



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Bob and Marjorie Smith, Jean Shaffer, Mary Foster, Fred Michelson, Phyllis Farrell, 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 June's meeting minutes. They were approved as written. An amendment to the agenda was made to elect a new CAC Co-chair.

**Co-Chair Elections**

For the time being, Karelina has chosen to step aside as the CAC's Co-Chair. She has submitted her official resignation to the committee's Vice Chair, Mary Foster. This document will be shared with the group over the next couple days. Steve Pruitt has been nominated to take Karelina's place. There was a motion to elect Steve as Co-Chair of the CAC and it was unanimously approved.

Bob has chosen to step down from his position as Co-Chair. There was also motion to nominate Jean to the role of Co-Chair. This motion was also unanimously approved.

**Forestry Updates and Discussion**

At the CAC's last meeting, Karelina mentioned that she would speak with David Troutt for permission to pursue Jen Cutler's GIS services. Jean has been waiting for this to move forward with the pursuit of establishing a Forest Buffer Zone. It is the hope that either Steve or Bryan Bowden will approach him for this nod of approval. This will allow the committees to take a closer look at zoning classifications and areas where urban sprawl have been on the rise. Highlighting these areas will help identify where potential buffer zones are necessary. Steve has been speaking with Sandra Romero on this topic. Virtually all lands in Thurston County land are either privately owned or owned by an entity such as Tacoma Public Utilities, DNR, etc. Forestry is a very important part of agriculture, a vital part of the Nisqually Watershed that Sandra has been working to expand and develop.

At the last CAC meeting, both Joe Kane and Bryan Bowden came to speak about the Nisqually Community Forest Project. Over the years, Jean has been participating with the Forest Guild, who is in the process of putting on the Forest Guild Pacific Northwest Conference this fall. Jean submitted the idea of focusing this year's conference around community forests. The conference will take place October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Mount Adams Lodge. Joe Kane will be presenting, as well as Owen Fairbank of the Jefferson Land Trust, both speaking to sustainability and community forests. Keynote speakers are scheduled for Friday, with

Saturday's speaker yet to be determined. Registration documents will be sent out as soon as speakers have committed and details have been finalized. Costs will be \$50 to attend, \$20 for students, \$30 for overnight lodge amenities and \$10 for campers. They are also in talks with the Land Trust Community of WA, to put together a community forest meeting in the spring. It is hope they will be able to build that meeting based on the happenings of the upcoming conference.

### **Stream Stewards Update**

Don's Stream Stewards Program saw 25 students graduate this summer. Participants of all ages came as far as Puyallup, Tacoma, and Seattle. Three of these students will be pursuing college credit through SPSCC's Running Start program and volunteer service "letters" through Eatonville High School. This class was also given the opportunities to sample aquatic macroinvertebrates at Pierce County sites along the Nisqually River system that hadn't been collected in years.

Salmon Watchers will be looking for spawning salmon in the Ohop Valley, at Ohop Creek off Peterson Road. There will be a training this coming Saturday from 9am to noon, at the Tribe's Natural Resources office. Participants will then be able to take a guided of the Nisqually Weir Project. Those wishing to attend should dress for the weather and for the splashing pinks that have been returning in record numbers. Chinook are still being seen at the hatchery, not yet making their way to the weir. A second workshop is to be held December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Nisqually Watershed Festival will be taking place Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge from 10am to 4pm.

The first ever Eatonville Salmon Fest will take place October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. Activities include: Salmon TV, local musicians, a salmon BBQ, FIN the Migrating Salmon, Drain Dare, Sal the Salmon, and over 20 different displays from local organizations. The main event will take place at Mill Pond Park, with NatureMapping, logjam Tours, and planting demonstrations at Smallwood Park. The Pierce County Historical Society will have the cabin open, with a loop of "River of Kings" highlighting the PBS film crew's trip to Eatonville. There will also be a raingarden tour and plantings with Native Plant Salvage and Rain Dog Designs. The Eatonville Chamber will be offering a coupon designating a percentage off at participating locations.

A volunteer planting will take place near Ohop Creek, downstream of Hwy 7, on October 26th. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Halloween planting in Ohop and will have a zombie theme. Face painting will be available by Candi Tobin of the NLT.

A salmon carcass tossing event will take place Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Don has been working on the Yil-Me-Hu, compiling news, articles, and follow-up research reports. The Natural Resource Department has also been contributing to the Tribe's monthly newsletter, one person each month submitting an article.

