Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
April 16, 2010
Northwest Trek
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

David Troutt - NRC
Steve Pruitt – CAC
Chris Schutz – Pierce County
Cindy James – Department of Ecology
Fred Michelson – NRF, CAC, NDA
Robert Smith – CAC
Debbie Young – Tacoma Power
Bryan Bowden – Mt. Rainier National Park

Guests

Roy Huberd – Pierce County SWM
Paul Crosetto – CAC, CoAC, EAC
Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Kathy Hatcher – Upper Nisqually Citizen
A. Marjorie Smith – CAC
Mary Foster – CAC
Randy Brake – PC SWM
Paul Nerge – Upper Nisqually Citizen
Rick Adams – FUN
Rich Doenges – Thurston County
Terry Naves – Citizen
Steve Redman – Citizen
Renee Skaggs – PCD
John Garner – NW Trek

Staff

Justin Hall – Nisqually River Foundation
Sheila Wilson – Nisqually River Education Project
Don Perry – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust

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

   Call to Order – David Troutt welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

   Approval of Minutes – March 2010 minutes were approved as presented.

   Approval of Agenda – Agenda was approved as presented.

2. **Introductions, Citizens Advisory Committee Report, Chair Report, Staff Report**

   Introductions – The group went around the table and everyone introduced themselves.

Citizens Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC had a small meeting. They discussed Black Locust and how they might be useful in restoring the watershed. However the invasive nature was discussed and a proposal is not being put forward.
- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – They are still making progress on framing a forestry master plan for the watershed.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* – There was a WREDI Economic Summit on Wednesday at the Red Wind Casino. They progressed on starting business plans for the area.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – Will be meeting in Graham next Thursday to create a community forum in the Graham area.

Chair Report – There was a meeting of elected officials of the South Sound region to create an organization to coordinate salmon recovery. They embraced the full sustainability approach of community and economy and environment. The Nisqually was held up as a model of how this greater effort could work. Fred mentioned that the Nisqually Shellfish Protection District will be adopting the Henderson Inlet approach to on-site septic during this year. Fred also mentioned that the Water Planning Group will be having a dinner workshop for elected officials.

Staff Report – We have been working on 2010 Watershed Festival planning and compiling the input from the retreat. The Watershed Festival is on September 25 at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

3. Allied Programs

Nisqually Land Trust: Working on a 1.5 mile 400 acre purchase on the Mashel, trying to line up funding. Looking good so far. Also working with the Town of Eatonville to transfer the Boxcar Canyon which they will then be able to use as match to help with purchases along the Mashel through Eatonville. They also completed the 600 acre purchase of Hancock Timberland. They will now be working on the next phase and they already have some money available for that purchase. Land Trust staff met with DNR staff about the upcoming timber harvests in the Viewshed. It appears that they are harvesting because they feel they must get out volume for their trustees. It does not appear that the scenic Viewshed or the Upper Nisqually Plan were considered for these harvests. Joe also met with Hancock Timber and they are very willing to work with the Land Trust. However, at their current "deferred" status they have aggressively cut the Busywilde area and more cutting is coming as timber prices start to recover. There was further discussion on the DNR harvest plans with a proposal to send a letter from the River Council to Peter Goldmark asking for discussion on this issue while also calling Peter's office to set up a meeting. Fred made a motion to send this letter, which was seconded by Paul Crosetto and passed unanimously.

Nisqually River Interpretive Center Foundation: No report.

Nisqually River Education Project: 333 students showed up for the GREEN Congress in March. Working on the TNOL Grant at the Refuge/Braget area. There will be a meeting of the partners on the carcass toss including a donation from Fish Tale Ales. The summer teacher institute is upcoming and planning is moving ahead for that event (June 23 – 25 at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge).

Nisqually Stream Stewards: With the listing of Steelhead there is more interest in tracking them, and so Don is mobilizing the salmon watchers to look for steelhead reds in their usual salmon watching sites. The Stream Stewards will be working on the Pack Forest raingardens. In May there will be a project to create 6 adjacent raingardens on a street in Eatonville. May 22nd 9-3pm. (http://nisquallyriver.org/events/?event_id=13)

Nisqually River Foundation: It appears that watershed planning has been included in the supplemental budget and so we will be checking to make sure that our funding is protected. Also need to check on what is happing at Pack Forest.

4. **Nisqually Basin Plan Update – Roy Huberd** –The Nisqually River Basin Plan will serve as a "work plan" for Surface Water Management activities in the Nisqually Basin. The plan development and implementation are funded by stormwater fees collected from within the Nisqually Basin Planning Area. Goals of the plan include: reduce flood hazards, improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, demonstrate coordinated and responsible use of public resources, provide information for the location and methods of new development, and share and coordinate this plan with others. The Plan covers 240 square miles, 500 miles of streams, and 23 subbasins. The planning process identified more that 232 problems, and proposes 81 recommendations. Additional information on key recommendations and the planning process is available by viewing this presentation on the NRC SlideShare page at http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nrbp-public-county-council-april-6-2010-rrhedits or by contacting Roy at rhuberd@co.pierce.wa.us or 253.789.6793.

5. **Upper Nisqually Community Forum Proposal – Steve Pruitt –** Steve presented some of the history of the Upper Nisqually Community Plan, the railroad bridge that blew out, the fact that there apparently is 15 feet less space under the SR7 bridge in Elbe. The belief is that the people of the Upper Nisqually have been doing all the things that the Council wants a model community to do. Pierce County is possibly changing the Upper Nisqually Community Plan for conformity and the community doesn't want to see the changes made. The proposal is that we bring to bare the good will of the Council to help get past this. The group has also met with Congressman Reichart about these issues and he plans to get behind this issue and start looking into it. Bryan mentioned that Mt. Rainier has been involved and will continue to be involved. They are asking for the River Council to convene a collaborative effort to implement the upper Nisqually community plan (including a holistic river management system).

6. **Salmon Recovery 3 Year Work Plan – Jeanette Dorner –** Jeanette explained that the NRC serves as the Citizens committee for the Salmon Recovery Plan in the Nisqually Watershed.

After much work with the partners and the technical committee the salmon recovery program comes up annually with the 3 year workplan. This worked is based on the EDT analysis of the watershed for Chinook salmon and steelhead. Jeanette described the map presented that showed the EDT analysis results (available from staff). The EDT analysis was rerun to include the needs for steelhead. Priorities are similar with a small decrease in the estuary and an increase in the Mashel area, a little benefit from the Ohop, and a higher emphasis on Muck Creek. Jeanette also described the 22 page long project list that has been developed (also available from staff) and provided a summary of the projects ranked by priority. There was then discussion of some of the specific projects. Steve Pruitt moved that we approve the 3 year workplan, it was seconded by Bryan Bowden. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Ohop NatureMapping Update – Jessica Moore –** Jessica gave an overview of the Ohop restoration project. 1 mile of new channel was dug, over 400 pieces of woody debris were put it. 40 acres were planted, 28,000 trees. The restoration has allowed for better tracking due to mud! The number of bird species using the site has increased and all other categories have stayed the same. Jessica's presentation and photos of the Ohop project are available on the NRC SlideShare site at http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/ohop-creek-restoration-project-presentation-update-2010. For more information about the Ohop NatureMapping project, contact Jessica at jessica.moore@nwtrek.org or 360.832.7160.

8. **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 21, Ohop Grange, 9 – noon