

**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Yelm Community Center**

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Ed Kenney, Jeaniel Thomas, Glen Thomas, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Howard Glastetter, Emily McCartan (staff)

**1. Welcome**

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

**2. Updates**

*Biosolids and water quality* – Ed is continuing to work with Preserve the Commons in Yelm. The FMF application has been withdrawn, but it is not gone and could be restarted at any time. There is a chance they could apply for Class A biosolids, which citizens also do not want because of similar concerns for salmon and groundwater. Preserve the Commons has heard from several experts on biosolids and thermal decomposition, a better way to process them that does more to destroy flame retardants and other harmful contaminants. Contaminated water can multiply the harmful effects of biosolids as they pass through wastewater systems. Attention from the leadership at Ecology and DNR would be helpful. The CAC would like to suggest some concrete local actions the NRC could look into, such as advocating for thermal decomposition infrastructure to be built locally. It could generate eventual savings because material would not have to be trucked elsewhere (Yelm biosolids are currently sent to sites in Mason County). It has to go somewhere, so there needs to be a constructive solution. The CAC would requested a presentation to NRC about thermal decomposition and other alternatives for biosolids treatment and use.

*Thurston Subarea Plan and RAP* – Howard offered updates on several issues. The consultant who wrote the Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) study presented at a public information meeting which Howard, Emily, and others attended. Thurston County staff will present the same information at NRC meeting this week. When the County rejected Lakeside’s initial permit for an asphalt plant in the early 2000s, they reviewed the reasons for not permitting RAP in the original Subarea Plan. The Planning Commission will eventually review the Subarea Plan and make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. There are a number of possible next steps between now and then, but CAC members would like to see an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The River Council, at the CAC’s request, wrote a letter (March 20, 2017) at the time the Subarea Plan review began, and the CAC would like to reaffirm that position and seek NRC support for an EIS and rigorous Best Management Practices (BMPs).

*Thurston County Shoreline Master Plan* – Phyllis has been attending meetings. Environmentalists would like to see language to phase out the use of plastics in industrial aquaculture (geoduck etc.) Proposed reduction to buffers is also a major

concern with sea level rise. 50,000 acres of South Puget Sound are in cultivation. Many Tribes also participate in aquaculture, which complicates the issue because of sovereignty.

**4. Staff Update**

Emily reported that the Foundation is having a busy summer:

- Stream Stewards begins next week.
- NREP has a state No Child Left Inside grant for outdoor recreation with Tribal youth
- NWSP report is finished, with short summaries and publicity work still to come. Next step will be setting NRC agenda for next seven years. CAC could articulate some priorities – directions for future study, committees to plan action steps, etc.
- Evans Event fundraiser is on September 4.
- Nisqually Watershed Festival is September 28, and this is its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

The Sierra Club hosted an outing to the Refuge last month. Melanie Davis talked about her research on the Estuary and the Audubon Society talked about bird habitat.

Ostrom's Mushroom Farm is closing in Lacey, relocating to Eastern Washington.

Thank you to Howard for bringing plums!