

Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee

July 3rd 2012,10:00-12:00pm

**Anderson Island Fire Station
12207 Lake Josephine Boulevard, Anderson Island**

- Welcome and introductions (Daniel)
 - Introductions:
 - Citizen committee members:
 - Mikey Sleight- Resident of Anderson Island
 - Jerry Johannes- Resident of Anderson Island, member of implementation committee
 - Dave Jacobsen- Resident, AICAB member
 - Nancy Pearson –P/T Resident of Anderson Island
 - Yvonne Shevalier- Resident of S. Puget Sound (Olympia) volunteer for NRNC
 - Linda Higginbotham –Island resident
 - Carol Paschal- Resident. On implementation Committee, park board member, on AICAB
 - Margret Gilbert- Resident of Anderson Island
 - Merry McNutt – Resident and children volunteer leader
 - Ann Dasch- Resident, member of AICAB
 - Support Staff
 - Heather Trim- Director of Policy at People For Puget Sound (P4PS)
 - Maddie Foutch- P4PS
 - Daniel Hull- Ex Dir Nisqually Reach Nature Center
 - Nisqually Reach Nature Center (NRNC) Introduction
 - Values in Puget Sound:
 - Economic
 - Aesthetic
 - Cultural (historic and present)
 - Education
 - Nisqually Reach Aquatic reserve→ 15,000 acres!!
 - Today we will go over how citizens can get involved in this process!
- Overview of the Project – Maddie Foutch
 - The WA Department of Natural Resources has designated 7 aquatic reserves. Our bigger project is to work on 5 of these
 - Creating Citizen Stewardship Committee with goals to work on:
 - Citizen science projects
 - Look at policies and technical actions
 - Conduct outreach and education about the reserve

- Discussion
 - Relationship to McNeil Island (all but 200 acres are wildlife)?
 - The island is not part of the reserve. The aquatic lands around the island abut the reserve
 - Only lands owned by DNR are part of the reserve. Beaches that are owned by DNR are included.
 - Originally the proposal for this reserve was only for the area near the wildlife refuge but interest from the Anderson Island residents propelled the idea to make the reserve go around the island
 - New uses are allowed, if they are compatible with not harming the habitat. Science will be needed.
 - Existing uses are grandfathered in. There is one existing use – tribal use.
 - Expansion of new uses would require DNR’s approval as decided by the implementation committee
 - DNR makes the final decisions as to what will be allowed.
- Committee Process (Heather)
 - Project funded by Washington State’s Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Citizen Stewardship Committee is meant to complement DNR Implementation Committees by bringing citizens into the process of implementation who are engaged and will work for the protection and restoration of the reserve.
 - Draft Charter – NOT final see *handout 1*
 - Committee members were asked to please digest and email back comments!
 - Proposed leadership- Chair and vice chair (to be voted on next meeting)
 - Voting- participants indicated that they preferred a simple majority system for voting and decision-making
 - Committee Roles and responsibilities- identify then implement education/outreach plan, citizen science plan and technical plan that best assist in the implementation of the management plan.
 - Staff role- Develop materials, logistics, support committee in anyway possible
 - 2-year Work plan see *handout 2* (attached)
 - Will be fleshed out before the next committee meeting
 - Will be a living document
 - Currently a high-level concept draft
 - Final draft to be voted on next meeting
 - Work plan will include: Activities designated by the committee as important after review of the management plan

- Example actions on *handout 3* includes...
 - Develop Education and outreach plan
 - Develop Citizen Science plan
 - Develop Technical work plan
 - Implement plans
 - Example action: Create signage for the reserve
 - Performing monitoring on Eelgrass beds
 - Writing letters
 - Develop and implement Trainings
 - Conduct two trainings focusing on citizen science and technical work
 - Bring in speakers, full-day, think about what you'd like to learn!
 - Logistics→ to be decided at end of meeting
 - When will we meet?
 - Where?
- Background information about the Reserve (Daniel)
 - Nisqually area has some of the highest level of potential research in the Sound because of the major amount of restoration that has occurred here
 - How is the restoration area affecting areas inside and outside of the restoration site?
 - What can we piggyback on?
 - Many entities involved in this area on restoration
 - Lots of opportunities for citizens to get involved in their backyard
 - Example of research being done: High resolution Bathymetric scan which found largest underwater sand dunes in Puget sound (100+ ft high)
 - Unfortunately, many significant habitats are unmapped
 - Example of research being done: Research dives with volunteer divers
 - Research is expanding to more than just in the delta
 - Nisqually tribe
 - Doing much research
 - Nisqually Reach is a Usual and Accustomed fishing ground for tribes
 - Anderson Island is unique
 - Assigned as an important bird areas by the Audubon Society
 - How do we bring the community on board?
 - Education classes
 - Connect community members and youth with the values of nearshore habitat
 - Citizen science is becoming more accepted in some areas

- QAPPs→ Quality Assurance Project Plans from the state that include approved research protocols (approved by the state)
 - The Nature Center is already using some protocols follow approved state QAPPs
 - www.tidalmarchmonitoring.org/index
 - Potential science project for the committee: Recording on a specific temporal scale what you see in the reserve
 - Mechanism for looking for illegal activities
 - Mechanism for establishing baseline conditions in case of catastrophe like an oil spill
 - Want to answer→ Who's using the aquatic reserve??
 - Nisqually Reach has a large number of partnerships under way
- Next steps and adjourn
 - People to address charter and work plan- Carol and Sarah along with Heather, Maddie and Daniel
 - All members please email any comments about the charter to mfoutch@pugetsound.org
 - Chair and Vice chair- think about if you want to nominate someone or yourself
 - plan to vote at next meeting
 - Meet at regular two months intervals
 - Next meeting aiming for week after labor day
 - Potential to do more outreach
 - Get blurbs out
 - Island Fair→ outreach/ parade
 - Potential Education actions:
 - Signs for Jacobs PT