

Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council
January 21, 2011
Roy City Library

Information: 360.438.8715

#### Attendees:

# **Council Members**

Ron Averill – Lewis County Jeanette Dorner – Nisqually Indian Tribe Pam Hefley – Tacoma Power Cindy James – WA Dept. of Ecology Sandra Romero – Thurston County

# **Citizens Advisory Committee Members**

Paul Crosetto\*
Mary Foster
Fred Michelson\*

### **Guests**

Nikki Fields – WA State Parks Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust Doug McClelland - WA DNR Renee Mitchell – Pierce CD Karelina Resnick – WREDI Steve Ruff – Miles Sand & Gravel Jean Shaffer – EAC Member

# **Staff & Associated Nonprofits**

**Justin Hall** – *Nisqually River Foundation* 

Jean Takekawa – Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Mark Thibo – WA DNR John Thompson – City of Yelm David Troutt – Nisqually Indian Tribe \* CAC Representatives (3)

Steve Pruitt Marjorie Smith Robert Smith\*

Chris Schutz – Pierce County
Art Tasker – WA DNR
Jim Tolson – Pierce CD
Jim Wick - Thurston County Surface Storm
Water Advisory Board
Dan Wrye – Pierce County Surface Water
Mgmt.

**Sara Scott** – *Nisqually River Council* 

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

<u>Call to Order</u> – Steve called the meeting to order at 9:07.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u> – The minutes were approved as presented.

<u>Approval of Agenda</u> – The agenda was approved as presented.

### 2. Introductions, Reports

# **Advisory Committee Reports**

Citizens Advisory Committee – Robert Smith reported that the CAC met on January 6. The next meeting will be March 3, and will include election of officers. Robert raised concerns about a riverfront property that is at risk of polluting the river with debris if the bank erosion continues. It was suggested that the trailer may be classified as an "abandoned vehicle", and fall under the Thurston County Hulk Vehicle Program.

- Environmental Advisory Committee Fred reported that the pre-summit conference is scheduled for February 25. He summarized that the EAC is endeavoring to have cooperation from all forest ownership types to develop a Master Forestry Plan. Stakeholder representatives invited to the Forestry Conference include Mark Thibo, Allan Derickson, Julie Stangell, Diane Marcus-Jones, Adrianne Miller, Joe Kane, Jack Thorne, Cindy Wilson, Kirk Hanson, and Stanley Curtis. Steve Pruitt will facilitate the conference, which is planned to help develop the focus and agenda for the Forestry Summit (sometime in May).
  - Fred also reported that the Thurston County Shellfish Protection District is having an open house to roll-out the Nisqually Watershed Septic Management Program on Tuesday Jan 25, 6:30 8:30pm at the Thurston County Fairgrounds Expo Center. Contact TC Environmental Health for more information: 360.867.2626.
- *Economic Advisory Committee* No report.
- Community Advisory Committee Steve reported that the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan is being dramatically changed by a proposal from the County Council. A number of communities, together with planning firm AHBL, proposed an additional voluntary alternative structure to enable building per the individual community plans. The County staff did not support the proposal and refrained from forwarding it on to the County Council.
- Chair Report David recently spoke with Ted Sturtevant about NRC funding via the WA Dept. of Ecology; Ted indicated that he would provide ongoing support for the NRC. The expectation is that the budget hole is mostly filled through this year. Ron reported that the Lewis County BOCC had the hearing on the Forecastle/Mineral property in December. The BOCC approved the land use designation change, and requested the company develop a Forest Management Plan for the "conserved" upland property, and also include a 200' buffer for development on properties adjacent to the river.
- Staff Report Sara reported that the long-awaited NNWR boardwalk is scheduled to open on February 1at 1pm, and NRC members and associates are invited to attend. She also noted that members are invited to explore the boardwalk following the next NRC meeting at the Refuge. Other Council projects and programs are ongoing.

### **Allied Programs**

- Nisqually Land Trust Joe reported that the NLT is continuing to move on acquisitions and has reached agreement with the McGills family (property is 7 miles south of Eatonville). Negotiations regarding access are ongoing on the Tanwax/Van Antwerp properties. The property owner of the Middle Mashel parcel is demanding double the appraised value. The town of Eatonville has closed on 60 acres along the Mashel River. The Land Trust's Annual Auction will be held on April 2. David Troutt is leaving the board of the Land Trust, but is interested in establishing a board of trustees. The Land Trust received \$25K from the Nisqually Charitable Fund. Also, the Nisqually Tribe approved \$900K from a mitigation fund (Centralia Power) for restoration work on the Middle Mashel and the Nisqually mainstem.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* Salmon Tossing is underway.

