



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

CAC Members Present: *Phyllis Farrell, Jean Shaffer, Karelina Resnick, Fred Michelson, Ed Kenney and Steve Pruitt*

Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen*

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

There was a motion to approve January's meeting minutes. They were accepted as written, as was the night's agenda. Any additions to the agenda will be shared during For the Good of the Order.

Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan – Biodiversity in the Watershed

Salmon are an obvious species within the realms of this topic and are easily relate to each of the four indicators listed for this objective. There are a number of other species that should also be considered. The Mashel River and Ohop Creek are very valuable for the habitat they provide, to which the Tribe and the Nisqually Land Trust have worked to permanently protect a portion of this area. The Nisqually Community Forest initiative is focusing on the Busy Wild, which lies between Eatonville and Mount Rainier, for the small tributaries that flow into this critical habitat.

Steve mentioned that the CAC should be prepared to take part in the forestry initiatives of the watershed. Not only are forests important for the habitat and resources they offer salmonids, but also for the viewshed and other important resources forests provide. Steve believes that the CCC may come in handy for raising awareness in the watershed, such as knowledge of forestry and native/invasive plant species.

Is there a particular topic the CAC would like to mention at next Friday's NRC meeting? Are there any indicators that should be changed or added?

- Phyllis mentioned a lack of indicators mentioning the reduction or elimination of commercial or residential practices that may have adverse effects on biological diversity.
- Jean brought up that when forests are clear-cut, they are later replanted with a single species. This practice compromises the genetics of stands and eliminates the integrity that has been developing over time. These genetics are what allow forests to adapt and thrive in their ecosystems.
- Fred worked with Jen Cutler, the Tribe's GIS analyst, on a project that included mapping the most biologically diverse areas of the watershed. He curious about the status of this project and if it would be helpful for this objective.

Today's NWSP Discussion: Integrated Communities

Steve shared an update of the NWSP Planning meeting that was held earlier this afternoon to discuss Integrated Communities, an objective of the NWSP. Steve shared that this area of social sustainability is a
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new venture of the NRC, outlined by the updated plan. The committee briefly considered potential roles for the CAC within this NWSP component and decided that the CAC could be very helpful in educating communities on the River Council and environmental stewardship.

Karelina believes that this component does not fit in with the work of the NRC. She believes that social components, such as this Integrate Communities, should be listed separately as tasks to be completed by other organizations in the watershed. Steve shared that even though this is not within the expertise of the NRC, healthy citizens and transportation to tourist attractions within watershed boundaries are very important. When this item is discussed at October's NRC meeting, these feelings can be shared with the large group.

Karelina also shared her thoughts on the inconvenient timing of the NWSP Goal Setting meetings and the CAC meetings. Since she is travelling from Eatonville, she is unable to attend both. Ashley shared that the NWSP meeting time was forced to change due to a scheduling conflict with Climate Solutions University webinars. Also, these meetings were set in motion before the CAC had decided on the second Tuesday of each month. Since there are only two meetings left in this series of discussions, the CAC will adjust the March meeting to eliminate this conflict.

Yelm Water Case

Unfortunately, Phyllis was unable to make contact with Susan McComb, about details pertaining to the Yelm Water Case, due to Susan being ill. Information provided up to this point states that an amicus brief has been filed with the Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office debating whether extra water rights should be given to a developer looking to build more homes in Yelm. It is their intent to pump more water out of a "closed" creek in Yelm, which has yet to be identified. The brief also states that the city and the Department of Ecology are leaning towards allowing this happen. The party filing the amicus brief would like further research to be done before a final decision is made. Steve asked Phyllis to find out more information and send it to Ashley, who can then share it with the CAC, Justin Hall, and David Troutt.

Neonicitenoids and Pesticide Usage

Fred has done some research on neonicitenoids, finding pertinent information on the Department of Agriculture's website. There is a 90-page document that describes the five main causes of colony collapse disorder and the related effects being seen in all pollinators, not just honey bees. Copies of the webpage were made available, as well as a reply from the Department of Agriculture to Sandra Romero when she requested use of neonicitenoids be eliminated in Thurston County. Their reply stated that though these toxins have been known to have detrimental effects on bees in laboratories, they cannot be isolated as the sole cause of colony collapse disorder and therefore cannot be outlawed by any county. Fred has contacted Sandra Romero to talk about this topic and will be meeting with her on Friday. He will inquire about having someone speak to this topic at an upcoming NRC meeting. Karelina may also have a contact that could provide the NRC with a presentation.

Jean received a phone call on Saturday night from someone trying to raise money to campaign against neonicitenoids. He took down Jean's email and unfortunately must have gotten it wrong because she never received the information.

For the Good of the Order –

- Ed inquired about the NRC's Public Access Committee. He would like to see this item on an upcoming agenda in regards to the Nisqually State Park. Steve would like to invite Lisa Breckenridge, NIT, and Nikki Fields, State Parks, to the next CAC meeting to answer questions about park access. Steve shared the effort of the Mount Nisqually Heritage Trail Project, which aims to increase trails and access in the upper watershed.
- The Citizens Action Training School is now accepting applications through Feb 28th.
- Upcoming political caucus for the 2nd legislative district. Dylan Carlson indicated that they are currently working with conservation groups to further environmental efforts. Phyllis will inquire about specific items to be discussed at the caucus. Conservation Lobbying Day is this Thursday.
- Eatonville Rain Garden update. Native Plant Salvage has been working with the students and is planning installations for spring. NPS will be providing the NRC with a presentation of their progress at the April meeting.
- Karelina mentioned the Trans Pacific Partnership and the intent to obtain Fast Track trade authority, which aims to support corporations on the Pacific Rim, resulting in lowering wages and decreasing benefits for Americans, as well as decreased environmental provisions. The CAC should be watching the moves of our Congress to be sure they are looking after our best interests.
- NAFTA has secret courts and attorneys, which they retain for corporations, providing them opportunities to sue countries for income lost because they can't take full advantage of environment resources.
- Next CAC meeting: Tuesday March 18th, 6 to 8pm at the Tribe's Natural Resources Office
- Important Dates:
 - NRC Meeting, Friday February 21st, 9am to noon, at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.