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the Nisqually Salmon Camp. Throughout the first week of July, 20 high school age Nisqually students participated in the 5-day program. There were many fieldtrips, including beach seining at the Nisqually Reach Nature Center and on a research boat around the South Sound's islands, a tour of the Nisqually Shellfish Farm, geo-caching, fish dissections, and radio telemetry opportunities. The purpose of this camp is to foster relationships between natural resource professionals and Nisqually youth, to inspire

kids to pursue jobs in the scientific field. This year marked the first time that participants were able to receive college credits through the NW Indian College.

Don has also been working with Sayre Hodgson in endeavors to arm 900 coho salmon with PIT tags in Ohop Creek. Each tag is designated with a specific number used to track the movement of these fish. 4 or 5 antennas have been placed on stream beads protected by PVC, with instrumentation set to record when PIT tags are in the area's vicinity. It is estimated that it will take a few years to collect and interpret the data.

The Nisqually Land Trust has acquired the Burwash property, in the Ohop Valley. Don is working with partners to institute a Bio-Blitz in the spring of 2014, prior to construction of the next phase of the Ohop Restoration.

### **Citizen Conservation Certification**

In the interest of moving this project forward, Mary has brought an early version of the CCC template, along with notes taken at earlier meetings. Taking a look at the early version of the template put forth by Karelina, much of what has been written is focused on habitat. Some brainstorming has been done to flush out other topics deemed necessary for the assessment. The committee aims to continue in this direction, designating one or two people to pull ideas together into a completed format. Once information on the subject, a user-friendly format will be established, as well as the best way to introduce and market it to the public (via school districts and/or Stream Stewards.)

Committee members had volunteered to work on various sections:

Jean -- Energy

Bob and Marjorie -- Animals

Debby -- Water

Steve -- Waste and Recycling

Karelina -- Air

Mary -- Flora

Certification standards need to be set, but the goal of the program is to get people thinking about making positive and sustainable choices. Fred suggested a booklet containing best practices could be passed out to homeowners, providing them with ideas of what makes a good steward and how to make improvements. In the past, Thurston Conservation District had a program that included on-site visits to participant's homes, asking them to take a sustainability pledge. Other programs, such as Nisqually Sustainable assesses where participants are and asks for a commitment to make improvements over time. Steps are then identified as to how improvements can be made, supplying both resources and technical assistance. Participants are contacted the 6 months to a year down the road, reporting steps taken, successes, etc. The program was formed based on standards for international sustainability, which has proven to produce better results.

In order to move the assessment more quickly, those interested in helping can write their portions outside of meetings, each taking a section to expand upon. It may be best to decide a format for each person in which to align their information. Three options include:

- A checklist with narrative, such as the Nisqually Sustainable format
- The checklist that has been started
- A narrative only format

Would an electronic format be most effective? Hard copy questionnaires or in-person interviews would also be options.

A sample of each format could be created and discussed by the committee. Steve will work on this program and send it to Ashley for edits. The document will then be sent to the CAC for additional suggestions before the next meeting.

Phyllis lives at Sunwood Lakes, which could be a great place to sample the CCC program.

Attaching a fee to the program will be discussed at a later date. The committee doesn't wish to exclude anyone from participating. It may be possible to create some sort of reward or additional benefit for those who wish to donate to the program, such as publishing their name on a donor list at a certain "level," that could appear on the NRC's website or in a newsletter.

### **Eatonville Stormwater Project**

A number of local organizations involved with Eatonville's Stormwater Initiative met September 16<sup>th</sup> to share current projects and updates.

- Doug Beagle shared that the Town's Stormwater update is in its final approval stage, to be approved by the Town Council.
- Rain Dog Designs is putting on 5 raingardens between now and October. They intend to have volunteers help with plantings on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Stewardship Partners is releasing a RG Care Guide.
- 3 high school students have signed up to participate in project being spearheaded by NREP and Native Plant Salvage to install their own raingardens for college credit through the Running Start Program. 2 sites have been identified, the Cruiser Café and a dental office.

### **For the Good of the Order –**

- The next meeting is to take place Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm, Nisqually Tribe Natural Resources Offices.
- The committee should look to get Bryan Bowden on the CAC. He has mentioned his intent to continue to participate in community service related activities in his retirement. Steve will begin a conversation with Bryan on this topic.
- The CAC should look to make a presentation to Phyllis's organization, Sunwood Lakes Democrats for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative district. This could promote collaboration amongst the two organizations on future projects. Phyllis will communicate with Ashley to set up a meeting time for the CAC to share info with her group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.