



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2013, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Bob Smith, Karelina Resnick, Marjorie Smith, Fred Michelson, and Steve Pruitt*
Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

There was a motion to approve September's meeting minutes. They were approved with one correction being made to the list of attendees. The agenda for the evening was approved as well.

Citizens Conversation Certification (CCC) Update

Steve has an idea to make this task a bit less daunting. He suggested that the committee look at this task through the eyes of the Good Neighbor Handbook. Would it be possible to marry the idea of the CCC with the Nisqually Good Neighbor Handbook (GNH)? The handbook is in process of being mailed to most of the watershed's residents. This resource could be a great way to encourage residents to be "Good Neighbors." If participants want a plaque or certificate to show their achievement, there will be an option to mail in a small fee to cover the costs of the signage and materials. This would support a project already out there, exposing residents to the handbook, the website, and the work of the NRC, without putting too much pressure on participants. The booklet is a great resource of background information on the available ecosystem services of the watershed.

Ashley will be making a digital version of the GNH available on the website very soon. Steve has just finished over 2 months of single parenting, which has taken up a great portion of his time. With his newly found free time, he will try to put together an example for the group to review.

NRC Staff Report

Ashley shared that the 24th Annual Nisqually Watershed Festival (NWF) took place Saturday, September 28th at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. For the first year in festival history, the committee and attendees experienced inclement weather. With record high rainfall, Ashley shared that it was amazing to see how quickly the team was able to develop a contingency plan. Within minutes, the crisis was averted and most displays were either moved indoors or under cover. Though everyone was a bit soggy, the committee was given a number of compliments on the positive attitudes of those present. Due to the poor weather, attendance was down to an estimated 400 guests.

She also shared that on Saturday, October 19th, the first ever Eatonville Salmon Fest (ESF) took place at Eatonville's Mill Pond and Smallwood Parks. This event was able to bridge a gap between the communities of the upper watershed and the salmon of the Nisqually. The ESF was created to replace the Roy Salmon Homecoming, which took place in Roy's City Park. The event, held in January of each year, was always very wet and cold with the only fish on site being a dead hatchery

Chinook set aside from the fall run. It was estimated that 400 guests were welcomed to this first ever festival.

Follow-up meetings for both festivals are to take place at the end of November and early December. One item up for discussion will be the close proximity of the dates for these two events. With the NWF being in its 25th year, the busy Eatonville schedule, and timing of the salmon runs, dates may be difficult to change. However, being only a few weeks apart puts stress on the festivals' planning committees, as well as organizations staffing displays and volunteers.

A small committee has been working to flush out the goals of the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan, meeting every other Tuesday morning at the Tribe's Natural Resources Office. Each meeting has a designated discussion topic that has been drawn from the plan's outlined objectives. The next topic is Economic Viability of Natural Resources. Everyone is invited to attend. Ashley will email the upcoming NWSP schedule to the CAC.

With 12 objectives and 12 months of NRC meetings throughout the year, it is Justin's intent to align each month with a specific location and topic. This may mean longer meetings, allowing for a thorough discussion of each objective. If meetings are extended beyond the regular three hour time slot, lunch will be provided. He will be presenting this proposed format change at December's NRC meeting for approval by the Council. With the possibility of condensing topics to 11 instead of 12, the 12th meeting may stand as a fun retreat and celebration of the watershed.

Ashley has been working closely with the Nisqually River Education Project, planting trees with students from the Nisqually Watershed. Sheila, the program's director, has scheduled nearly 30 classes to assist with this very beneficent service-learning project. With the help of these students, teachers, and parent volunteers, along with staff from the Nisqually Tribe and the Nisqually Land Trust, almost 4,000 trees will be put in the ground near Kjelstead Rd. as part of the second phase of the Ohop Restoration Project.

This year the NRF was very pleased to welcome aboard two Washington Conservation Corps Individual Placements, Morgan Greene and Nathan Mead, to help develop a climate adaptation plan and to implement action projects developed by students at this year's Student GREEN Congress. NREP is also glad to bring James Morrill on as an educational intern from The Evergreen State College.

Ashley mentioned that her position with the Nisqually River Foundation might change with the fluctuation of funding sources.

Marjorie has offered to take notes at monthly NRC meetings in order to give a report at CAC meetings for those who cannot attend.

Fred offered to give reports on the Nisqually River Foundation Board, including future projects, budgets, etc. The next Board meeting will be held December 4th from 9am to 11am at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Fred will plan on giving a summary of the budget and discussion of the meeting's agenda.

For the Good of the Order –

- Proposed Date for the next CAC meeting will be a holiday potluck, Tuesday, December 17th from 6 to 8pm at the Tribe's Natural Resources Office. Attendees should bring a dish to pass. Ashley will send out a doodle to ensure this date works for everyone.
- Other important dates:

- NRC Meeting this Friday, November 15th from 9:30 to 12:30
- Salmon Watcher Training, December 7th from 9am to noon
- Salmon Carcass Tossing, December 14th from 9am to noon

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.