



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Karelina Resnick's Home,  
203 Orchard Street N., Eatonville**

**CAC Members Present:** *Karelina Resnick, Jean Shaffer, Deborah Crosetto, Mary Foster, and David Hymel*  
**Staff Present:** *Ashley Von Essen*

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:26pm.

There was a motion to approve April's meeting minutes. They were approved as written, as was the evening's agenda.

**Eatonville Stormwater Plan Update – *David Hymel, Rain Dog Designs***

David Hymel, a member of the CAC and 2006 Stream Stewards Graduate, has been working with a team to update Eatonville's Stormwater Comprehensive Plan. This plan directly intersects with the tasks and goals of the Nisqually River Council and the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan (NWSP), and looks to curb 100% of the Town's stormwater runoff through the use of raingardens, green streets, logjams, etc. A work in progress for the past six years, funding has finally been made available by the Tribe and the Puget Sound Partnership to move the project forward. Combined with grants applied for by David and additional resources from the Nisqually River Foundation, the plan has been re-vamped and given "legs."

Over the years, interest in curbing the Town's stormwater has increased exponentially because of the direct impacts stormwater has on the Mashel River and Ohop and Lynch Creeks, tributaries critical for the survival of Nisqually salmon. Since the Mashel doesn't have enough water, the low-flow conditions in summer are detrimental for salmon spawning. Currently, stormwater is artificially diverted away from the Mashel River through a pipe, untreated, to Ohop Creek. Infiltrating stormwater, such as through raingardens, would allow groundwater stores to be replenished while increasing base flows of the Mashel.

David has been working with the Town to author a 5-year Quarterly Campaign Outline, with a listing of possible grant resources and project partners. Several hundred thousand dollars will be needed to complete the 5-year Campaign. Possible funding opportunities include applying for SRF Board funds, for projects directly benefiting salmon populations in the Nisqually River System, working with Pierce Conservation District's Stream and Stormwater Teams for Green Partnership Funds, NPDES Management, and funds allocated to environmental education programs. The Town is also looking to add a \$5 fee to each utility bill to be used for maintenance. The committee will be looking to the EPA and the Russell Family Foundation, as well as many other potential partners and funders, for the resources to implement the Plan. Eventually, it is hoped that this program will increase economic development in Eatonville, as well as the property values, sustainability, and efficiency, while decreasing utilities and daily living costs.

The Plan will be released May 15<sup>th</sup> for public comment. An electronic copy of the full update is available by request from David or Ashley.

The CAC is vital to the implementation of this plan. Ways each member can help include:

- Utilizing rain barrels or other catchment systems
- Raingarden installations
- Harnessing solar power
- Outreach and education
- Joining the Campaign's advisory committee
- Keeping stormwater in mind with any new construction projects at home/work
- Participation in the Eatonville Salmon Fest

Other ideas:

- Have the Mayor of Eatonville and Billy Frank, Jr. film a 30 second introduction for the "River of Kings" episodes
- Stormwater Rebates from the County
- More in-classroom education and service-learning projects
- A study to measure the impacts of raingardens to see what is happening downstream
- The use of raingardens and water harvest systems in schools
- Grants for pilot projects
  - One residential block where each resident installs a raingarden or cistern, results are then evaluated.
- All new construction will work to curb stormwater
- Stormwater fees for incorporated Pierce County based on presence of asphalt on property

## **Citizen Conservation Certification**

### **"Water"**

A first draft of the "water" portion of the CCC assessment has been developed. Ashley used the Nisqually Sustainable Checklist as a template, pairing it down and editing it, directing questions towards residential homeowners. However, there is an issue with the checklist being too long. This is mostly because of the "answers" that are listed with each question, which provide resources to participants. Questions on the original checklist can be removed to resolve this issue. Also, when launching the assessment on the website, resources can be hidden and accessed as needed through a hyperlink to another page. Without a program to calculate or evaluate assessment responses, the checklist will need to be printed off the website and mailed in to the committee with suggested donation/payment. Ashley will continue to search for a program similar to Survey Monkey that may be used in the future.

David suggested that along with the CCC assessment, the committee could offer home and energy audits as a pilot program in Eatonville. Keeping the program in town could allow for local feedback and/or follow-up visits. This could be incorporated with an incentive program, similar to stormwater fee reduction programs for participants and/or schools in Thurston County. The program could also be used in conjunction with the Eatonville Stormwater Plan and/or Stream Stewards Training Program and tested out by the Nisqually River Council or Stream Stewards trainees.

## **“Gardening”**

Mary passed out the notes she had compiled for the “gardening” portion of the assessment. The group took a few moments to begin brainstorming on this section.

- Importance and uses for compost
  - Purchase locally from GoGreen or Silver Springs Organics
- Natural and pesticide-free yard care
- Designated areas for free garden resources for communities
  - Wood chips
    - Woodlawn
    - Asplundh
  - Compost
- Homemade topsoil mix for gardens
  - 60% sand, 40% compost

## **Scenic Byway Project**

Mary will be attending upcoming Scenic Byway Project meetings, taking over for Steve Pruitt in his absence. Karelina reported that at the last meeting maps of the project were presented to attendees, who were asked to make suggestions for possible improvements. Suggestions are to be considered and maps adjusted before the next meeting. There is to be one more planning meeting before the commencement of public participation. The project seems to have ample funding and is moving forward accordingly.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at Jean’s home.

## **For the Good of the Order –**

Ashley is missing a few phone numbers of CAC members. Of the attendees present, these include:

Jean 360.459.0946

Mary 360.569.2860

The Eatonville Salmon Fest will take place Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm, at Mill Pond and Smallwood Parks. Activities include: Raingarden tours, logjam tours, salmon TV, music, salmon t-shirts, etc. This event is directly connected with the Eatonville Stormwater Update, in which quarterly events are written into the campaign outline. This is a great way to promote the Town’s endeavors to curb stormwater and protect salmon habitat through education and outreach.

Upcoming Raingarden Initiative volunteer event will take place June 1<sup>st</sup> from 10am-1pm. Volunteers will be cleaning up the raingarden installation at the Napa Auto Parts Store.

David mentioned the Nisqually Basin Plan, a plan proposed by Pierce County Councilmember Roger Bush. Pushing through this plan help direct funds towards Eatonville’s stormwater campaign. The plan was temporarily paused due to issues in the Upper Watershed. Though the issues have been resolved, the plan has not been addressed. Is there a way to get his process moving forward? Would it be possible to have an update of the Nisqually Basin Plan at an upcoming NRC meeting? Ashley will ask Justin about this topic.

There have been a number of accomplishments in Eatonville, such as new raingarden and logjam installations. The Town of Eatonville, as well as partner organizations, should be celebrating these endeavors, as they are a great opportunity for education and outreach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.