

**NRC CAC Meeting**  
**April 14, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**6:30-8:00pm**

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, Howard Glastetter, Paula Holroyde, Ed Kenney, Emily McCartan and Justin Hall (staff)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Members shared updates about their lives under shelter-in-place. Most folks are doing pretty well, working on gardens and staying in and healthy. Ed is working with the Land Trust on mulching one of their properties instead of using chemical weed control.

2. Member Issue Updates

- Phyllis has shared over email a list of environmental bills that passed and didn't pass in this year's legislative session. Washington Environmental Council, Sierra Club, and LWV also have comprehensive lists of legislation. A bill that did not pass was the "net environmental gain" requirement for capital projects, but there was funding to study it. The Chehalis dam bill passed, but the funding is for continued study and restoration projects. There is a comment period open on the EIS?
- The Thurston County Subarea plan appears to be on hold. There are some continuing staff adjustments. Phyllis is part of the stakeholder group advising on mineral lands review for the County, and is concerned about water availability and buffers for Land Trust and other conservation lands.
- Howard has shared over email a record of follow up actions he has taken regarding TPU's management of Alder Dam following the February 7 flood. He submitted a complaint to FERC about the flood and has met, along with Ed, with Thurston County Emergency Management. FERC is investigating the complaint by looking into the Alder Dam operation data from January 1, 2020 through April 9, 2020 (TPU has 60 days to provide; this data would normally be provided in an annual report). Howard understands the NRC has a different perspective and did not speak for the NRC or CAC. He appreciates the good that TPU does, but is concerned about the risk they appear to run in keeping the reservoir high during the winter rainy season. David Troutt had made comments to The Olympian noting that the flood likely caused a loss of salmon eggs in the Nisqually River, but that the Nisqually Tribe did not intend to sue. Howard believes that if TPU could manage the dam to prevent floods like this, it would be of benefit to the Tribe as well as to Valley residents and property owners. Ed agreed that monitoring the forecasts from early January led to a clear likelihood of a flood. This was the sixth highest flood recorded at the McKenna gauge. Howard expects to continue monitoring the FERC investigation. He hopes that the scrutiny will encourage TPU to be more conservative. Lois looks forward to seeing the results of the investigation.