

**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Natural Resources Office**

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith, Fred Michelson, Paula Holroyde, Emily McCartan (staff).

**1. Welcome**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. The CAC circulated an updated list of phone and email contacts for members. Fred, Phyllis, Ed, and Lois attended the Nisqually River Foundation's Evans Event on September 4, 2019. The fundraiser raised \$55,000, which was \$15,000 over the initial goal. Governor Evans and Jim Wilcox's remarks on the need for salmon recovery and the history of the River Council were well received by those who attended.

**2. Issue Updates**

*WRIA 11 Streamflow Restoration* – The Planning Unit last met in June. Ongoing funding for Nisqually's planning is a challenge. Paula has spoken to legislators about the need for planning funding and urged them to attend some WRIA meetings. Nisqually is currently the only watershed with an approved plan (Nooksack, also fast-tracked in the legislation, went to rulemaking). The CAC noted questions about how to proceed with the momentum, including addressing personal conservation efforts as well as major habitat investments outlined in the Plan. The Manke Powell Creek property, which the CAC was discussing last year, did not receive funding in last year's grant round, but we are doing some more modeling to reapply next year.

*Salmon Runs* – Craig Smith, the Tribe's harvest manager, emailed an update on Chinook and Pink returns. The Chinook run is on target with the model predictions, expecting around 21,000 (on the low end). The Chinooks caught so far have been big and bright. The Tribe's McAllister fishery has been a successful way of allowing tribal and non-tribal fishermen to continue to fish after the main Nisqually harvest is shut down for salmon recovery needs. Pinks are coming back earlier and way more than predicted. They may be bottlenecking at the Centralia diversion dam while the river is slightly down.

*Nisqually Subarea Plan Update* – Howard wrote a letter to Thurston County which he had shared with the CAC. He conveyed ongoing concerns about the proposed removal of prohibition on recycled asphalt plant in the Nisqually Subarea. The CAC has asked the NRC to write another letter opposing RAP again. The NRC agreed in July to submit a letter advocating BMPs and/or on-site study of impacts from RAP, which is in draft and will be circulated. The CAC is concerned about monitoring, enforcement, and inspections given that the County and Ecology are already understaffed. Worry about potential for pollutants to leach and not be noticed. Flood concerns. Opposed to having

RAP in the sub-area at all. Appreciative of Maya's presentations to the NRC about this. Staff turnover has been an issue.

*Park Junction Resort* – Tribe sent a letter, and NRC has been cc'd on several citizen letters opposing continued development of the site. It has been a very long time since EIS was completed. Fred noted that this was a huge issue in the 1990s, with a lot of debate. Would provide jobs for the Ashford and Elbe area which are very needed, but many community members are also concerned about environment and traffic congestion. Concerns about wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Bob – bees aren't doing any better. People need to understand the chemical in Roundup – need more awareness. Bad for humans as well as bees, causes Parkinson's and other cognitive impairments.

### **3. Fred's boat tour of the Delta**

Fred shared thoughts from a boat trip he took with his son recently into the Nisqually Estuary. Navigating it in the water gives a different perspective on the landscapes and habitat zones. A motorboat is needed to navigate safely, as well as a good knowledge of the tides. They saw a huge number of birds in the high grass areas – you don't realize how many birds are present until you go out there and flush them out!

### **4. CAC Priorities for 2020**

This will be an ongoing discussion. The CAC has an important function in raising issues to the NRC and will continue to do so. Some initial priorities to monitor include:

- Successful implementation of WRIA 11 water planning projects
- Opposing RAP in the Nisqually Basin
- Opposing biosolids permits
- Waste reduction in the river and nearshore activities
- Maintaining Conservation Futures Funding for Land Trust/conservation purposes
- Continue to promote youth education and field experiences
- Recruiting more diverse CAC membership
- Other goals to be generated at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.