

NRC Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
April 9, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office

Present: Fred Michelson, Glen Thomas, Jeaniel Thomas, Phyllis Farrell, Ed Kenney, Lois Ward, Howard Glastetter, Karelina Resnick, Emily McCartan (staff)

1. Call to order and introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2. Nisqually State Park

Emily notified the CAC that, as a first step to developing new facilities at Nisqually State Park, the NRC has been invited to meet with State Parks next week. Several other stakeholder groups are also having individual meetings about the pre-design plans. Public processes will follow. Ed, Emily, Justin will attend to hear about the current pre-design plans and will be keeping NRC and local folks updated.

3. Legislative updates

Several bills on community forest and other environmental issues have died but funding may still be in the budget. Phyllis has been following several climate-related bills and orca bills, which are doing well. Funding for salmon recovery is less than advocates would like. Shellfish spraying bills (allowing imidacloprid (neonicotinoid) – permit denied by Ecology – to be sprayed to target native burrowing shrimp that undermine non-native commercial oysters) died, but funding is still in the budget to use in public waters. Plastic bag ban is still moving forward – local NREP students are advocating for it.

4. Updates

WRIA 11 – working on implementation next steps. Possibility of funding additional studies on projects that were discussed in the plan but did not have time to develop them fully. Task now is deciding which of those projects to pursue.

Thurston Sub-Area Plan – No new news from last month. Members are concerned about separation of RAP from the general Sub-Area plan. Howard wants to look closely at mining regulations in sub-area plan and is concerned about changes that could make it easier for RAP to come in. Howard also noted that the existing sub-area plan ignores external issues that could affect the valley, including flooding and related Alder Dam management issues. He is suggesting that the sub-area planning group address this. Most of the sub-area plan participants felt that it should be a decision-making group with some authority, which has not been decided yet.

Biosolids Application – Ed and Fred have been reviewing a huge number of documents (emails and other records) received via public disclosure request from Ecology. Material shows a lot of concerns with Fire Mountain Farms. FMF illegally mixed industrial

chemical sludge with municipal biosolids for 19 years, including on their own home property. There is an unpublished study looking at several chemicals. Difficult to measure after biosolids have been applied. Ecology is on a schedule to try to figure it out in the Chemical Action Plan they are required to do. They will continue to look further into it. Our hope is that if they can't measure the chemical in the biosolids, we can block it from being applied. Ed's lawyer and a lawyer from the tribe have been strategizing. Preserve the Commons is planning to hold a public meeting (May 3 or May 7) for community awareness. Community response has been tremendous – people do not want this. This kind of response is more typical of urban areas. Waiting for Ecology's DNS decision. Legal services will be much more expensive if they approve it and Ed's group needs to take the appeal to the State Supreme Court. It's an indicator of the nationwide problem we have with waste.

LVW Water Forum – Stormwater and runoff meeting was great with many good panelists. Large amounts of untreated outfalls. The meetings have been well attended – 100-150 at each. Good to hear from Puget Soundkeeper director (now the global WaterKeepers director) in particular – very impressive work. Next one will be May 7, on salmon (with a Sierra Club meeting on orcas and salmon the next night).

Aquaculture – Shoreline Master Plan update is currently before the Thurston County Planning Commission with public comments submitted. Hoping to see a larger buffer between shoreline and buildings, although some property owners oppose extending buffers. Would also like to see them phase out the use of plastics in aquaculture, along with spraying and banning hydraulic permitting. Members discussed the history of geoduck diving and cultivation in the Nisqually Reach area. The lawsuit against aquaculture at Zangle Cove lost, because there was no language in the Comprehensive Plan giving the county authority over the permitting.

5. **For the Good of the Order**

Karelina requested ideas for projects affecting Pierce County that she could take on. Ideas offered were:

- Look into Fire Mountain Farms biosolids application site on the Little Mashel, in operation since 2006
- Requesting information about Eatonville's water supply from town authorities (related to WRIA 11 Planning Unit proposed project to study an alternate water source upriver)
- Researching Eatonville/Pierce County stormwater practices via Puget Soundkeeper scorecard (<https://naturescorecard.com/scorecard/>)

The smell from the mushroom farm in Lacey has been very strong recently. Odor has gone up and down over the years. Jeaniel will call Ecology's air quality division and report back next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52.