- Nisqually River Foundation Justin reported that efforts to fill the budget gap continue.
   The NRF will add yet another "pass-through" staffer, a technician working on the estuary monitoring.
- Stream Stewards Jeanette reported that the Annual Roy Salmon Homecoming, cohosted by the Tribe & City of Roy, is tomorrow from 10 – 1:30 at the Roy City Park. The most recent Chum run was estimated at approximately 60,000 fish. David noted that they are expecting a huge pink salmon run this year; the pinks run early August – September. Don noted that the next Salmon Carcass Toss is in Eatonville on Saturday February 5. He also shared the most recent edition of Yil-me-hu.
- Salmon Recovery Update Jeanette reported that the PSAR Funds are critical to the implementation of the restoration plan, and most major restoration work in the Nisqually has been funded by these monies. PSAR requested \$55 million, but the restoration fund is currently funded at \$15 million. State budget is under consideration currently by the legislature.

The next phase of the Ohop restoration is the purchase of the property downstream of the Phase I project. A working option agreement was recently signed by the landowners. Jeanette proposed that half of the available funds go towards the critical acquisition of the Ohop/Burwash property, and half of the funds be dedicated to the Mashel acquisitions. The Council supported forwarding this proposal to the SRFB. Jeanette also noted that the Chinook Recovery Plan update is underway and her program is launching an integrated plan. The new weir is scheduled to be installed in the river from July 1 - October 30. A whole new management plan will need to be implemented to ensure the management of the fish and the weir are aligned with the plan objectives. Three year work plan is under revision - the NRC is invited to the overview of the Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan on February 8 at NNWR. The Estuary Restoration is now in Phase III, which will include removal of the remaining dikes on Braget Property / Red Salmon Creek, and removal of old bridge pilings this summer. SPSSEG is working on the design of the next phase of the Ohop project. Stewardship Partners is working to install 10 raingardens in the town of Eatonville.

David reported that one of the proposed changes in WA government includes the elimination of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The current proposal is to move the SRFB into the proposed conservation/restoration agency. SRFB has been successful with holding agencies accountable, and this proposed change would likely result in it becoming an agency-driven process rather than a citizen-driven initiative. David suggested the Council send a letter to the governor indicating support for the SRFB. The NRC moved to send a letter to the governor indicating support for the importance of retaining the SRFB process.

#### 3. NRC Officer Nomination Subcommittee Formation

Volunteers were recruited for participation on the Nomination Subcommittee. Mark Thibo and Fred Michelson volunteered, and Jean Takekawa as nominated in absentia.

# 4. DNR Mission, Organization, & Partnerships – Doug McClellan

Mark introduced Art Tasker, DNR's South Puget Sound Region Director. Mark provided a brief history of DNR's work with the NRC, and introduced Doug McClelland, DNR's South

Puget Sound Region Asset Operations Manager. Doug passed around the <u>Washington State</u> <u>Trust Lands Map</u>. He explained that Washington State is a land grant state, and all the lands represented in blue are "tax-delinquent" and managed by the State for the counties. DNR manages 5.6 million acres. DNR Core Principles include: sustainable stewardship, public interest, and sound science. The DNR regulates harvesting of timber on 12 million acres of private and state forestlands. DNR manages 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands, and ~30 large wind farms. They are also heavily involved in fire prevention and suppression. Other points of interest noted include: approximately 17% of the funds generated by Pierce County Trust Lands go into the Pierce County General Fund; DNR only employs seven law enforcement personnel; and last year, DNR supplied approximately 38% of the wood into the state market (up significantly from the annual average of 10%).

Doug referenced the 2010 Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Report<sup>1</sup> and the four major conservation strategies: the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy, the Riparian Conservation Strategy, the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy, and the Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy. He also spoke about the South Puget Forest Land Plan<sup>2</sup>, which includes land planning, process, management strategies, and board action. The last publication he referenced is the Forest Land Plan EIS<sup>3</sup>, which contains a significant amount of information that will be of interest to those concerned with regional natural resources.

The DNR is committed to working with conservation partners to retain working forest landscapes.

