

NRC CAC Meeting
May 11, 2021
6:00-8:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Present: Justin Hall, Joanne Park, Paula Holroyde, Howard Glastetter, Phyllis Farrell, Ed Kenney, Yolanda Markle, Lois Ward, Martin McCallum

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phyllis called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. CAC members introduced themselves after Joanne introduced herself as the new NRC program coordinator to replace Emily.

2. Staff Update

Joanne is the new NRC program coordinator and her background is mostly in informal science education where she managed volunteers and developed marine science education programs for a variety of informal learning institutions. Most recently, she worked for the Marine Science and Technology (MaST) Center Aquarium for Highline College before she accepted her position with NRC. She is looking forward to working with such a knowledgeable and passionate group of people who care about our watershed!

3. Issue Update

- *Sequalitchew Creek Restoration Plan* - The rehabilitation of this creek is going to take a while as there are multiple components to complete such as PFAS contamination in Sequalitchew Springs and eradicating invasive species. This project is being managed by the City of Dupont, JBLM, Environmental Caucus, and Washington Environmental Council, Nisqually River Delta Association. They are working on distributing funding but will be using the first half million dollars to obtain permitting for this project. Although this creek is on the periphery of the Nisqually Watershed, salmon use this area. Approximately, 50 of the 100 salmon were rewilded from Chris Ellings' project - an amazing accomplishment.
- *New Nisqually Community Forest Purchases* - The Nisqually Community Forest is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nisqually Land Trust. As part of their Mt. Rainier Gateway Project, NLT purchased the slope that faces the highway more than a decade ago. With the large capacity salmon grant that was received a few years ago, \$8 million was received and that money was used to purchase three sections of forest. There have been concerns that a larger harvest in the forest would increase sedimentation in the system and fill in potential gravel pits that salmon use. To avoid this, it would be beneficial to change forestry patterns in the upper watershed. The VELMA model uses young trees to transpire out groundwater and reduce the amount of water

available in the creek and river system. An increase in deeper pools and coldwater pockets will allow young steelhead and chinook salmon to thrive. There have been \$3.5 million that have been received through streamflow grants. They have assisted the tribe in applying for a \$16 million loan and ended up receiving about \$14 million. There are 2,080 acres acquired as well as 1,240 acres for the tribes - in total, there are 4,120 acres and we are about 14% of the way to meet our goals within the last six years.

- *Recycled Asphalt Pavement* - There is a hearing examiner meeting on May 18th, 2021. Unfortunately, the information available from the county was not very helpful. There is concern about Lakeside using RAP as they are making a pile of asphalt that has likely cooled off for years. About 67,000 cubic feet of loose asphalt dumped from tanks is being piled inside the gravel mine above the permeable floor of the pit. If this asphalt is being run through machinery, it is considered RAP and this is not allowed. There needs to be testing below the asphalt pile to see what chemicals are possibly being leached into the groundwater.

<https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting/hearing/hearing-agenda.html>

4. For the Good of the Order

In-person Meeting - We are not quite at the point where we can meet in-person fully. We are likely a few months away from being able to meet in-person but are looking into a hybrid model for meetings. Justin is looking into purchasing technology to help support this model so that moving forward, there is the option to attend meetings both in-person and virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm