**Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee**

**Minutes March 13, 2017**

**NRNC@ Luhr Beach**

**4949 D’Milluhr Rd. NE Olympia, WA 98516**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair Daniel Hull was unable to attend due to illness. Acting Chair, Cris Peck, brought the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The February minutes and March agenda were amended and approved. Introductions were made around the table.

**Special Presentation** –Terence did a special presentation on our Citizen Science Pigeon Guillemot Surveys and Results. Please contact the center if you would like to do a presentation at any of our upcoming meetings.

**Science Projects**

* **Forage Fish Survey (FFS)** – Terence

We have been finding eggs in our most recent samples from Tolmie State Park; we have found smelt eggs there twice now. It is the coming up to the end of the season but we will continue with our year round surveys. There are two surveys coming up this month. One this Wednesday, March 15th, from 12 -3; these surveys will be at Tolmie State Park, in Hogum Bay and at National Fish and Oyster. An Anderson Island survey will occur on March 29th from 9-4. Lab analysis is every Sunday here at the Nature Center, so feel free to come join in and help us search for eggs. Terence gave an overview of the project and our supporters for those not familiar with the program.

* **Pigeon Guillemot Survey (PIGUS)**- Ann/Terence

We are looking for a lot of volunteers this year to help with the PIGUSs. A tri-fold information board discussing the project was made to be displayed at outreach events. Ann will leave the display board here at the Nature Center with informational pamphlets describing how to volunteer as a PIGUS volunteer citizen scientist. Keith Adams, a senior at Evergreen, will be joining us as a volunteer both in regards to the PIGUSs and our education programs. The 2016 PIGUS report is complete but we have yet to hear back from WDFW with any comments.

**Updates**

**PSC Update** – PSC representatives are currently attending a training event so there is no report this month.

**DNR**- Jayme and Erica – The all hands Aquatic CSC meeting is happening on April 20th at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. More information on the event can be found on DNRs Aquatic Reserve page. The shellfish growers clean up is happening next Wednesday. You can bring all your clean up items to National. DNR and PSC will be participating by cleaning up McNeil Island and possibly some beaches on Anderson Island. We cannot participate this year because this event is on the same day as Green Congress. DNR recently had a green crab monitoring training and are in the works of creating a green crab monitoring program. The Nisqually Tribe has been conducting a near shore assessment of juvenile Chinook for the last 3 years. The report is currently available on the DNR aquatic reserve website.

**Grant Update –**

Were recently awarded TRFF grant for $30K; this grant is a huge help in allowing us to keep our facility and programs up and running. If you find any grants that may apply and help to fund our programming please contact Daniel.

**Education and Outreach –** April

The Eye on Nature Fundraiser is tomorrow at Fishtale from 5-9. Come support a great program and enjoy music and beer with like-minded environmentalist. Green congress (GC) on the 23rd; we will be including a fish seining and a squid dissection in our GC programming. Summer camp registration is now open. This year the advanced summer camp will be going to MT Rainier and do a kayaking trip. We were fortunate to have recruited two new education interns this year.

**Regulatory Actions** – Cris

No official report this month. Cris did give an overview of how we officially respond to regulatory actions as a citizen stewardship committee. If anyone hears of any comment periods concerning issues that will affect aquatic reserve and Puget Sound environmental issues please feel free to bring them to the attention of the committee.

**Other Business**

Jackie mentioned there is a comment period right now concerning WDFW land acquisition it can be found on the WDFW website. She will send the info to Daniel with the link and he will send that out to all committee members.

**Pier Update** - The state is in the process of approving the removal of the pilings and potentially the covered section that remains at the end of what used to be the of the dock, which survived the storm. This plan will be put into action within the next two years. WDFW will also put up some shoreline armoring in an area in the vicinity of the boat launch to prevent sloughing. No plan is in place to build a new pier. We are trying to work with WDFW to get an ALEA grant for the purpose of building a new more environmentally friendly structure.

Social Media update – Terence has been using facebook more in order to recruit volunteers and make connections and it seems to be quite effective.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05

**Attendees**

Deanna Donovan

Cris Peck

Terence Lee

April Roe

Anne Mills

Courtney Reutzel

Kristina Hill

Jacqueline Winter

Jamie Kilgo DNR

Erica Bleke DNR