community Forest funding bill passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support. Justin is working on generating support from local members for a budget proviso funding the NRF and supporting the River Council.

Thurston Subarea Plan – Lois and Howard attended initial planning meeting with community stakeholders. They haven't decided if it will be an advisory group or a stakeholder group with voting powers. The community members on the panel said they would rather have some authority rather than be advisory, even if that means fewer people. Lois circulated the minutes. Representatives were there from the Tribe, asphalt company, Holroyd, Lakeside, Thompson Timber, and two large property owners. Participants will fill out applications for commissioners to select final committee members (applications will be available widely). RAP will not be a part of this group's work on the Nisqually Subarea Plan – it is being discussed separately. Concerns that this process is getting stalled. We don't know when Lakeside plans to start its recycled asphalt. Removing the prohibition on RAP is something that industry has pushed for, although the CAC and River Council have expressed concerns. Emily will ask Thurston County staff for a detailed update about next steps of the process.

Biosolids – Waiting for Ecology to make a determination of non-significance (which would allow application under Fire Mountain Farms' general permit). Timeline for the decision is not known. Ed has hired an attorney with support from a community GoFundMe. Ed and Fred have requested all related documents and will be reviewing them. FMF has a history of illegally mixing industrial sludge with high levels of contaminants in with domestic biosolids without landowners' knowledge. There was not good public notice of the meeting (to local residents or to County Commissioners). The County and the Tribe have been helpful in sending letters, and David Troutt has requested a government-to-government meeting between the Tribe and Ecology. If Ecology decides to approve this application under the current permit, the Tribe expects

to lean heavily on the general permit review starting this summer. It is a tough job for Ecology to regulate – waste haulers put a huge amount of legal and personal pressure, and they are under-staffed. County health departments have lost in court against Ecology in pollutions control matters.

Aquaculture – Thurston County is reviewing Shoreline Master Program. Phyllis is working with folks lobbying the Planning Commission for additional protections. The current proposal would shorten the buffers between shorelines and built structures. Phyllis is also advocating for limiting aquaculture expansion, including hydraulic harvesting, spraying, and other disruptive practices. Fred shared updates from the attorney working on opposing the Zangle Cove aquaculture facility. They have lost in court but are appealing. Cases elsewhere are reviewing the permitting structure, which may change the situation.

LWV Water Forum – next one coming up March 19, 6pm at the Yelm Community Center. JW Foster will be one of a panel speaking about rural water issues. Several of the County Commissioners will be there. Attendance at the first two exceeded all expectations. Fourth one will be April 2 on stormwater and toxics. Phyllis is putting together the panel and welcomes any suggestions. May 7 will be salmon and orcas.

3. AgForestry International Seminar in Ecuador – Justin Hall

- AgForestry is a training program that aims to cultivate leaders in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources who communicate, collaborate, inspire, and serve. They seek to positively impact and enrich lives and communities in Washington and through the world. Justin is in the 40th class. The international trip is the capstone of the program.
- Ecuador is on the equator (hence the name), and a little less than twice as large as Washington State. 17 million people, 4 life zones. Quito, the capital city, has 7 million people.
- Highlights
 - Touring botanical garden in Quito
 - Local guide Santiago – son of a former Peace Corps volunteer and FSC founder, working for a non-profit on sustainable agriculture.
 - 75-80 degrees during the day at 10,000 feet
 - City set up in Spanish style with a main square (church, palace, municipal buildings)
 - Religious and cultural history in Quito – troubled history with Jesuit rule, very present Catholic culture.
 - Subway is under construction
 - High earthquake area with a lot of volcanos, so buildings are not very tall in spite of high population density. Most of the churches have lost and rebuilt spires over the years.

- Market in Quito. Washington apples, but also lots of local produce and fish. They use the US dollar, so they have to maintain export markets to bring hard currency in.
- Guinea pigs are a staple meat.
- The big monument to the Equator is 750 feet off of the GPS-determined Equator line – but not bad for Spanish surveyors in the 1700s.
- American-Ecuadoran Chamber of Commerce, talked about exports. Previous government moved toward trade with China and away from US; current government is moving back towards US. We're the main export market for Ecuador; China has a larger import share. Panama hats originated in Ecuador.
- Lumber mill – planks are milled with a chainsaw in the woods, different than US. Dried and planed at the mill (finishing only).
- There is no law requiring safety protection – so nobody uses it, even when business owners provide safety equipment.
- Eucalyptus is an introduced species, but has naturalized everywhere and is grown on plantations – mostly for export to Europe for paper.
- Indigenous craft market – Justin struggled with haggling, which was essential! Learned about traditional dress from locals.
- Rose Farm – huge export market. Sorted by size and quality. Some dyed for the Chinese market. Family farm from the 1600s.
- Visited a national park on a caldera lake, Laguna Cuicocha. Doing a lot of water quality studies there.
- Concrete plants – sand, gravel, and cement (cement is the energy intensive process, one of the most greenhouse-gas producing industries)
- Environmental protections are in place, thanks to new constitution. However, subsurface rights (mining concessions) can trump environmental protections for the surface.
- Water distribution – pumping from the Amazon to dry areas.
- Cheese factory – huge range of products. Owner and his son had a home-brewing set-up – best beer in Ecuador (low bar).
- Lois shared items from her trip to Ecuador – Panama hat with straw beads, wildlife sanctuary, nuts that serve as an ivory substitute for buttons and jewelry.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.