**Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee**

**Minutes June 5, 2017**

**NRNC@ Luhr Beach**

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair Daniel Hull brought the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. The May minutes and June agenda were approved. Committee members signed in and introductions were made around the table. Dan gave and overview of the Aquatic Reserve system in the Puget Sound.

**Special Presentations**

*Kristina – Spring Education Internship*

Kristina gave a synopsis of all the education programs she was involved with and the administrative duties she performed over the course of her internship this spring. She closed her presentation with an overview of the ways she intends to remain active as a Nature Center volunteer working in the Aquatic Reserve.

*Keith – Spring Research and Outreach Internship*

Keith reviewed the research projects that he participated in during the course of his internship and briefly discussed the importance of the outreach activities he conducted to recruit other members of the community to participate in citizen science reserve in and near the Aquatic Reserve. He also mentioned his plans to remain part of the Nisqually community by putting in some hours at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Reserve before he begins looking for work elsewhere around the country.

*Nat – Summer Education Internship*

Nat is a new intern for summer so she gave the committee members a few details about her past work and educational endeavors. She then shared a poem about the things that are inspiring her to work with the education program here in the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve and the NRNC. She has participated in some of the educational programs we have done out of the Nature Center as a volunteer and has already conceived of some great ideas for potential future education programs. She has also done some work in order to provide visitors to the center with more information about the displays here at the center.

**DNR Update – Birdie**

The Aquatic Reserves program is currently working with proceeds acquired via the most recent EPA grant. DNR is in the process of creating more interpretive signs and would like to create more to be posted in the NRAR. They are also putting together short informational videos. They already have one that is focused on Cherry Point although it does give a brief overview of all the reserves. They are interested in creating another short video that focuses solely on the NRAR and our ongoing research projects. Birdie would like us to brainstorm on ideas of iconic images in the reserve that can be included in the video. She is also interested in getting more ideas and input on how DNR can better support all the aquatic reserves in the Sound. NRNC would like to acquire more AR maps, preferably laminated. Many State Parks are reluctant to post AR information in the parks due to confusion that may occur when people worry about what is the reserve and what is the park. Posting maps in some of these areas making that distinction has been very helpful. We would like to come up with some more concepts for signs to be located in and near the ARs and to be presented at outreach events. This has to be done within the year in order to comply with the current grant.

**Science Projects**

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

We found eggs at our Dupont sites in both April and May, which is a bit unusually since that is not the normal forage fish spawning season. They are hopeful that even more sites will have eggs in the next month’s samples. The Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium youth guides are looking forward to coordinating survey dates with us so they can make forage fish studies part of their programming. Keith and Terence are currently working to complete the final FFS report for 2016.

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

Anne praised the interns that she had for the project over the spring for doing such a great job. The PGs have been very active over the last few weeks but activity has since slowed over the last week. We have almost 70 volunteers at this point to help us with our summer surveys. We have 6 new sites this year so we are grateful that we have quite a few new volunteers to cover those sites. Merry McNutt has once again volunteered to assist with coordination of the Anderson Island sites.

**Updates**

**PSC Update** – None at this time.

**Grants**- Dan –

We may be getting some outside monetary sources through Nature Center grants. Hopefully some of this money could be used to help us with administrative duties. Dan will be reaching out to our CSC members to help get more people involved with our programs.

**Education and Outreach –** April

Summer camps are filling up but we still do have openings that we would like to fill. We are also a bit low on volunteer educators and para-educators so they will be putting out calls soon to see if they can fill their Summer Camp educator needs. Terence and April are looking for a fall intern that would work with both of them on our research and education projects. She praised and thanked her spring interns for all of their assistance.

**Regulatory Actions** – Nothing to discuss at this time.

**Other Business**

**Pier Update** – Dan

Dan and Eric Erler (who helped us put together of new business plan) will be meeting with the Department of Fish and Wildlife this week to discuss options for the pier.

**SSEA/Puget Sound Estuarium** – Dan

We are in talks to partner with them and conduct pilot program wherein their educators will come out and do programs here the center and we will be meeting with some of their members and patrons to conduct education programs about our FFS and PIGUs projects in the NRAR.

**Elections and Charters**

Solicitation for more members to attend our meetings is a must! Conducting outreach to acquire more meeting attendees needs to happen as well! We can’t have officer elections until we have more people regularly attending our meetings. Perhaps we can recruit more people to our meetings by giving special duties such as specific jobs or projects to spearhead.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35

**Attendees**

Daniel Hull

Deanna Donovan

Terence Lee

Anne Mills

Kristina Hill

Birdie Davenport - DNR

Nat Ostrow

Keith Adams

April Roe

Gail Griswold

William Wiskes

Stuart Atwood

Respectfully submitted by Deanna M. Donovan