

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

**Present:** Phyllis Farrell, Martin McCallum, Ed Kenney, Howard Glastetter, Lois Ward, Emily McCartan (staff)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

**2. Member Issue Updates**

*Land Trust shoreline acquisition* – Ecology funds have been approved for the NLT to purchase shoreline habitat between the Refuge and Tolmie State Park. It is important habitat for juvenile salmon, forage fish and pigeon guillemots, so this is an exciting development. The Ecology award has been approved and publicized, but the acquisition may not be finalized yet.

*Sequalitchew Creek Restoration* – Ed announced that the section of forested shoreline from Sequalitchew Creek to Ketron Island will be permanently protected. A committee including JBLM, DuPont, Ed, and CalPortland has begun meeting to discuss restoration of the Creek itself. Challenges will be protecting the forest from flooding and navigating the current rail line along the shore. There has been some controversy reported in The Olympian over previous lethal trapping of beavers in the area, which Ed's coalition is not advocating for. There is interest from members in walking the trail.

*Yelm Water Right update* – The 2015 Foster required that Yelm re-apply for its new city water right with additional mitigation. If and when Ecology approves the new mitigation package, the new water right will mean that almost all new development projected in Yelm's UGA will be served by city water for the next 20 years. Without the water right, new houses would need their own well (and septic). The Nisqually Planning Unit forecast 1,036 new permit-exempt wells in Yelm's UGA by 2040, 95% of which would instead connect to city water if the water right is approved. Municipal water rights are generally considered better for stream flows because they must be legally mitigated in advance, rather than addressed through uncertain funding through the Streamflow plan as exempt wells are. Are there concerns that purchasing agricultural water rights for mitigation purchases would open land up to even more development on permit-exempt wells? That's not the intent, but could be an important area for oversight to monitor.

*RAP Letter* – The NRC's letter encouraging study of existing RAP piles has been sent to the Thurston Board of County Commissioners and Pierce County Council, along with staff at Thurston and Pierce County, City of Lacey, City of Olympia, Department of Ecology, and Jenifer McIntyre and Ed Kolodziej, the researchers

studying tire chemical effects on salmon. Olympia has also expressed interest in further study of Rap issues and will likely be a partner. It may take continued effort to move forward with identifying funding and investigators for a study.

*Alder Lake* – NOAA graphs of Alder Lake showed a brief unexpected spike in water levels, probably as the result of a software error. NOAA informed Howard that the inflow number on their graphs is not measured, but calculated based on outflow and the water level in the dam. Instrumentation issues make it challenging to monitor in real time. The current lake level is 26 feet below capacity, but snowpack is high, which is a positive sign for meeting flow requirements through the summer.

*Legislative Updates* – HB 1117 and 1099 (requiring salmon recovery and climate change be included in comprehensive planning processes) have passed the House. The climate bill is a top priority for Sierra Club and environmental groups. Members hope for an update from the Nisqually Tribe about whether amendments to 1117 are sufficient to address salmon recovery concerns. HB 1372, creating a statue of Billy Frank Jr., passed the House 92-4.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.