

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting February 14, 2007 ♡

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect Peninsula's Future
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Shawn Hines, (Alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Randy Johnson, WDFW
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries
Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust
Jim Bay, City of Sequim

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
John Cambalik, PS Action Team @ (Alt) Ecology
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology
Les Jones, (Alt) Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Annette de Knijf, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Jim Bay, City of Sequim
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1

Others in Attendance:

Linus Heydon, Researcher & Consultant
Cheryl Bauman, NOPLC Coordinator
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Jessica Colye, Graysmarsh, LLC

Evan McClean, Sequim Gazette
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Gary Smith, Water Users Association
Bill Bjorkland, Streamkeepers
Melissa Coughlin, Independent Contractor

2:09 PM Meeting Began

I. Introductions

- Introductions were conducted
- Shawn Hines circulated thank you letter from DRMT for Jim Beitzel. Received letter from the City of Sequim stating Jim Bay will be representing the City, with Dennis Lefevre as alternate
- Approval of Minutes: January 10th meeting minutes had been sent electronically for review prior to this meeting; Correction in public attendance: John Miller works for Clallam County, not City of Sequim; Virginia Clark moved to approve; Walt Blendermann seconded. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously
- John Cambalik announced he would have handouts later in meeting

II. Innovative Waste Water Treatment – Linus Heydon

Mr. Heydon gave a presentation that spanned the 1960s through 1990s on the risks of groundwater pollution, citing many examples of the outcome of pollution from agriculture waste, landscape fertilizers, building, etc. The following are from that presentation as well as generated discussion. Note that most of the statistics were from the 1970s through 1990s. :

- Personal use of water has gone up in the last six years from 86 gpd per person to 124 gpd
- 95% of rural population depends on groundwater
- 40% of lakes, rivers and other bodies of water in U.S. are too polluted for drinking, fishing or swimming
- High tech attempts to solve problem have been costly and largely unsuccessful
- Proposed remedial solution: "Rootspace System", where constructed wetlands moves water through rootspace of aquatic weeds to clean water with a high degree of nitrogen removal
- Presented sites in Germany where the system is working well. Two constructed wetlands were built at college in Prescott, Arizona. The application is less expensive, uses less personnel to maintain, and isn't dependant on concrete and electricity
- Jim Bay pointed out that it required a lot of land to construct wetlands, government standards are so stringent that if a single bird flew over and dropped feces over a 250 acre pond that would be enough to de-classify from a 1-A standard
- Walt Blendermann reminded all that Joe Holtrop and the Clallam Conservation District constructed a wetland in Agnew. Cathy Lucero remembered that water quality was monitored (for 3 years) as it moved through the system and it did a good job, but wouldn't meet the Class A standard and it took space – but did a great job of fecal coliform removal

- Joe Holtrop: Piping of ditches is more economical than constructed wetlands for this area
- Agnew's system is still there, but not maintained; Mr. Heydon suggested getting students from Peninsula College involved in continuing the monitoring effort
- Mr. Heydon recommended reading: "Constructed Wetlands in the Sustainable Landscape", by Craig S. Campbell and Michael H. Ogden. He has placed copies of the book at the Sequim and Port Angeles libraries and has also placed the article "How to Construct Your Own System" in a file folder at the desk at both libraries
- John Cambalik told group that in June two publications will be available: Homeowner's Guidebook on Low Impact Development and Raingarden booklet (on bioretention)

The following notes are included per Linus Heydon's request, from his presentation handouts:

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH CLEAN WATER ?

- NEEDED : CONSTRUCTED WETLAND DEMONSTRATIONS SYSTEMS
 - So people can see the systems in operation - - including students.
 - So measurements can be taken to demonstrate effectiveness - locally
- SEEKING INTERESTED CITIZENS / ORGANIZATIONS - - TO MAKE IT HAPPEN
- TYPES OF DEMONSTRATION SYSTEMS NEEDED:
 - SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT CLEANERS - To protect ground water and wells
 - AGRICULTURAL
 - CROP FIELDS - Excess Fertilizer before it overnutrifies surface water
 - ANIMAL WASTE Cattle / Horses before it overnutrifies and contaminates surface water
 - AQUACULTURE WASTE Water (fish farms)
 - WATER GARDEN - Nutrient Build-up & Fish waste
- Constructed Wetlands - properly managed - can turn a waste product into a valuable resource in several ways:
 - Usable water onsite -
 - One plant, which is most effective in cleaning contaminated water, is also good animal feed (more nutritious than corn insilage)
 - The same plant is valuable as a source of paper fiber.