Doug's presentation is available online at <a href="http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-dnr-101-plus">http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-dnr-101-plus</a>. He can be contacted at <a href="douglas.mcclelland@dnr.wa.gov">douglas.mcclelland@dnr.wa.gov</a> or 206.920.5907.

#### Links to publications:

- 1. <a href="http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/lm">http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/lm</a> trust lands hcp annual rprt 2010.pdf)
- 2. http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/StateTrustLandsForestManagement/Pages/lm\_flp\_spuget.aspx
- 3.http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/SEPANonProject/Pages/amp sepa nonpro flp southpuget.aspx

### 5. Pierce County SWM 2011 Workplan – Dan Wrye

Dan Wrye joined us to share the 2011 Pierce County Surface Water Management (SWM) Workplan. The mission of the Pierce County SWM Program is to improve ecosystem health in Pierce County by managing stormwater systems, monitoring watersheds, and building partnerships. More than 390 thousand residents live in unincorporated Pierce County, which is more than in rural King County. Pierce County SWM has 27 staff persons, with the objectives of inspections, providing technical assistance to citizens, providing technical assistance to the county, and monitoring watershed health.

His department has inspected 1800 facilities and found a 70% non-compliance rate, with public facilities having a slightly higher non-compliance rate than private facilities. In 2011, Pierce County SWM will be conducting their first full assessment of all stormwater facilities throughout the county (parks, solid waste, ferries, airports, etc.).

The SWM Team also manages an on-site septic repair program. The Pierce County Code is currently being updated. Some potential opportunities for watershed councils and other partners include: Homeowners workshops - help select locations, co-sponsor, table/outreach; neighborhood workshops; report cards; storm drain marking; outreach initiatives; benthic index of biological integrity; Clarks Creek cleanup; salmon recovery; etc.

The Surface Water Health Report Card is online at http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/home/environ/water/wqws/2009waterqualityreportcardfinal.pdf. There are no Nisqually Watershed lakes included in the Report Card listings.

Dan's presentation is available online at the NRC SlideShare Page: http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/water-quality-and-watersheds-section-2011-workplan. You can contact Dan at dan.wrye@co.pierce.wa.us or 253.798.2725.

#### 6. For the Good of the Order

- Karen Yates, the Mayor of Roy, introduced herself and welcomed Council Members to Roy.
- 7. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05.

Next Meeting: Friday February 18, 9am, at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

NISQUALLY EVENTS	
March	
3/12	Red Salmon Creek Ivy Pull - Nisqually Land Trust, staff@nisquallylandtrust.org, 360.489.3400
3/17	<b>Student Congress</b> , Nisqually River Education Project – Sheila Wilson, <i>sheila@nisquallyriver.org</i> , 360.561.0203
3.18	Wilcox Flats Ivy Pull Nisqually Land Trust, staff@nisquallylandtrust.org, 360.489.3400
3/26	NRC Annual Retreat (Location TBD) – Sara Scott, sara@nisquallyriver.org, 360.438.8715
<b>April</b> 4/2 4/15 4/16 4/22	Nisqually Land Trust's Auction & Dinner Gala – NLT, 360.489.3400, staff@nisquallylandtrust.org NRC Meeting, Yelm – Sara Scott, sara@nisquallyriver.org, 360.438.8715 Ohop Ivy Pull – Nisqually Land Trust, 360.489.3400, staff@nisquallylandtrust.org Powell Uplands Scotch Broom Pull - Nisqually Land Trust, staff@nisquallylandtrust.org, 360.489.3400
May TBD 5/20	NatureMapping at the Refuge w/ NREP – Sheila Wilson, sheila@nisquallyriver.org, 360.561.0203 NRC Meeting – Sara Scott, sara@nisquallyriver.org, 360.438.8715
<b>June</b> 6/1	<b>Nisqually Stream Stewards Training Course</b> - Don Perry, <i>perry.don@nisqually-nsn.gov</i> , 360.438.8687 x 2143
TBD 6/17	NatureMapping at the Refuge w/ NREP – Sheila Wilson, sheila@nisquallyriver.org, 360.561.0203 NRC Meeting – Sara Scott, sara@nisquallyriver.org, 360.438.8715
Contom	har

9/1 – 26 Salmon Watcher Training, Nisqually Stream Stewards - Don Perry, perry, don@nisqually-nsn.gov, 360.438.8687 x 2143