



**Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
May 19, 2017
UW Pack Forest**

Attendees:

Council Members

Amy Cruver – *Pierce County Council*
Matt Curtis – *WDFW*
JW Foster – *City of Yelm*
Abby Gribi – *Town of Eatonville*
Amber Martens – *JBLM*

Amber Moore – *Puget Sound Partnership*
Kevin Skerl – *Mount Rainier*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Ed Kenney
Fred Michelson
Karelina Resnick
Bob Smith

Marjorie Smith
Lois Ward*
Phyllis Farrell

Guests

Etsuko Reistroffer – *Nisqually Stream Stewards*
Ashley Von Essen – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Dennis Lucia – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Kyle Oxley – *Citizen*

Marcus Kenney – *Citizen*
Mike Cowles – *Citizen*
Pike Thompson – *Citizen*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Morgan Greene – *Nisqually River Council*
Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*

Zoe Lovell – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*
Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Ed. Project*

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda, Introductions

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:05.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda – There was a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. They were approved, as was the agenda for the day.

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC did not meet in May.
- *Chair Report* – David went to DC to met with Washington Delegation, including our 2 senators, to lobby for salmon recovery funding. Both sides of the aisle supportive of PacSRF. Steve Martin presented and his Republican representative really supportive! Suggested to get a letter signed on both sides of the aisle. Phil reminded our delegation that the president can propose a budget, but the legislators are actually in charge. They are confident that Puget Sound will be at \$65 million in the next few years. Remember, phone calls to your legislators. We need to get 100 calls into Denny, Kilmer. Call your Senators, your legislators. Call Dave. David will work with Puget Sound Recovery to create a phone campaign. David will share with NRC a template for this. Denny Heck seems to be showing the strain of the budget negotiations. 2018 budget that President will release today or Monday should have been out in December. We need to get through this era. David thought he saw Melissa McCarthy! Challenge is to keep salmon funding this year and start working on 2018 as well. Also realized that folks from the salmon world need to learn to speak the legislative budget language. Salmon recovery folks need to recruit a budget nerd who can translate. Legislators want to know how the money spent has paid back into our economy. There is a PAC SRF meeting next week, where this will be a key issue. Also noticed a lot of 25-30 year olds appear to be running the country. We need to learn how to work with them as well.
- *Staff Report* – Justin is working on the Community Forest prioritization. Looking at purchasing Hancock lands, which ones would benefit us the most (salmon, future harvest, trail access, etc.) Will look to NRC for input on how to target properties. Met with the Wilcox family about some ‘bank roughening’ along the

