



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting
September 16, 2016
Yelm Community Center
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

Council Members

Amy Cruver – Pierce County

JW Foster – City of Yelm

Mark Frey – Mount Rainier N.P.

Amber Martens – JBLM

Amber Moore – Puget Sound Partnership

Alice Rubins – SRF Board

Rene' Skaggs – Peirce Conservation District

* CAC Representatives (2)

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Steve Pruitt*

Marjorie Smith

Robert Smith

Lois Ward*

Guests

Jeff Barney – Pierce County

Katie Bonser – Pierce County/Nisq. Stream Stewards

Curtis McFeron – NOAA

Martin McCallum – Nisqually Land Trust

Brian Sullivan – NLT/Pierce Conservation District

Ashley Von Essen – Nisqually Indian Tribe

Staff & Associated Nonprofits

Kalicia Bean – Nisqually River Ed. Project

Morgan Greene – Nisqually River Council

Justin Hall – Nisqually River Foundation

Joe Kane – Nisqually Land Trust

Aleks Storvick – Nisqually River Ed. Project

Sheila Wilson – Nisqually River Ed. Project

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Agenda, Introductions

Call to Order – JW called the meeting to order at 9:09 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda – There was a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as presented. They were approved, as was the agenda for the day. JW welcomed the NRC to the Yelm Community Center.

2. Reports

Advisory Committee Reports

- *Citizens Advisory Committee* – The CAC met for the first time in 2 months this past Tuesday, in a combined meeting with the Nisqually Stream Stewards. The night featured presentations from NRC, NRF, CAC and NREP.
- *Chair Report* – The NRC Executive Committee met 2 weeks ago to hear a proposal from Clint Hackney and Steve Pruitt. They outlined a planning process to develop a systems management approach to water resources. The process would work with the programs/plans already developed and would form a plan that is consistent with goals already outlined. The Executive Committee agreed to move forward with finding grant funds before launching the planning process. Steve and Clint will present the Executive Committee with a more descriptive outline at an upcoming meeting.
- *Staff Report* – The Nisqually Stream Stewards will graduate at the Nisqually Watershed Festival on September 24, at 12:15 in the amphitheater. The Stream Stewards will also host a salmon watchers training on September 28th as well as a Halloween-themed Ohop Tree planting party on October 29th. The Nisqually Watershed Festival is still in need of a few volunteers, but is shaping up to be a great event. The Eatonville Salmon Fest is on October 15th in Millpond Park. Morgan and Ashley will be volunteer coordinators for the event, and are using an online form so people can choose their own shifts/activities. The NRF and South Sound GREEN recently applied to the Rose Foundation in support of Student GREEN Congress and water quality monitoring.

Allied Programs

- *Nisqually Land Trust* – Candi Tobin recently left her position, after 8 years with the Land Trust, to be closer to family. The NLT is hiring for her position, as well as a half time Administrative Assistant (Nikki is not leaving). The Land Trust is looking for anyone with development skills; this is a mid-level position. Both position descriptions can be found on the NLT website (www.nisquallylandtrust.org). The Nisqually Land Trust's Annual Meeting is on Sunday, September 18th at Oddfellows Park. Joe announced that the State Land Trust Association has adopted its state priorities (forests, farms, and fish) and have committed to supporting PSAR and SRF Board funding requests in their lobbying efforts. Sunny Thompson joined the NLT Board, and Steve, Brian, Doug and Joe met with Eatonville Town Council this week to discuss the transfer of nearby DNR forestland to the Town. The Town was open to the idea of the transfer; if management is an issue, the property may become a part of the Nisqually Community Forest. The property is adjacent to NLT property in the Ohop Valley and the Nisqually State Park; it contains 100+-year-old timber.
- *Nisqually River Education Project* – The school year is starting back up, and 41 teachers have declared interest in water quality monitoring, including 8 new teachers. NREP recently shared a partner survey to solicit feedback on the water quality monitoring program; thank you to those who have already responded! The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and will provide information on which water quality locations/parameters are most valuable to partners. In other news, water quality monitoring training will be on October 1 at Tumwater Falls Park. A series of smaller trainings will be held throughout the watershed in the days following. Teachers involved with the Climate Fellowship will begin meeting soon.

The Trout and Salmon Foundation grant results should be announced soon. Kalicia Bean is this year's NREP intern, and is paid through the BIA Pathways Program. Aleks Storvick's last day is on September 24th. NREP will also hire a second part-time intern from Evergreen this week. Sheila is still looking for Nisqually Idol contestants – there are cash prizes for the top 3 competitors!

