

NRC Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

May 14, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office

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

1. Call to order and introductions

Lois called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Staff Update – Presentation to NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant workshop

Emily and Chrissy (NREP AmeriCorps) attended a workshop in Washington DC for recipients of Environmental Literacy Program grants.

Members asked about the impact of political changes on NOAA research and science. Emily's impression was that the scientists are largely able to continue doing their monitoring work and are very focused on climate change research and adaptations.

3. Updates

WRIA 11 – next Planning Unit meeting is tomorrow. Proposals are out to do feasibility studies for future projects. It will be a lift. Lois noted that it would be a great help to Eatonville, since small communities have a much harder time getting these projects off the ground. Opportunities to learn more about habitat and restoration opportunities in Prairie and Bald Hills prior to development coming in.

Steelhead toxics study – 1/3 of steelhead are showing up with flame retardants. One type coming from Eatonville (PDBEs) and others from JBLM. JBLM has had to close down some wells. Biosolids is a high proportion of organic MiracleGro.

Yelm biosolids application – Fred and Ed are working with local citizen group Preserve the Commons. Ecology staff have continued to say they don't have the ability to test biosolids for toxics of concern, so they use that as a reason to not regulate it. Ecology staff attended a Preserve the Commons meeting to take notes, unannounced. PTC presented at the Yelm Home and Garden Show. Lots of citizens and fewer businesses knew about the issue. Lots of grassroots organizing went into raising awareness. PTC had a meeting last week, attended by Mayor Foster, Commissioner Edwards, and several City Council members, along with neighbors of the proposed site. They are looking into a lot of avenues to try to block this. FMF has a very long record of violations. Ed has determined that the likely sources for application at this site are from JBLM and Orting. Residents have reported that trucks have been going out to the property. Ecology insists they have not made a decision and no biosolids are being applied. They are still replying to all the letters they've received and will not have a decision until at least June. They could issue a Mitigated Determination of Non-

Significance, in which case Ed would seek an injunction, which hopefully the Tribe and Thurston County would support. Both wrote strong letters opposing Ecology's DNS.

Legislative updates – Phyllis's handout recapping environmental issues addressed in the 2019 legislative session was distributed. Ed was pleased at progress on solar issues. Orca Recovery wasn't fully funded for all the recommendations made by the Task Force, but it was a start. David Troutt was on a panel on King 5 with other stakeholders focused on fish and orca recovery.

Mushroom Farm – Jeanie called Ecology regarding the odor from the mushroom farm. They stated that there was a lawsuit 10 years ago, but it is considered agricultural and therefore not regulated. Ecology reviews best business practices, but they are not willing to share them. Members are concerned that the farm has changed their practices, which is contributing to the odor.

Dredge deposits in Nisqually Reach – Karelina reported that Pierce County Shoreline Master Plan permits dredging in a large number of places to allow ship passage. As of 2018, there is an open dumping site in the Nisqually Reach (off Anderson Island and Ketron Island) for this material. There is no permit needed. Karelina talked to the person at Ecology who wrote the report, who said it was tested and contaminated sediments were sent elsewhere. She will email information from the Anderson Island-Ketron group monitoring this. The area is a Reserve, but that does not seem to come with a lot of restrictions. Karelina plans to contact other stakeholders to follow up.

4. For the Good of the Order

Ed observed the Tribe and WDFW sampling Chinook at Sequalitchew Creek – 100 smolts in one sweep, which is great. Looked like lots of untagged (wild).

The Land Trust has been working on scotch broom removal and doing a great job at properties all over the place.

Maya Teeple will be giving the Thurston County Commissioners an update tomorrow on the Nisqually Subarea plan. They need to decide whether the community working group will be an advisory group (preferred by participants, has some authority) or a non-binding stakeholder group. They may also discuss RAP at Lakeside.

David Troutt and Kevin Hansen are featured in a video on the Nisqually Streamflow Restoration effort:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhvvW8rdnfulOE2BNKf77I_ebbwOVH8jv