

**NRC CAC Meeting**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**6:00-8:00pm**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Martin McCallum, Ed Kenney, Howard Glastetter, Yolanda Markle, Lois Ward, Carl Rotter, Karelina Resnick, Yonit Yogev, Emily McCartan (staff)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Members introduced themselves. Yolanda raised a concern about an aquifer at risk near Clover Creek in Spanaway.

**2. Member Issues**

*Legislative Updates* – Environmental advocacy groups have been holding lobby days and meetings with legislatures this week. HB 1099 would require local jurisdictions to consider climate change in comprehensive planning, and HB 1117 would require considering salmon recovery. Both are of interest to Nisqually members. Other bills address plastic reduction and recycling, carbon, wastewater treatment funding, and putting a statue of Billy Frank Jr. in the US Capitol. Yolanda sat in on a meeting with Rep. J.T. Wilcox today with environmental advocates, finding positive common ground.

*Puget Sound Aquaculture* – Several commercial net pens are being removed across the Salish Sea. Army Corps of Engineers is requiring all shellfish farms in Puget Sound to put in new permit applications. National Fish & Oyster Company is located in the Nisqually Reach. Lois spoke with the owner recently about their practices. He stated that they remove plastic tubing for geoduck after two years, and do not use pesticides for ghost shrimp control (it is not allowed in Puget Sound; they use mechanical scraping to control ghost shrimp). The permit will include adding gravel along the shoreline to farm clams. The owner is always open to feedback and discussion with the community. The LWV is conducting a multi-year shoreline study, including interviewing many stakeholders, to understand.

*Snake River Dam Removal* – Members discussed the recent Seattle Times article on the Idaho congressman (Mike Simpson) proposing a major, \$34 billion package to bypass the four dams on the Snake River to benefit salmon, including plans for addressing hydropower, transportation, and irrigation needs. There are some environmental concerns with implementing the plan as proposed, but there is a sense of urgency to stabilize and recover salmon runs before it is too late, and that this could help.

*Sequalitchew Creek Restoration* – Ed reported that the plan has been agreed to by all nine parties. Restoration planning can now move forward. CalPortland can move forward with sand and gravel mining, in exchange for providing \$2 million to restore the creek through the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. The Nisqually Land Trust will also receive funding to support major purchases. Beaver management (by DuPont) is an important part of the plan to protect JBLM's water supply.

*Alder Dam Management* – Howard has encouraged FERC to monitor TPU for compliance with their license during summer months. This summer, TPU did stay in compliance with their required summertime levels. Howard noted concerns about the level of the lake, which has been kept high during recent winter storm events. Generator maintenance or slow market for selling surplus electricity might be options. Howard would like to have the opportunity to tour the dam when possible. Members have observed large fluctuations in flow from the dam recently. It is believed that salmon did not use the reach above the dam in significant historical numbers. There are positive and negative impacts to salmon from the dam, which restricts sediment, but also maintains flow during the summer drought periods.

### **3. Staff Updates**

*Nisqually State Park* – upcoming trails day for stakeholders to weigh in on plans for trails and recreational use. The Tribe and NRC are encouraging people to attend and speak up for recreational plans that protect the sensitive salmon spawning habitat in the Nisqually, Mashel, and Ohop. Several members are interested in seeing a boat launch, which was one option offered in early state parks plan, but may have habitat impacts. Most options limit access to the Nisqually and Mashel Rivers.

*RAP Testing Letter* – Emily and David are still working on a draft letter responding to the CAC's proposal last month. Hope to be able to circulate it for discussion at this month's NRC meeting.

*Biosolids* – The Department of Ecology announced today that they will soon be opening public comment on a draft update to the state general permit for biosolids. This has been of interest to the CAC and NRC, and we will continue to follow it. Members can sign up for individual notifications through Ecology. Phyllis and Ed participated in a meeting with Ecology and others about the biosolids permitting practices, which had room for improvement.

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

Karelina shared a Sound Outlook article about salmon-safe businesses.

Yonit Yogev introduced herself as a new interested member. She works seasonally at Mount Rainier and with Sierra Club and equity and justice groups.

Emily will send the Seattle Times article and video about the proposal for Snake River dams.

Interest in a presentation about permitting and water use in Pierce County – around comp planning?