- *Nisqually River Foundation* – The Nisqually Community Forest Board spent 3 days in the forest “ground truthing” the stand inventory. Justin and Nisqually Indian Tribe fisheries biologist Jed Moore gathered drone footage of the site. Additionally, the Nisqually Tribe's monitoring funds may provide support to complete further monitoring. In other news, the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS) is continuing its work on developing local topics (see later agenda item). The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG) is conducting culvert assessments on Brighton and Horn Creeks and on Harts Lake, and are looking for assistance in completing those. The South Sound Science Symposium is next Tuesday, and features Joe Kane as the keynote speaker. Bob McKane will also give a presentation on the VELMA model. (Info is here: <http://southsoundscience.org/>)

Justin sent a letter of inquiry to the Bullitt Foundation yesterday, and the Tribe's Charitable Requests are due at the end of September. The NRF has selected Amara Oden as a consultant to develop a strategic plan. David is unable to attend the October NRC meeting; Morgan will send details on a strategic plan meeting date as soon as possible.

- *Salmon Recovery Update* – Ashley reiterated that help at both upcoming festivals is appreciated! She reported that there is another amendment request for the Council to review; in the future, these changes will be moved through the Executive Committee. The amendment is for the Mashel/Eatonville Restoration Phase III project, and the request is to incorporate an additional \$180,000 of SRF Board dollars into the scope; page 2 of the provided memo outlines the list of additional features. Additional match would stem from PCSRF funds. The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group requests these changes under the advice of the SRF Board review panel. This was the #2 project on the Ranked Project List that the Council approved in July. The SPSSEG took advice from the SRF Board review panel to include these changes. Ashley sought approval for the scope change. There was a motion to accept the changes as presented; the motion was approved unanimously. The memo is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/mashel-iii-cost-amendment-request>.

3. **Sustainable South Sound** – *Rachel Friedman, Board President*

Rachel comes from 30 years of public service, and held positions with the King Conservation District, Department of Ecology and NOAA fisheries. After her time of public service, she opened a small business in Olympia. She is currently the board president of the non-profit Sustainable South Sound (SSS). SSS was formed in the 1990s, and acts as an umbrella organization for programs that help to promote SSS goals. The group's shared vision is to work toward a better future for our families and future generations. By using education and advocacy, SSS hopes to lead the transformation to a sustainable community. SSS has three main programs: community gardens/sustainable food systems; Thurston County Progressive Network; and Buy Local South Sound Program.

According to Rachel, there are many benefits to what a local sustainable business program can do for a community:

- It supports the local economy. When you buy from a locally owned business, more of your money stays in your community: there is a large trickle down effect and it feeds the tax base.
- It creates more jobs. Small businesses employ more people nationally than large corporations.
- It builds prosperity through diversity. When you have small businesses in a community, you have more resiliency and strength in times of economic downturns, compared to communities that have more large companies.
- Sustainable businesses reduce environmental impact. When someone lives and works in a community, they are more interested in protecting their local environment. Local business owners tend to set up shop in an urban core, requiring less transportation, habitat loss and other negative impacts on the environment
- Local businesses support community groups.
- They keep our communities unique. Small businesses contribute to a sense of place and are integral to developing a distinctive character of a town. Tourist typically try to find communities to visit that offer a strong sense of place
- You get better service. Local businesses hire local people who tend to take time to learn who their customers are.
- Owning or buying from small businesses is investing in the community.
- It puts tax dollars to good use. Local businesses in town centers often need less infrastructure and make less use of social services than national corporations tend to.
- Local businesses/sustainable businesses are more likely to find and stock what customers need. This encourages innovation and sustainability in the long term. They try to keep prices low and base their products on their consumer needs, not national polls.

Rachel shared two local examples of successful local businesses. First, an Olympia cheese shop stocks Pacific Northwest cheese, and an Olympia restaurant specializes in a particular type of crème fraiche. The two businesses started a partnership, are mutually supportive, have kept their prices low and are highly successful. A second example is a local non-profit that works to make sure community members have access to low credit and enabling their ability to start small businesses. The non-profit offers a full suite of business planning and curriculum to help people support their micro-businesses.

Rachel shared 2 SSS products: a Buy Local Coupon Book and the Living Local Newspaper. The coupon book is typically available for \$20; the current edition of the Living Local Newspaper highlights Tenino and the Thurston Bountiful Byway. Rachel closed with brainstorming ways that SSS and the NRC could support each other. For instance, SSS could help to promote NRC resources or feature NRC work in an upcoming newsletter. Rachel is also looking to connect with local farmers. More info at: www.sustainablesouthsound.org.

4. **NREP Intern: My year in review** – *Aleks Storvick, WCC Americorps Volunteer*

Aleks is a Washington Conservation Corps Americorp volunteer and spent the past year with the Nisqually River Education Project. September 24th is his last day; it is his second year in WCC. Through NREP, Aleks was a part of 5 different service-learning projects (water quality monitoring, tree planting, Eye On Nature, Nearshore and Salmon Tossing) to connect students to the watershed and cultivate stewardship. He gave pre-trip presentations and led students in the field. One thing Aleks was most surprised by was how quickly students caught onto the idea of stewardship.