References

Technical Report Series - General Design Construction, & Operation Guidelines: Constructed Wetlands Wastewater treatment Syst. for small users incl. individual residences [TVA/WM--93/10] e-mail tvainfo@tva.gov

"Constructed Wetlands in the Sustainable Landscape" by Campbell & Ogden

Available in Clallam Lib. System. P.A. & Sequim

ALSO - ASK FOR FILE FOLDER COPY OF "SMALL FLOWS" ARTICLE ON HOW TO CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN CONSTRUCTED WETLAND.

NUTRIENTS & SEDIMENT CONTROL SYSTEM" (FOR FARM & MUNICIPAL RUN-OFF USE) CONTACT U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE (NRCS, 150 E. 7th St., Chester, PA 19013-6092

Request a copy of "Environmental Quality Technical Note Number N4"

"Performance Evaluation of the New River Demonstration Wetlands"

Imperial Irrigation District - 333 E Barioni Blvd. P.O.Box 937 - Imperial, CA 92251

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT:

CONSULTANT/RESEARCHER: Linus Heydon II, M.S. Consulting Aquatic Biologist < bewellone@earthlink.net > (360) 582-0605

DIAGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM LINUS HEYDON

III. Victoria Waste Water Program – Tyler Ahlgren (Protect the Peninsula's Future)

Brief history of Victoria sewer issues:

- Victoria has been a city since the 1850's
- Combined sewer collection system since 1894
- Managed by Capital Regional District (CRD) which consists of 13 member municipalities in the Greater Victoria area, 7 are hooked up to a sewer system
- Approximately 200,000 people are served by the Clover Point Outfall
- Approximately 165,000 are served by the Macauley Point Outfall
- Discharge is about 1.1km from the shore to the Strait of Juan de Fuca
- 30 million gallons of untreated sewage is discharged a day
- According to CRD documents effluent contains: heavy metals (such as arsenic, lead, mercury and zinc), pesticides (such as Endrin, Dieldrin, and Chlordane), chemicals (such as Benzene, toluene, trichloromethane and PCBs)

- 1988 drift card studies show up to 33% of the effluent can be deposited on the Olympic Peninsula coastline (at this point Mr. Ahlgren passed around article titled, "Dispersion of 1,000 Drift Cards Released Over Victoria Sewage Outfalls")

No action resulted from years of science, reports and studies until...

- "Mr. Floaty" received worldwide front-page coverage. Issues generated from press embarrassed the leadership in Victoria, British Columbia and Canada. After that scale of exposure the process took great leaps forward; Mr. Ahlgren passed around list of related articles.
- In July 2006 British Columbia's Environment Minister Barry Penner set December 2006 for a progress report and June 2007 as a deadline for the plan on how Victoria's sewage will be treated
- Mr. Ahlgren passed around hard copy of presentation titled, "Sewage Treatment in the Core Area. A Status Report"
- Prime Minister Harper announced support and 1/3 Federal funding commitment. British Columbia's Prime Minister Campbell also announced Provincial funding commitment of 1/3
- After more lobbying "advanced secondary" and "resource recovery" options were added to the design criteria
- A "Request for Expression of Interest" (REI) was sent worldwide in November, 2006 asking for examples of "innovative waste water treatment and resource recovery". Leadership, Canadian Government, and CRD all committed to making this treatment plant the most advanced, most efficient, and technically the best they can put together
- Multiple satellite treatment plants are also under consideration, locating plants close to where dispersal will be reclaimed
- A Citizen's Technical Advisory Committee was created, committed to the most technically advanced system
- Looking at membrane system
- Steve Tharinger asked about limiting factors of the system – Tyler Ahlgren replied that with the compacted nature of the Victoria area, space was limiting
- John Cambalik asked if the storm water and sewer was combined. Answer is currently yes. Residential source control program was just instituted. Trying to team up neighborhoods to install the system and getting money for infrastructure and treatment, there is an effort to separate
- For updates, visit CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca
- Comments:
 - Steve Tharinger: Looking at membrane system for Carlsborg
 - Mr. Heydon stated that studies have concluded that PCBs in water ends reproduction in fish
 - John Cambalik noted that the drift studies show what's going on on the surface of the water, but not necessarily deeper waters
 - John Cambalik recommended contacting Jan Newton, UW researcher for Hood Canal); Tulalip Tribe is considering types of sewer systems for solving some of Hood Canal problems.

