

NRC CAC Meeting
September 15, 2020
6:00-8:00pm
Virtual Meeting

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Everyone is tired of the smoke, but hanging in there.

2. Issue Updates

Martin is part of the Chehalis River Alliance, a group of environmentalists concerned about the proposed flood control dam on the upper Chehalis River. The discussions are ongoing. Next meeting is at 10:00 on Thursday. The Governor halted the EIS process and encouraged the broad coalition, including flood control proponents and dam opponents, to come up with alternatives.

Thurston Planning Commission has had several work sessions on the proposal to remove the prohibition on recycled asphalt in the Nisqually sub-area. Phyllis has commented on behalf of the Sierra Club, whose position is that the water quality concerns are significant. Members expressed concerns that the decision was being rushed for political reasons and that there is not enough new science showing it would be safe to lift the ban. Others noted that when handled safely, with covered piles, monitoring, and other best management practices, the risks should be minimal, but would like the NRC to advocate strongly for BMPs, monitoring, and no exemptions from permitting requirements. The NRC discussed this in 2017, and came to a compromise consensus with the CAC that was put into the March 2017 letter, with language advocating for a complete adaptive management plan for the sub-area plan, not allowing RAP in isolation. Lakeside has other asphalt piles in the region where runoff and soil leaching could be studied. There is a lack of any major study of RAP sites, and this could be an opportunity of worldwide interest. The CAC came to a consensus that the NRC should request SEPA review and requirements for BMPs and rigorous, immediate oversight and monitoring, and ask for a hydrogeological presentation from Kevin Hansen.

Ed stated that a presentation from the Yelm Public Works Department would be useful to understand wastewater treatment and biosolids handling. They want to replace a large part of the system with a membrane system and UV filtration and produce class A biosolids. Biosolids would be applied to public properties in Yelm before selling it to private applicators. Still have some concerns about contaminants (pharma, flame retardants), but Ed is less concerned about it being used within the community. Major concerns with allowing RVs to dump, because of high contaminant loads including meth labs. Big improvement overall.

Thurston County is moving ahead with Toboton and Elbow Lake Road culvert replacement projects. Salmon have been observed in Elbow Lake Creek 3 of the last 5 years..

Sequalitchew Creek parties have not come to an agreement yet.. Conservationists, including Nisqually Delta Association and Tahoma Audubon are worried about mining under the aquifer. Ed feels that the plan is mutually beneficial and has sufficient oversight.

3. For the Good of the Order

It would be nice for the NRC to learn about companies with Salmon Safe certification to help consumers make environmentally conscious choices.

Native Plant Salvage Foundation sale is happening now, with plants collected from development sites.