Last year, 1,100 students monitored water quality at 30 sites on 2 different monitoring dates. The information gathered led into Student GREEN Congress. 844 students planted more than 3,500 native trees and shrubs in Ohop

Valley and on Red Salmon Creek. 281 students tossed 10 tons of salmon carcasses into the upper watershed. Student GREEN Congress was in March, although Aleks missed it to attend a WCC training; 215 NREP students shared water quality data with their peers. Nearshore trips are offered to middle school students. The students walk between the Nisqually Reach Nature Center and National Fish and Oyster Company while learning about the nearshore environment. 400 students visited the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to participate in Eye on Nature trips. Summer Teacher's Institute involved 60 teachers and focused on climate change, oceans, ocean acidification and sea level rise. One of Aleks' side projects was to create a video to encourage students to make posters for the Nisqually Watershed Festival. It is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWib-VG1ljc>.

Goodbye, Aleks! Thank you for your hard work this year. Here's his presentation: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-river-education-project-66782922>.

5. Whitewater Reach Scope Change – Joe Kane, Executive Director

Joe provided more details on a requested scope change to the Whitewater Reach Project. The project is located along the highest priority section of the Nisqually mainstem, according to the Chinook and Steelhead Recovery Plans. The Nisqually Land Trust already owns land along this section, but is working to protect more: three projects in the works include the Bridges, Wood-Park and Schmauder properties. The Harts property was ranked 4th on the list, and was originally slated to consist of 7 acres. Recently, the landowner decided to sell the entire property, and had a timeline of 30 days. The Land Trust acted quickly in order to acquire the property when it was available. The scope change would expand the project area by an additional 2.65 acres and 760 feet of shoreline; the total project area would now be 43.2 acres and include 4,280 feet of shoreline. The Land Trust also asks for an increase of \$255,963 of SRF Board funding and \$82,800 of sponsor match. Finally, the scope change would consist of an adjusted project end date of 12/31/2019. Joe noted that the additional SRF Board funds would likely stem from the money allocated to the Middle Mashel River Project and the Mashel Conservation Easement.

Joe sought approval to accept the proposed changes to the project scope, cost and timeline. There was a motion to accept the scope change; the motion was accepted unanimously. Joe's presentation is here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nrc-amendment-presentation>; the memo is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/amendment-requests-for-whitewater-reach-protection-project>.

6. AHSS Draft South Sound Strategy – Elizabeth McManus

Elizabeth works for Ross Strategic, and is contracted to facilitate the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound (AHSS). Justin is the chair of the Council, and David is on the Executive Committee. Chris serves on the Council and the Technical Committee. AHSS is the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) that works under the direction of Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to bring localized actions to the state. Currently, AHSS is working to develop strategies for south sound, including Mason, Thurston and Pierce Counties. The strategies describe ecosystem focus areas, a vision for the future and a path to implementation. AHSS has worked on these strategies for 2 years: focus areas and pressures were identified last year.

Attributes narrow each focus area: they are characteristics that serve as indicators of the ecosystems, habitats or species. They are also measurable, but targets will not be set for all attributes this year. AHSS developed 9 attributes for the Marine and Nearshore Focus Area, and 8 for Freshwater and Upland. The Alliance considered pragmatically at each attribute to understand the availability of data in South Puget Sound to determine which measurable targets would be set first. AHSS proposes setting numeric local targets for: forest cover/impervious cover; miles of freshwater riparian; miles of marine riparian; small estuaries/large estuaries; intact drift cells; shoreline armoring; and fish passage barriers. AHSS also proposes adopting existing local numeric targets for: summer low flows in rivers/small streams; salmon (see powerpoint); and harvestable shellfish (acres). The remaining attributes will not have developed targets at this time. AHSS set targets at an inlet/island group scale and aggregate for South Sound scale, and focused on making the best areas better. Where possible, AHSS used the Squaxin Island Tribe Coastal Catchment Analysis and Nearshore Project Selection Tool to aid in target setting. Where this wasn't possible, AHSS used a range of other approaches.

The full draft of South Sound strategies will be published at the end of September, and AHSS will accept public comment through October 31, 2016. The draft plan is available here: <http://www.healthysouthsound.org/south->

[sound-recovery-planning/](http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/south-sound-recovery-planning/); Elizabeth's presentation is available here: <http://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/south-sound-strategy>.

7. For the Good of the Order

Amber will not be at the October meeting. International Bat Week is October 24-31, and JBLM will be hosting a weed pulling event to benefit bats. Info is available at batweek.org. The HIMARS rockets will be tested on September 27-29, with rockets slated to be fired at 9am, 12pm, 2pm and 5pm.

Alice introduced herself to the group and encouraged all to sign up for the SRF Board mailing list. The next Salmon Recovery Conference will be in April 2017 in Wenatchee.

Brian announced that the Pierce Conservation District rate increase was approved on Tuesday. He thanked that Advisory Committee for their input, especially that of Joe, Justin and David. Rene' added that the District has multiple fall activities planned. There will also be another agricultural plastics recycling event; all details on the PCD website.

Jeff announced that Saturday September 17th is the Donkey Festival in Gig Harbor from 11-4 at the Harbor History Museum. Partners include Pierce County, the Shellfish Protection District and others.

Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 12:00am.

*Next Meeting: Thursday November 3, 2016
Nisqually Youth Center, 9:00-1:00
NWSP Topic: Strategic Plan*