

NRC CAC Meeting
July 13, 2020
Virtual Meeting
6:00-7:30pm

Present: Phyllis Farrell, Paula Holroyde, Howard Glastetter, Ed Kenney, Lois Ward, Emily McCartan (staff)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. Members shared personal updates on how they are holding up at home and how their other causes and groups are adapting to COVID.

2. NRF Staff Update

The NRF is still working from home. The Tribe's Natural Resource office is open with a health check, but staff are encouraged to stay home as much as possible. NREP and NRF are working on plans to adapt programs for the fall, assuming that school field trips will be limited and any volunteer efforts will have to be in small groups. Budget pressure is also affecting program planning. The NRF has participated in several meetings and a workshop on racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion and will have a draft statement to share at the NRC on Friday.

3. Member Issues

Thurston County Airport Proposal – South Thurston county has a potential site listed as a possible location for a SeaTac-sized airport. The County Commission and City of Tumwater have opposed it. It seems unlikely but would have a major impact on the region.

Thurston Planning Updates: Shoreline Management Plan and Mineral Lands Review - Phyllis has been monitoring this process through other environmental groups, which have made substantial comments about issues in compliance. Staff have indicated that comments are usually collected and reviewed by the Planning Commission to make recommended changes to the draft. Public hearings on both SMP and Mineral Lands are expected in August through the fall.

Recycled Asphalt – Thurston BOCC is holding a work session on Wednesday to review written and public comments. The NRC and several CAC members have submitted comments already and will be in attendance. The Sierra Club has noted the need for a SEPA review of the site. It is in the 100-year flood plain and members note the risk seems very significant for fish and wells.

FERC Update – Howard has not heard an update from FERC following TPU's submission of their data as requested for the investigation. Howard submitted a letter to FERC responding to TPU's data. There has not been a decision announced.

Lakeside Review – Howard shared a letter he sent to Thurston County regarding Lakeside's five-year permit review. The Nisqually Tribe and local residents were contacted for comment. Lakeside has changed their traffic pattern for their trucks to use SB Exit 114, an uphill entrance where loaded trucks tend to enter slower than the speed of traffic and create a potential hazard, which Howard flagged. Lois noted that there has been a significant increase in freeway semi traffic with the construction of warehouses in the Hawks Prairie area.

Sequalitchew Creek – Ed reported that DuPont and Thurston County residents are negotiating with JBLM to provide streamflow to restore 3.5 miles of Sequalitchew Creek, hoping to re-establish it as a salmon-bearing stream working with the South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group. Ed is working to secure funding through a previous settlement with CalPortland. When it is further along, we will request a presentation to the NRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.