mainstem. The Centralia diversion dam will not be sacrificed, but there may be some log jams added, etc. On-going discussion for 9 months. Project is still moving forward, need to determine at what level. Flood plains by design project. Will be opportunity for Jim to create the trail system that he's always wanted. Met with civil engineering/design firm about a lookout project idea on Mounts Road to see the estuary. Trees removed as part of railroad project that cleared it. Justin is working with asphalt donations, signage, Sound Transit. Met with Lion's Club in Yelm to give them an overview of NRC. Met with city administrator of Yelm., Michael Graham. They give us \$3,500 to NREP water quality. Developing that relationship. Met with a potential donor who used to be a part of NREP. She donated for Give Big. We had \$1,200 in donations total. Karelina is bringing a neonicotinoid ban request to Town of Eatonville. Town is currently not using those chemicals. More research on this topic is needed. Nisqually River Trail is hosting a logo contest. Submissions are still accepted.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – They are looking at their logo, which they do every few years. They are looking for a way that keeps the identity of each agency, yet still shows the connectivity. They are hiring a designer to get some new ideas. NLT board is divided on the issue. As Mayor of Yelm, JW is looking for a trails plan. Cris Peck is looking into it. There is a potential of connecting Chehalis Western Trail to the River and beyond. Pierce County, Miles Sand and Gravel, JBLM are potential partners. Just outside of McKenna, Miles Sand and Gravel is about done. City of Yelm rail line goes through their property and all the way to Roy. This could create a loop on this line and then back through NLT and other private landowners properties. Informal polling shows that many of the trail users are coming from out of town, which brings in money into our community. 3rd weekend in July will be the NLT River Float trips. July 22nd & July 23rd. Great opportunity to introduce friends to the NLT and the river. \$125 includes an amazing float and lunch. You can sign up on their website. Thurston County Alert Sense, which you can access from City of Yelm website. You can sign up no matter where you live and pick which phone you want to be alerted on. They used it when the super-cell hit a couple of weeks back. It didn't hit Yelm, but if it would have, it would give folks a few minutes to get to safety. In very extreme cases, they can alert folks even without prior permission. Few people have signed up for this service, so look into it. Pierce County has a comparable system.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Prairie Field Investigations are scheduled for next week. We will provide a pre-trip presentation to teach students about the uniqueness of South Sound Prairies and some of the threatened species that live there. Eye On Nature continues to be a very well received program by teachers and students. Updates to our field guide this year include a greater focus on ethnobotany, and symbols for food, clothing, medicine associated with the different species we find on the trails. Summer Teachers Institute has 32 folks registered. Theme this year is: Climate Change in the Pacific NW - Forests, Freshwater and Glaciers. We will learn about the especially awesome powers of the NW coniferous forests to act as carbon sinks, visit the restoration project in the Ohop, visit Pack Forest and do a timber cruise, learn about glaciers at Mount Rainier and etc. We are spending leftover funds from our ALEA grant - jackets, boots, totes, etc.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Report covered in the Staff Report and Strategic Plan presentation
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Yil Me Hu Salmon Recovery/River Council annual mailing is currently at the printer and coming out in the mail in the next few weeks! Ed has an article about Powell Creek! Salmon Recovery Funding Board update on the 3-4 projects that were presented. None of those are moving forward. We are actually looking to PSAR list from last year. Those have all been reviewed and approved already, so no site visits this year. Gearing up for festival season. Nisqually Watershed Festival planning will meet in June. Ashley is filling in for the restoration biologist. She has been working with the restoration crew and their activities. We are in the middle of the steelhead spawning surveys. It's been a very wet spring, making it difficult to find redds. Recently been having better luck. Last year more than 2,000 fish, most in 25 years. Steelhead are up throughout the region. Lots of hypothesis, but David's favorite is the presence of the transient orcas which are scaring off the seals and sea lions. Commissioner Edwards should know that Victoria BC has broke ground on a tertiary sewage treatment plant.

3. Nisqually River Foundation Strategic Plan – Justin Hall

Created by the Nisqually River Foundation Staff and Board and the Nisqually River Council with assistance from Amara Oden Consulting.

Key Strategies for the next Three Years, generated at the Nisqually River Council:

1. Establish Sustainable Purpose
2. Pursue Stable, Goal-Driven Funding Sources
3. Develop a Professional, Diverse, and Accountable Organization
4. Effectively Tell our Story
5. Establish and Maintain Partnerships for Collective Impact
6. Continue and Expand Education Program

1. Establish Sustainable Purpose

Without a clear purpose, we have operated as an opportunistic, not strategic, organization.

2017: Develop a 7 year vision and 2 year work plan to keep NRC, NRF working together and moving forward

Created by NRF Board and approved by NRC

2 year work plan is examined by the NRC and CAC members; members adopt some tasks

Work tasks not claimed by NRC become priority projects for the Foundation to focus on

Adopt new mission: "Foster a healthy watershed through partnerships, engaging volunteers, and providing educational opportunities."

2019: 2 year work plan drafted, reviewed, and adopted

2. Pursue Stable, Goal-Driven Funding Sources

Lack of evaluation of board and staff leads to inadequate accountability. Administrative funding must be sought.

Formalize evaluation and accountability throughout organization

2017: Create job descriptions for board and staff; implement annual reviews

2018: Develop & use a board manual and orientation procedure

Implement regular professional development for board and staff

Begin succession planning for board and staff

2019: Continue efforts launched in 2016 and 2017; integrate into board training and education

3. Develop a Professional, Diverse, and Accountable Organization

NRF Board needs mix of NRC members and community-at-large members

Reorganize the way in which the board is selected

2017 & Beyond: Board composition: 1 CAC member, 3 NRC members, 2 community-at-large*

Board members serve 3 year term, repeatable once. Must roll off board for 1+ years after 2nd term**.