IV. Irrigation Water Use Update – Mike Jeldness (Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association)

2006 Irrigation Outtake/Tailwater Report:

- Reviewed graphs of 2006 Stream Flow and Outtake; 2006 Dungeness Irrigation Flow Chart; Flow Reports from April, May, June, July and September, 2006; Average Annual Diversion Rates in feet per second and in acre feet; Comparison for Water Withdrawals from the Dungeness River September 1987 and 2001; also showed the 2001/2002 Irrigated Land Report
- Updated the chart "Average Annual Diversion Rates in Cubic Feet Per Second" to include data from 1979 to 2006. Noted the years of water leasing involved a lot of voluntary sacrifice which happened mainly from a lot of individual contact – one on one, lots of good quality press coverage to help people understand
- "Comparison for Water Withdrawals from the Dungeness River September 1987 and 2001" chart concludes increased available habitat for the fish. Steve Tharinger asked if same amount of farming is done – acreage or yield? Mike Jeldness reported it was more high-end crops farmed. Increasing amount of irrigated acres

- Money is needed for higher quality, updated map with overlay to track irrigated land (irrigated lands include recreational, domestic and residential); tracking irrigated acreage is difficult
- Contributing factors for irrigation usage 2000-2006 were cited:
 - Depletion of aquifers resulting in inadequate water supply available from wells
 - Increasing cost of water from public and private purveyors
 - Increased public awareness of “use it or lose it clause” in RCW water law
 - Non-irrigated farmland developing into small family farms requiring irrigation for domestic and specialty crops
 - Increased early season outtake to re-hydrate ditches from off season shutdown for construction, decreased livestock water usage, and mitigation
- Cathy Lucero asked how much water is supplied by wells – Mike answered that they had a good idea identifying wet areas but things have changed a lot with irrigation, wells and private purveyors, better technology is needed – maybe they can get it through the NASA project
- Scott Chitwood asked what obligation irrigators have for supplying residents with irrigation water
- Mike Jeldness replied that they have recreational, agricultural and domestic obligation per state law. Domestic use allows one acre under the irrigation law for lawn/garden landscaping. He noted that most residences don’t water more than ¼ acre. In flow reports, it’s recorded as 1 acre, but that’s really the maximum. Department of Ecology allows ½ acre.
- John Cambalik asked if there was information regarding irrigation on the small family farms – Mike replied that it is not as accurate as they’d like. Information is by parcel number. Need a more accurate assessment of how much is being irrigated out of the river
- Gary Smith commented on the outtake chart, which shows that out take flattens out over last five years, even though water was leased and during dry years. Takes more water in a dry year. Three out of the last five years were dry and were significant in changing demand for water.
- Gary noted the reregulation reservoir is working great.
- Pete Schroeder asked where the tailwater goes, back into the aquifer, to the ocean? Mike replied to surface water, 11% that goes out of the river goes back to river or bay

V. 2000-2006 Update NOPLE/Recovery Council/Watershed Leads Updates – Cheryl Bauman (NOPLE Coordinator) and Scott Chitwood (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe)

Lead Entity boundary status

- Still one organization but operating as two: WRIA 17, 18 and 19 are meeting and WRIA 20 is operating as its own lead entity (in process of separating from coast). Increased interest and increased number of participants
- WRIA 20 waiting for funding commitments and letters recommending split
- Temporary funding: Phil Traste will work part-time (20hrs/week) as WRIA 20 coordinator. He is a consultant to help establish lead entity status. Advertising for person to fill part-time position, hoping to lead to fulltime

Governor’s and legislative funding

- Cheryl passed out template for writing legislators for the support of the Salmon Recovery Investment Package
- Governor Gregoire has put \$52 million into salmon funds in proposed budget
- DRMT has already sent letter. Anyone else who wants to send letter can use the template and write about the work that needs to be done in this area. Cheryl will send Shawn Hines a list of projects (several are in the Sequim area). Write to Kevin Van De Wedge, Lynn Kessler and Jim Hargrove and copy to Cheryl Baumann and Margaret Duncan of Shared Strategy
- March 25th Legislative Day in Olympia: technical review group and interested citizens set appointments to speak to legislature representatives. E-mail Cheryl if you are interested in coming
- Grant workshops are scheduled for nearshore restoration project sponsors and will be hosted by the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership and WDFW. Will be held February 14-28 at various sites throughout the region (see NEWS RELEASE February 1, 2007)
- Governor Gregoire has proposed \$7.5 million for additional grants for nearshore and estuary work in 2007-2009 – Final funding to be determined by Legislature. Looking for projects – quick turnaround, pre-proposals due March 16th and final proposals will be due April 30th
- \$2.5 million to ESRP projects last year – WDFW manages the program

