



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
February 18, 2011
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Ron Averill – *Lewis County*
Jeanette Dorner – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
Cindy James – *WA Dept. of Ecology*
Rich Doneges – *Thurston County*
Monty Mahan – *Pierce CD*

Jean Takekawa – *Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge*
Mark Thibo – *WA DNR*
David Troutt – *Nisqually Indian Tribe*
*** CAC Representatives (3)**

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Mary Foster
Fred Michelson*

Marjorie Smith*
Robert Smith*

Guests

Ray Bednar – *Nisqually Stream Steward*
Kyle Kautz – *NIT Restoration Crew*
Nano Perez – *NIT Restoration Crew*
Renee Mitchell – *Pierce CD*
Tristan Peter-Contesse – *Puget Sound Partnership*
Karelina Resnick – *WREDI*
Steve Ruff – *Miles Sand & Gravel*

Jean Shaffer – *EAC Member*
Rachel Simmons – *NIT Restoration Crew*
Chris Schutz – *Pierce County*
Jim Wick – *Thurston County SSWAB*
Sam Stepetin – *NIT Restoration Crew*
Pete Stoltz – *CAL Portland*
Eddie Villegas – *NIT Restoration Crew*
Mark Williams – *Nisqually Stream Steward*

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Justin Hall – *Nisqually River Foundation*
Sara Scott – *Nisqually River Council*

Sheila Wilson – *Nisqually River Education Project*
Don Perry – *Stream Stewards*

1. Call to Order, Officer Elections, Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Call to Order – David called the meeting to order at 9:08.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved as amended.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Introductions, Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC met on January 6th and discussed the ECOSEL land use auction that was conducted as a part of the December NRC meeting. The group also discussed ideas for increasing participation. Nominations

are being accepted for a Chair and Vice-Chair, with elections to be held at an upcoming meeting.

- *Environmental Advisory Committee* – The Nisqually Forestry Conference is scheduled for February 25 at the NNWR. The intent of this conference is to learn more about the issues facing the forest products industry here in the watershed. A planning meeting is scheduled for February 22nd. Interested Council members are invited to attend the Conference.
- *Community Advisory Committee* – No report.
- *Chair Report* – David reported that the Roy Salmon Homecoming celebration last month was well attended and is an important event for the Roy community. David feels confident that the NRC will be able to maintain the same level of funding as last year, \$75,000. Discussions about aligning the NRC with the Puget Sound Partnership are ongoing. A new local implementing organization has been formed, Alliance for a Healthy South Sound, with the intent to coordinate all actions in the South Sound regarding salmon habitat restoration. The Tribe will facilitate a regional discussion about allocation of funds. The Alliance Executive Committee consists of representatives from four counties and three tribes. The NRC will have a seat at the table.
David noted that Billy Frank Junior's 80th birthday celebration will take place on March 12th at the Squaxin Island Tribe's Skookum Creek Event Center. For information, contact Lois Allen at 360.528.4320.
- *Staff Report* – Sara reported that nominations are being sought for the 2011 NRC Chair and Vice Chair positions, and the annual NRC planning retreat is scheduled for Saturday March 26th and will include a review of the draft updated Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan. She has been working on various NRC projects and is organizing the Nisqually Forestry Conference with Fred and the EAC.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – No report. The NLT Annual Benefit Auction will be April 2 at St. Martins.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – Sheila reported that there are currently 37 sites where water quality is monitored by NREP students. Tree planting season is complete and over 800 students participated. Salmon Carcass Tossing is underway, and the Student GREEN Congress is scheduled for March 17th. Sheila is meeting with representatives from neighboring watersheds to identify potential partnership opportunities.
- *Nisqually River Foundation* – Justin reported that he is working on current grants and looking to secure additional funding.
- *Stream Stewards* – Don reported that two salmon carcass events remain, and the next Roy Salmon Homecoming will be bigger. Four new NatureMapping events will take place this year, all on Land Trust property. He noted that the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry has a salmon camp program and will be working with Nisqually youth this year. He referenced the January 2011 Science Findings [article on watershed councils](#).
- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Jeannette reported that program staff is working on the Chinook Recovery Plan update. The Washington State House Committee on State

Government and Tribal Affairs recently passed a resolution to restore Salmon Recovery Funding.

