

**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
December 11, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Tribe Natural Resource Office**

**Present:** Fred Michelson, Howard Glastetter, Bob Smith, Marjorie Smith, Lois Ward, Jeaniel Thomas, Glen Thomas, Karelina Resnick, Phyllis Farrell, Emily McCartan

1. Lois called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
2. **WRIA 11 Update – Emily and Lois**

Emily updated the group on the status of water planning for exempt well mitigation. The Planning Unit was not able to receive an extension on the deadline, so the counties and Tribe are continuing to work to develop a document for approval by February 1. It will offer a variety of general strategies that can be further developed through implementation planning and adaptive management. Lois noted that this process has been interesting, and while the legislation isn't perfect, having the funding available to help restore our rivers and streams is a good thing. Our WRIA has applied for four grants in this cycle. Fred recalled that the WRIsAs have not received funding for management activities since the late 1990s. Fred asked if there was any funding available for staffing support through this process. Ecology provided the Nisqually Tribe a grant for the planning process, some of which has contracted Emily and Justin's time to support the process, as well as a facilitator. Most of the funding associated with 6091 is grant-based for specific on-the-ground projects (acquisition, monitoring, restoration projects, etc).
3. **Member Issue Updates**

*Mineral lands*

Lois reported that Thurston Commissioners voted that Land Trust properties were not parks and were only subject to the smaller buffer zone. There were more people representing the mining interests than environmental ones at BOCC meetings, and the Commissioners responded to that. David, Phyllis, and the Nisqually Land Trust all wrote letters asking to extend the buffer. The next step may be action from the Land Trust directors in the county, pursuing the definition as parks under the GMA definition. Lois asked that we find out how the commissioners voted on the definition of Land Trusts. Fred volunteered to email Commissioner Edwards about it. If the buffers are not included in the Comprehensive Plan, the growth management hearings board will not be able to change it after the fact.

*Alder Dam*

Howard updated on the status of Alder Lake, which was 72 feet below capacity at its lowest point this fall. FERC and the Nisqually River Coordinating Committee determined that the low inflows were a concern and reduced the outflows to begin raising the reservoir level. It has come up about 30 feet since the low point. Snow is expected in the

mountains this weekend, followed by a warm front, which could raise the lake level to 10 feet below capacity. At that point Howard believes they should stop increasing the reservoir level to preserve flexibility for winter storm inflows, which can change quickly. He will continue to keep an eye on it. Members agreed that the NRC needs to hear that we are still tracking this issue and not disregard CAC concerns. There are many community members living downstream of the dam in places that are vulnerable to flooding.

### *Plastics*

Lois noted that the Legislature seems likely to bring up a bill to ban plastic bags across the state. Many communities, including Yelm and Eatonville, have encountered resistance to enacting bans. It is also a significant issue in aquaculture. Some states have collection return programs for used plastic bottles, but most don't, because of opposition from the oil and plastics company.

#### **4. Staff Report**

Emily has been very busy with WRIA planning work for the last month. The Foundation had its staff retreat after Thanksgiving and discussed our agenda and work plan for the year. NREP will be pursuing several grants to continue growing and improving watershed education. The year-end fundraising letters will be coming out soon. The Foundation is also planning the Daniel J. Evans Event for May 15, 2019, a fundraiser for the NRF honoring Jim Wilcox for his work as a watershed partner. The Yil Me Hu salmon recovery newsletter was distributed for anyone who wanted it.

#### **5. For the Good of the Order**

Members praised the Yil Me Hu as a publication and a great showcase of all the work going on in the watershed. The Nisqually is a huge contrast to other watersheds in the region.

Concerns about today's Executive Order rolling back parts of the Clean Water Act. It will likely have resistance in the courts.

Lois recommended reading the recent New York Times article about the disappearance of bugs around the world over the last 100 years. Alarming news that we have heard before about the risks of chemicals like neonicotinoids on the ecosystem.

The Sierra Club meeting tomorrow night will have a speaker discussing dam removal on the Snake River. The Sierra Club has not taken a position on the issue, but the South Sound group is leaning toward supporting it as a strategy for salmon and orca recovery.

There will be a workshop on bees at the WET Science Center in Olympia on January 12, from 10-12, including making a mason bee house.