



**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office**

Present:

Phyllis Farrell, chair
Howard Glastetter
Ariona
Lois Ward

Marjorie Smith
Bob Smith
Fred Michelson
Emily McCartan, Staff

1. Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.
2. Minutes from the October CAC meeting are (hopefully temporarily) lost due to a dead computer. The agenda was approved with the following additions:
 - Proposed use of Thurston County Conservation Futures funding for pocket gopher mitigation (status and NRC involvement)
 - Puget Sound Partnership resolution on salmon recovery and orcas
 - Water availability re: Hirst decision, Squaxin Island Tribe letter regarding overallocation in Deschutes watershed (questions re: status in Nisqually)
3. Planned clearcut of Manke Lumber property at Powell Creek Complex - *Ariona*
 - The Manke property in question is a 240-acre parcel, including parts of both Elbow Lake Creek and Powell Creek upstream from the Nisqually River.
 - Nisqually Land Trust and Nisqually Tribe own property and have put a lot of money and work into culvert removal and habitat restoration Powell Creek Complex for salmon recovery. Coho have started returning to Elbow Lake Creek as of last year.
 - Manke is a family-owned Shelton-based timber company. They are planning to clearcut in spring 2018, to supply mainly Douglas fir for their mills. Will follow state regulations to leave required buffer in riparian area, but intend to clearcut the rest.
 - Beautiful property approaching old-growth status in some places, very diverse ecosystem including riparian, upland hills, many native tree, plant, wildlife species.
 - Negative impacts of clearcutting: will disrupt salmon spawning habitat, as well as impacting water tables and other systemic effects in the area, destroy a unique and beautiful ecosystem and habitat area.
 - What can we do?
 - The property is valued at \$2.5 million. Manke has said they would sell.
 - Ariona has talked to NLT and NIT (David Troutt, George Walter, Joe Kane). Limited funds, not a priority site – might be interested in purchasing down the road, but how would we get Manke to wait instead of harvesting this spring?
 - Meet with Manke and NLT/other interested buyers to try to delay harvest?
 - Discuss doing a sustainable cut, put some earnest money down via community fundraising?

- Community Forest or similar management is a possibility, although that would entail (sustainable) harvesting
- Bring before Nisqually Tribal Council, if possible, in the hopes that the Tribe might be interested in purchasing directly?
- Conservation Futures funding was formerly a source for land trusts to support these kinds of purchases, but it is currently not as available due to the proposal to use it for gopher mitigation, which has been troubling to the CAC for some time. Thurston County currently has several gopher proposals on the table and none of them are a done deal, so pursuing CF funds could be helpful here.
- PSP push re: orcas/salmon recovery and whether that might help? George asked, and property doesn't rate highly enough to get salmon recovery funds (mostly coho in the local streams, not listed Chinook.)
- Lois moved that we ask the River Council to address this issue in the future. Ariona seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on Member Goals:

Mount Rainier National Park Proposed Fee Increase

- NPS has proposed raising peak-season entrance fees to \$70/vehicle at 17 popular national parks, including Mount Rainier. The funds generated from the fee increase are intended to fund core infrastructure maintenance in the parks. NPS is soliciting public comment on the proposal until Nov. 23.
- CAC Member Roger Andrascik wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting, but asked that we include this on the agenda give the time sensitivity. Roger has circulated the comment and recommendation letter he sent to NPS to the CAC and NRC leadership for potential action. Concern is that it will make the park less accessible to lower- and middle-income visitors, without generating enough funds to sustainably support park infrastructure. Roger's recommendation was that people individually comment on the NPS website, as well as writing directly to Senators Murray and Cantwell and their local congressional representatives.
- Members present agreed with Roger's recommendations, and will encourage all CAC members to contact NPS and their congresspeople.
- It was also moved and seconded that the CAC make an official comment as a body via a letter to NPS and local members of Congress, advocating that park maintenance be funded by general appropriation rather than visitor fees. The motion passed unanimously.
- Emily will talk to Roger, draft letter to circulate to Phyllis for signature by the Nov. 23 deadline.

Atlantic Salmon Net Pens

- This year's escape doesn't seem to have caused anything disastrous, but the Tribe and other stakeholders are still monitoring. The company has been hit pretty hard with fines for failures in pen maintenance and seems like they are planning to fix it.
- Some conflicting information: NIT said only one Atlantic salmon found in Nisqually, but Ed said there were half a dozen by his house.
- Wild Fish Conservancy has filed a lawsuit. A coalition of interest groups is holding regular conference calls about it; the next calls are scheduled for Friday.

- Senator Ranker drafting a bill in the Legislature. WA is only state on West Coast allowing net pens. A complete ban would be politically complicated (Squaxin/other tribes use net pens for native salmon and oppose an outright ban). The Legislature may instead consider a ban on Atlantic salmon or some kind of “invasive species” designation (excluding shellfish).
- Lummi were most affected, may have entered into lawsuit against Cook. They say it was quite damaging and potential for future harm is great.
- Lois and Phyllis will report back after calls this Friday. We will revisit this topic at the next CAC meeting.

Pierce County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update

- NRC will hear more about it from Tacoma Power at Friday meeting, thanks to Howard’s efforts. Howard recommends they cap the lake at 1197’ through the winter.
- Some discrepancy with Tacoma Power’s website and their FERC agreement regarding how high they are required to keep Alder Lake in the winter.
- Top 20 feet is half of the capacity of the lake.

5. General updates:

- Thurston County Commissioners have had to reopen bid for the environmental study RFP for the Nisqually subarea recycled asphalt proposal. Narrowed the scope of the RFP this time to just pollution effects. CAC will ask for an update about it at NRC.
- Conservation Futures Funding: NLT and NRC are open to sending a letter to county. Things are in limbo at the moment – Land Trust can’t count on CFF like they have in the past because of the potential gopher allocations.
- Squaxin letter to Thurston County re: insufficient water in Deschutes aquifers. Can we get data on the Nisqually?
 - Squaxin Island Tribe’s interest is depletion of fish-bearing waters due to wells. Deschutes basin is pretty much fully allocated for water use, with nowhere to go for new development in the area.
 - Commissioners were hoping for a legislative agreement to clarify regulations for how counties can issue exempt well permits, post-Hirst. Thurston adopted “business as usual” in the meantime and have continued to issue permits without studying the hydrological data (lack of funding is a factor).
 - Ask George Walter/others where we stand on water in the Nisqually. How many and what kind of exempt wells are being approved in our watershed and what difference does it make to us?
 - Water availability will really affect Yelm, which is going to run out of water for new development as population increases in that area.
 - Put it in the CAC report and Emily will work on teeing up some briefings for NRC in early 2018 (Thurston County Hydrologist, Kevin Hansen)

6. For the Good of the Order:

- Lois: we should clean up the email list. Emily agrees!

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.