

**NRC Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Nisqually Natural Resources Office**

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Lois Ward, Marjorie Smith, Bob Smith, Fred Michelson, Paula Holroyde, Ed Kenney, Howard Glastetter, Emily McCartan (staff).

**1. Welcome**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

**Phyllis requested copies of the Tribe's letter on the Park Junction resort.**

**2. Member Issue Updates**

*Thurston Conservation Futures* – Phyllis reported on the status of Conservation Futures Funds in Thurston County. Roughly \$1 million per year, has been a source of funding for NLT and conservation, but had been looked at as a source of funding for pocket gopher habitat mitigation. Commissioners voted 2-1 recently to put half toward the gopher Habitat Conservation Plan, and half for the traditional conservation projects over the next 30 years.

*Thurston Conservation District Rates and Charges* – Phyllis reported that the county commissioners are likely to approve this funding for the Thurston Conservation District for the next 5 years. TCD has had some turmoil in recent years, culminating in the removal of several board members, but is now on a more even footing. Funding for 5 years gives them some stability and resources for conservation projects, landowner resources, and education programs. CAC members would like to see a TCD rep participate more in NRC meetings once they have brought new staff on board. Members discussed the structure of conservation districts, which have an unusual election structure that can hinder accountability and limit public participation.

*Thurston Shoreline Master Plan* – Phyllis reported that current language states programs are supposed to provide “no net loss,” which is not adequate. Tribes and Puget Sound Partnership are advocating for changing this to “net ecological gain.” Phyllis has been advocating for increased shoreline buffers, in light of sea level rise, and for a phase out of marine plastics. Counties have the authority to do that, but it is strongly opposed by the shellfish industry, along with hydraulic harvesting permits. Members expressed concerns about the high impact aquaculture practices that have become widespread in Puget Sound. SMP is discussed at Thurston Planning Commission meetings and members interested may attend and comment. Members are also concerned about Cooke Aquaculture's proposal to begin net pen farming of steelhead with the Jamestown S'klallam Tribe. It is a sensitive issue because of the tribal stakes, but members would like to include it in the CAC report to the NRC. The public comment period is open now. Ed will send comment information to the CAC.

*RAP Update* – Howard noted that the NRC draft letter covers the bases the CAC hoped it would. The issue of RAP has been separated from the Sub-Area plan, as well as from Holroyd’s request to do sub-aquifer gravel mining, which is concerning in its own right and would be especially risky combined with RAP. Members appreciate that County planner Maya Teeple has attended NRC meetings regularly and is keeping us up to date. There has not been a lot of progress because of lack of staff capacity. It seems likely that the Sub-Area Plan will go forward with an advisory citizen group, rather than a voting body, which is disappointing to members.

*Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan* – Howard reported that there will be a meeting this month, not yet scheduled. He plans to attend and continue to raise the issue of winter levels at Alder Dam. The reservoir is still low for this time of year and they are running far below capacity at La Grande. Phyllis will look up the League of Women Voters’ positions on the Nisqually Delta for information about flood management in the valley. Kevin Hansen’s information about water budget in Thurston County is of interest to members.

*Biosolids* – Ed reported that his group has continued to meet with various Ecology officials and just had a very positive discussion. They have found hundreds of violations for this one company and there are many others with similar records – lawbreaking is common in the industry. Ecology has officially withdrawn the determination of non-significance and agreed to notify the citizens about Class A biosolids, which is above their reporting requirement and good news. Sewage and pollution issues are a big problem that need a major legislative solution, but it has been difficult to coordinate at a large scale. The Yelm group has heard from several speakers on thermal decomposition, which is used in several European countries and heats waste to a high enough temperature to denature most compounds.

*Sequalitchew Creek* – Ed reported that since 1994, he has been involved in court proceedings regarding gravel companies mining, against agreement, into Sequalitchew Creek. New agreement would allow below-aquifer mining in exchange for funding for a river restoration project, which would direct JBLM water currently discharged to Puget Sound through marshes and restore flows year round in Sequalitchew Creek. JBLM Civic Affairs, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and DuPont residents are getting on board and have enabled this significant breakthrough. Distribution warehouse development continues to be a major issue in DuPont (and throughout the region).

### **3. New Business**

Ed has concerns about the use of glyphosate on Nisqually Land Trust and other properties. He would like to approach them about a concentrated volunteer effort to clear weeds around tree plantings on one site this year, to try to avoid the use of chemicals, as an experiment on a parcel to see if it can be equally effective. Neonicotinoids and glyphosates are both contributors to problems for bees and

pollinators. Even robust EPA administrations have not conducted sufficient risk management on neonicotinoids, and glyphosate is under-researched, and likely toxic to the people applying it. Bob's bees have died two years in a row and Olympia Beekeepers has reported problems with queen health (many queens and major beekeepers send bees to Californian almond orchards for financial returns).

**4. Staff Update**

The River Foundation will be moving to a new office location along with the Tribe's Natural Resources Department next month. New CAC meeting locations will be shared when available.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.