Jeanette also noted that the Tribe's big restoration project for this summer is the removal of the last remaining dikes at Braget Mash and the removal of some old pilings. She noted that the Mashel restoration and protection effort is progressing quickly, and Nicole Hill, the new NLT staff member, will bring a strong element to the protection of the watershed. The latest set of rain gardens in Eatonville will be installed on May 6 and 7 with Stewardship Partners. Ciscoe Morris will broadcast his live radio show from the event on Saturday May 7. Jeanette is also working with Eatonville to help them update their stormwater management plan with a focus on infiltration.

Chris noted that Stewardship Partners is collaborating with WSU extension to support the development of [12,000 rain gardens](#) in Puget Sound in the next six years.

3. NIT Habitat Restoration Crew Recognition –

Ron presented the Nisqually Habitat Restoration Crew with Certificates of Appreciation and a gift certificate. He shared that Rachel Simmons, Ron Olin, Sam Stepetin, Eddie Villegas, and Kyle Kautz have planted over 100,000 native plants in restoration areas throughout the Nisqually watershed, and their work is driven by the priorities identified within the Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan. Ron drew parallels between the work of the crew and a quote by Elton Trueblood, *“A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.”*

Jeanette expressed her gratitude for the crew's important work and noted that the funds for the crew were provided by the Nisqually Indian Tribe's 2% fund from casino revenues. Photos of the crew and some of their project sites are on the NRC SlideShare site at www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/thank-you-nisqually-restoration-crew.

4. Knotweed Project Update – Renee Mitchell

Renee Mitchell, the Pierce Conservation District's Knotweed Program Manager provided updates on recent major project changes. The program is now housed at Pierce Conservation District and is funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. In 2010, 38.4 miles of the Nisqually River were surveyed below Alder Dam and all knotweed re-sprouts were mapped and treated. 5.6 miles in the upper watershed were surveyed, starting at the boarder of Mount Rainier National Park. The most upstream source of knotweed identified is on Tacoma Power property near Copper Creek. In total, 180 acres of knotweed were treated with either foliar herbicide applications or stem injections in 2010. Current project needs include additional funding sources, additional knotweed technicians, stronger partner collaborations, and increased cooperation from private landowners. Renee is in the process of bringing together major landowners whose property is infested with knotweed, including Tacoma Power, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount Rainier National Park, and State Forests.

Mary Foster noted that she has ideas about ways to increase volunteer involvement from the upper watershed residents.

Renee's power point presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-knotweed-program-update-2011>. Renee can be reached at 253.845.9770 or reneem@piercecountycd.org.

5. Chinook Recovery Plan Update – David T & Jeanette

Chinook Recovery Plan Update

David provided some background; in 1999 the NRC tasked the Tribe with leading the Nisqually Salmon Recovery efforts. The draft Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan was present in 2000 and adopted in 2001. The plan includes “adaptive management,” and to that end a one day informational workshop and two technical sessions were recently held. The plan update incorporates new ideas relating to hatchery fish management and carries forward existing recovery goals. Several years ago the NRC was introduced to a plan in install a weir just upstream from the tank crossing to separate and shift the in-river fish from hatchery to natural spawners. The changes within the hatchery portion of the plan will integrate wild fish into the hatchery stock to drive production levels, and includes significant changes in the way the harvests are managed. The plan includes a significant move to reduce the harvest of hatchery fish from 60% to 20% over the next several years. Currently harvesting hatchery fish at 60%, and will be reducing that level over the next few years to 20%. The past ten years have been the “colonization” phase of the plan, and it's now time to move on to the next phase.

The Draft Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan Update will be brought before the Council in April for approval prior to submission to the Puget Sound Partnership and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). The plan will also be released for public comment via the NRC website. Please contact Jeanette Dorner at dorner.jeanette@nisqually-nsn.gov or 360.456.5221 x2135.

6. Natural Selection Forestry – Jean Shaffer

Jean Shaffer presented an overview of Natural Selection Ecoforestry, which is “forestry that meets the needs of the ecosystem,” as opposed to anthropocentric forestry. Orville Camp is the founder of Natural Selection Ecoforestry. Natural Selection Forestry allows every tree to grow to its full potential, not to be removed until it shows signs of decline. Annual harvest prediction is approximately 2% of standing board feet. Regional climax species are be cedar and hemlock. Jean reviewed natural selection indicators and benefits, and discussed the difference between the ecosystem services within current management practices and those possible within a system of natural selection forestry. She noted that observance and respect are significant components of this approach to forest management.

Jean's presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/natural-selection-ecoforestry>. You can contact Jean at jeanorjerelshaffer@wildblue.net or 360.459.0946.

7. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05.

Next Meeting: RETREAT, Saturday March 26 at Pack Forest, 9:30 – 3:30