Board Matrix used in recruitment

Meets quarterly, following NRC meetings

Board members welcome at NRC meetings, and vice versa

*Community-at-large examples – educators, tribal members, land owners.

**NRC and CAC Chair are exempt from term limits to provide continuity

4. Effectively Tell our Story

2017: Begin using CRM database to manage relationships. Build base of supporter relationships

Meet with Nisqually Land Trust à NRF will not have an auction or memberships

Explore potential for NRC fee-based membership

2018: Launch annual fundraising breakfast for NRC/businesses. Host casual outreach event for NREP parents, volunteers

Incorporate paid NRC participation into 2019 budget

2019: Repeat fundraising events and start 3 annual appeals

NRC members begin to financially contribute to NRC

5. Establish and Maintain Partnerships for Collective Impact

2017: Staff devote equitable time to partner relations

Continually connect and follow up with all 25 NRC member groups

ID barriers to participation

Create and use reporting rubric in NRC meetings to share successes and challenges

2018: Conduct exit interviews with departing NRC members

Explore and quantify 'collective impact' of all partners

2019: Share and publish collective impact of the NRC

6. Continue and Expand Education Program

2017: Embody our 3 core audiences in communications

Produce brochure/info sheet for outreach purposes

2018: Develop communication plan

Increase outreach

2019: Hire and work with communications consultant

Increase outreach

4. **Nisqually Marine Services** – *Dennis Lucia*

“Provide specialized vocational training and mentoring based on empirical learning methodology which empowers motivated Native Americans. Nisqually Marine Services – Diver Training Academy, Derelict Fishing Gear Removal, Dive Safety, Commercial operations, Marine Restoration, etc. Good crew made up mainly of tribal members. Nisqually Marine Station you are welcome to visit. It’s in Budd Inlet. Operations board keeps fleet operating. Home of Nisqually fleet with many types of boats. Diving Academy. 4 week Harvest Diver Training is the Core Program. No cost to Nisqually people. Students come from other NW Tribes. Trained nearly 3,000 tribal divers. Start in the pool and work up to thriving underwater, harvesting Geoduck. Also offer many other specialty programs. Recent project in City of Tacoma to remove 1,800 tires that had been dumped to create artificial reef. They’ve found there are actually more like 1 million! At Jefferson Head, World War II demagnetizing structure left behind has been a hazard and nuisance, snagging fishing nets, etc. Removed that. Crane barge can get into 2’ of water. Boy Scouts discovered whale skull from Eagle Island. Able to help them get it out and put it into museum. Jefferson Head with engineers and scientists from the state. Crews work well with scientists and environmental folks. Many things have to be done with finesse. They have hot water suits to keep divers warm. They bring a decompression chamber for any dives below 100’. Divers have helmet cams with lights so folks onboard can track activity. Sometimes there are surprises, like a giant pile of toilets! Scientist from state has to ask “Do you think these are naturally occurring?” Haha. Use Exothermic cutting rod which burns about 40,000 degrees. Also a hydraulic chainsaw. Found lots of creosote pilings with brass fittings. When cut loose, the pilings float to surface. Disposed of in special landfill. Another clean up was at Pt. Gamble Sklallam Tribe to clean up mill. Removed pier and pilings. Containment booms, silt curtains, etc. Monitoring turbidity was required. Used a vibrating extractor to remove pilings in wet sand. More than 30,000 lbs of pilings removed as well as a 50,000 derelict steel barge. Had to even remove tiny rust flakes with strainers. NOAA Acoustic Telemetry Receivers Deployment- installed underwater receivers anchored to the bottom to track tagged steelhead with acoustic telemetry. They can identify individual fish. Then recover them after a set time (a few months, usually). Vessel Salvage Operations – key is to not make environment any worse! Design their own equipment to be able to grab a vessel from more than one point. Brought up a vessel from the bottom of West Bay. Public Water Systems – These operations have special gear that is only used for these purposes. Have an exclusive contract with City of Olympia. Services include inspection, cleaning and repair of tanks, reservoirs, towers, wells and standpipes. Community Service – Building garden beds for the elders at the tribe. Assisting Eagle Scouts and maritime historic society to recover skull of Fin Whale to put into museum.

