



**Nisqually River Council  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2014, 6:00 – 7:30 PM  
Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resources Office**

**CAC Members Present:** *Karelina Resnick, Fred Michelson, Carl Rotter, and Steve Pruitt*

**Staff Present:** *Ashley Von Essen*

**Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:11pm.

There was a motion to approve February's meeting minutes. They were accepted as written. There was one addition to the agenda offered by Carl Rotter pertaining to the Nisqually State Park.

**Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan (NWSP) – *Community Wellness***

There was a small discussion on this topic at last week's NWSP meeting, based mostly on objectives that also relate to Integrated Communities. Morgan has researched these topics and will be ready to present them at next Friday's meeting. This is not a portion of the plan that the Council has much experience and should be further flushed out to develop specific indicators and guidelines.

Steve believes that relevant agencies need to be identified for each objective and then approached for contributions to the plan, allowing them the option to become active watershed stakeholders. Presenting topics at each meeting promotes discussion and future implementation of these tasks. Steve believes that future NWSP meetings should be used as planning sessions, to properly execute ideas with David Troutt acting as the committee's Chair. Ashley shared that it was the intent of the NWSP committee to flush out each indicator, developing inventories and identifying gaps. As each topic is discussed at NRC meetings, priorities will be established and aligned with each of the involved agencies and NRC staff.

As far as the first indicator is concerned, locally grown/produced foods, Karelina mentioned that Thurston County has been focusing on agri-tourism, creating public access to local farmers. However, because of changes in zoning laws, land zoned for agriculture has been steadily decreasing.

Relevant Agencies include:

- Pierce, Thurston, Lewis County Health Departments
- Department of Health
- Department of Ecology (human health hazards)
- Those associated with ecosystem services
- Those associated with water and soil testing
- Pierce, Thurston, Lewis County Disaster Plans and Emergency Response Teams

NRC presentation ideas:

- Thurston County agriculture—new zoning law and the associated changes
- Disaster Response Plans—Karelina has a contact at Pierce County
- County Health Departments

## Next Steps

- Steve mentioned having Morgan come to a future meeting to present her research, next steps for the committee and the NRC, and how the CAC can be of help.
- Create an index of agency contacts that can be approached for each of the plan's objectives.

## NWSP Topic for April: *Ecosystem Function*

- Who could give a report card on the various ecosystems?
  - River and Streams: PC Surface Water Management, NLT
  - Prairies Lands: CNLM, JBLM, Friends of the Prairie
  - Forest Lands: NLT—What is the status forestland protect?
  - Snow and ice lands: Mount Rainier NP - Barbara Samora, Paul Kennard
  - Alpine Lands: Mount Rainier NP - Barbara Samora, Paul Kennard
- Ask about presenting at April CAC meeting:
  - Joe, NLT (Forestry, Rivers/Streams)
  - Barbara Samora, MORA (Snow and icelands/alpine lands)
  - Erica Guttman, ask who to contact for prairie plants (prairies)
  - Mason McKinley, Fred will make contact (prairies)

## CAC Vice Chair Nominations

Mary Foster has stepped down as Vice Chair due to her inability to attend meetings regularly. Instead of making any decisions this evening, nominations will be accepted over the next two months, with elections being held at the July's Annual NRC Retreat.

## NRC Staff Announcement

Ashley shared that she has taken a position with the Nisqually Indian Tribe as the Salmon Recovery Program's Lead Entity Coordinator. She will still provide assistance to NRC over the next few months, while the NRF is in transition with its new staff, Morgan Greene. She is very excited for the opportunity to grow and learn new things in Nisqually.

## Carl's Corner

Carl shared that Alder Park will now be closing its doors for 6 months out of the year. This includes access to a boat launch and access to 550 sites.

Carl was also proud to report that the swallows have come back, which means spring is finally sprung! He has a great pattern for birdhouses fit for swallows and blue birds. Feel free to contact him directly for this design!

Carl has been in communication with State Parks about including a boat ramp in the final plans. A boat launch site was originally included in the first set of plans, but quietly disappeared throughout the planning process, mostly due to fishing closures and difficulty obtaining permits. Initial plans also included horse trails that crossed the Mashel River. Carl would like to see a hard copy of the comprehensive plans, including trails and river access. He will make contact with Lisa Breckenridge to obtain this information.

Carl is seeking permission from the CAC to support a primitive, undeveloped boat launch just upstream from Ohop, to be open year round, pending protection for fish and wildlife. There was a motion to support these endeavors, which passed unanimously. Steve will present this idea at the NRC meeting and ask for ideas to

identify and/or develop an appropriate take-out downstream. Currently, the next possible take-out would be at McKenna Park, 11 river miles downstream, which requires portage around the diversion dam.

**For the Good of the Order –**

- Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8pm at the Nisqually Tribe’s Natural Resources Office
  - The CAC would like to review the NWSP and developing inventories at the April meeting
  - Send invite to NRC Contact List
- Fred mentioned Mark Emrich’s upcoming presentation to the NRC, which will provide information on the Olympia Beekeepers Association.
- Ashley will talk to Morgan about introducing herself via email to the CAC, as well as emailing Morgan and Steve to establish a future meeting time.
- Important Dates:
  - NRC Meeting, Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 12:30pm, at UW’s Pack Forest

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.