- Jimmycomelately project – collaborating with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to cover shortfall <- that hopefully will go on list
- Discussion on the different funds available began, confusion on how SRFB fits with governor’s money - Steve Tharinger said the governor’s money was separate, Senate Bill 5372 now being circulated and the redraft of that bill 1535.2 ties into the Puget Sound Partnership under the Governor’s Initiative. Puget Sound Action Team will roll up into that. There will be a leadership council, an implementation council, 5-6 regional boards. The Lead Entities will roll up into those regions. Shared Strategy will become part of State Government
- Don’t mention Senate Bills in letters you write to Legislature - mention Governor’s \$100 million (plus \$6 million for capacity), support for Shared Strategy and Puget Sound Partnership
- Discussion on building layer upon layers of organization, do the dollars become cumulative for salmon recovery?
- Steve Tharinger explained that it was different than Puget Sound Recovery dollars. Partnership will be looking at more than just salmon recovery. There was no Legislative power, or regulation enforcement. Partnership will be closer to that – instituting certain requirements for storm water for example, to access dollars. Partnership will also have scientific framework and scientific consult
- Walt Blendermann stated that back in 1991 there was a program “Salmon 2000”; the goal at that time was simple, double the amount of returning salmon (spawning escapement) within 10 years. In the interim we had ESA listing fish. Then we had two entities putting money in the pot for fish, one was the US Government and State contributing money. Went from non-bureaucracy watershed group with \$60,000/year to \$130,000/year. Money attracts people
- John Cambalik passed around” 2007-2009 Puget Sound Conservation” submitted to the Washington State Governor and Legislature – January 2007
- Scott Chitwood has been the Recovery Council representative for the North Olympic Peninsula Watershed Planning Area. Steve Tharinger has been a member of the Finance Subcommittee, Scott and Steve got together with Margie Duncan and decided Steve would move to the Recovery Council and maintain his seat on the Finance Committee. Scott and Doug Merrill (Elwha Representative) will act as alternates
- Scot Chitwood mentioned the concern by Recovery Council – that Shared Strategy and PSAT will become part of IAC – and that it no longer seems like a bottoms-up approach. But – perhaps when it comes to implementation, that may be the only way.

Community Salmon Fund

- \$100,000 for NOBLE (usually the maximum is \$50,000) – getting information on that soon

Current SRFB round processes

- Last year pre-proposals were due in July, trying to move up that process. Information out in April and pre-proposals due in May
- Field Trips in June to look at projects
- Probably same level of funding, depending on Legislative decisions
- April 26 in Tacoma SRFB invites Project Sponsors to talk about what works, what doesn’t in habitat restoration work – day-long workshop
- In July SRFB meets on the Peninsula partly to focus on Elwha Restoration. ½ day and maybe evening on salmon restoration

Hood Canal meeting update

- Three listed species in the Dungeness: Chinook, Summer Chum and Bull Trout. Each have their own ESU area, ESU for Dungeness Chinook and Summer Chum overlap in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. The way the first two Lead Entities organized themselves when they first formed North Olympic and Hood Canal has led to a little difference of opinion on how they deal with habitat restoration and salmon recovery in the area from the county line on Discovery Bay over to and including the rest of the eastern Strait
- Budget proposed for recovery for the Puget Sound Chinook has included some funding allocation for nearshore projects and a separate allocation for Summer Chum projects. Overlap leads to confusion on where project sponsors submit proposals
- Last month the two Lead Entities met to discuss how to work together

VI. Announcements / Other Updates

- John Cambalik told people to pick up the bi-annual report on health of Puget Sound and background document. You can download documents from the website (www.psat.wa.gov) where there are also links to the bills that Steve and Cheryl discussed
- Tom Martin: Carlsborg Feasibility Study – The second public meeting will be on the 22nd at the Sequim Prairie Grange from 6-8 P.M. Also asked if there was interest in a dinner meeting with the topic of Water Banking sponsored by the American Water Resources Association
- Cynthia Nelson: Taking proposals for Husseman Grant funded by water violation and oil spill pay backs for on-the-ground recovery projects. Maximum is \$50,000, Cynthia will forward paperwork by e-mail and lobby on behalf of anyone with proposals
- Steve Tharinger update on dike setback: getting close to a preferred alternative- next step is to set up meeting with landowners; soon will have full report to team – sometime in April or May
- Bob Boekelheide, director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center: Presentation on 5 years of bird survey data will be presented at the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society meeting on February 21st at 7:00 P.M. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Handouts:

- Linus Heydon handed out two-page "Will There Be Enough Clean Water"
- Hardcopy of Mike Jeldness presentation: 2006 Dungeness Irrigation Flow Report
- Template: Letter to Legislators for the Support of the Salmon Recovery Investment Package, January 22, 2007
- NEWS RELEASE Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife "Grant Workshops scheduled for nearshore restoration project sponsors" February 1, 2007
- State of Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office – "2006 State of Salmon in Watersheds"
- "State of the Sound 2007" – Puget Sound Action Team, Office of the Governor/State of Washington

Passed around for review:

- "Dispersion of 1,000 Drift Cards Released Over Victoria Sewage Outfalls" article
- Hard copy presentation: "Sewage Treatment in the Core Area" A Status Report
- "2007-2009 Puget Sound Conservation" submitted to the Washington State Governor and Legislature – January 2007