Questions: Is NAT contracted to do these jobs? Do they get paid?

Yes – 520 bridge project, for example, they are under contract and getting paid. Some projects are competitive bids. Some are cooperative with many agencies and intergovernmental agreements.

Do tribal members still own their own Geoduck boats or do they work more cooperatively? All the tribes do it differently. In Nisqually, some member own their own boats and then charge other divers to be on board to harvest with them. There is poaching and there have been investigations, even involving the FBI! NAT tries to always focus on safety. Each tribe manages their fishery differently. Even while the tribal councils may be squabbling over territory, they still all send divers to NAT.

Do your contracts offset the costs of your training programs?

Other tribes always pay tuition. TARO, SPEPA, education department, taxes on Geoduck fisheries all contribute to pay for training. The tribe helps support program through supplemental funds from casino profits. Dennis also generates funds through grants, etc. NAT course completion and certification encourages divers to do many diverse

things in the diving world. They make good money harvesting Geoduck and that's what the majority of them do. They are encouraged to get national certifications as well to give them more opportunities world wide.

5. Seasons of Mount Rainier – Ed Kenney

No certification needed for being on Mount Rainier, but it can be very dangerous! There are consistent avalanche dangers. You need to go with someone who knows what they are doing. That said, the mountain provides amazing recreation year round.

January – splitboard with synthetic skins – you can go anywhere! It can be bleak with very few people around. Not much color, but beautiful. They leave the door open at Camp Muir with a shovel so you can dig in if need be. In the summer you'll need to bring a tent and it can get smelly and dirty. Nice to use in the winter. You can tent anywhere around by the camp. Just in front of the building there is room for about 100 tents. You need a permit to do it. Usually open on weekdays, but harder on weekends. There are some sheltered places, like just below Anvil Rock. Rosy finches or Cascade Red Fox are the only animals seen in winter. Manatee Mountain makes for great skiing or snowboarding. Need protection – sun glasses and hats required! Views to Mount Tahoma are incredible.

Little Mashel Falls are easy to get to now that you can park in Eatonville and walk the new Bud Blancher Trail. It freezes solid in some winters. Cables and ropes make it easy to get down to. Eatonville is getting cameras installed in parking areas at trail heads. Look for Hair Ice, Mid-Day melt (wonderful sound!)

Nisqually Water Trails – many waterfalls pour into river and freeze in winter. Better season to float due to higher flows. At Pack Forest you can walk in to confluence of Mashel and Nisqually. Winter rafting offers eagles, hawk, heron, dipper, kingfisher, etc. Upriver of Powell is very secluded. Short urban stretch through whitewater estates with larger rapids at medium flows (2-3,000 cfs). Mount Tahoma Trails is a DNR ski trail system with huts.

Jocelyn Akins heads the Cascade Carnivore Project and is looking for foxes and wolverines. Only 100 Cascade Red Fox left! They can be dark/black.

Kelvin-Helmholtz cloud formation can be seen at sunrise and sunset in fall and spring.

Eagle Peak – spring and all hiking when avalanche danger is low. Don't forget crampons and maybe an ice-axe. ! Rock scramble at top is steep and exposed.

Rampart Ridge is a safe alternative if Paradise is closed. A 5 mile hike from Longmire is a good option in winter and spring.

Muir is a great hike for cardio training. Muir Peak is right above Camp Muir and an amazing spot for photography. Bring your professional gear!

For the Good of the Order

- Earth Day – March for Science – Capitol at 11am. Also Tacoma and Seattle.
- From here on out, all NRC meetings will start at 9am, regardless of location!
- Look for your emails for contacting legislators for PAC-SRF and PISAR. Apparently if you send more than 30 tweets tagging your legislators, they will respond to it!
- Save the Date for the Dan J Evans Stewardship Award at Wilcox Farm Nisqually River Foundation Fundraiser – Wednesday, September 7th.

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

***Next Meeting: Friday June 19th 2017 from 9:00-12:00
Ashford Fire Hall***