

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting March 14, 2007

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Cathy Lear, Clallam County (alt)
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect Peninsula's Future (alt)
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future
Lyn Muench, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Randy Johnson, WDFW
Don Hatler, Sport Fisheries (alt)

Jim Bay, City of Sequim
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (alt)
John Cambalik, PS Action Team and Ecology (alt)
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology
Annette de Knijf, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1

Others in Attendance:

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

Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers
Ann Soule, Clallam County
Melissa Coughlin, Independent Contractor

2:05 PM Meeting Began

I. Introductions

- Introductions were conducted
- Virginia Clark will talk about forest debris during updates
- Lyn Muench will have a River Center announcement
- Reviewed 2/14/07 minutes – asked for comments and changes:
 - Tyler Ahlgren corrected third bullet under “Victoria Waste Water Program” heading: Managed by Capital Regional District”, not “Resource District”
 - Linus Heydon wanted to respond to Jim Bay’s comment about “a lot of land needed for constructed wetlands”. Jim Bay offered to take the comments outside this meeting. Mr. Heydon agreed and provided amendment for 2/14/07 notes
 - Al Moore moved to approve notes as edited, Virginia Clark seconded motion, approval of notes passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Cambalik announced following events:
 - Friday evening, March 30th and all day Saturday, March 31st: “*Making it Last - Sustainable Solutions for Clallam County*”. Peninsula College and North Peninsula Home Builders Association co-sponsor (along with Peninsula College and others) this free event at the Peninsula College Little Theater on Friday evening and Saturday on the campus’ Pirate Union Building. Event provides information on building and living sustainability, includes speakers, panel discussion, and displays. Friday’s keynote speakers: Alan Gurning speaking on “*Northwest Sustainability: What will it take?*” and Nate Mantua from the University of Washington, speaking on “*Climate Change and the Pacific Northwest*”
 - In conjunction with and also at Peninsula College will be the first of two Marine Shoreline Landowner workshops all day on March 31st. The second workshop will be all day on April 14th and will be held at the John Wayne Marina.
- Jim Bay suggested Linus Heydon present at City Council
- Judy Larson announced:
 - From Protect the Peninsula’s Future, Dr. Eloise Kailin was chosen for the Warren Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award. Sponsored by the Director of Development, People for Puget Sound

- Darlene Schanfald, coordinator for Olympic Environmental Council Coalition, will speak tonight (March 14th) at Pioneer Park at 7:00 P.M. on Rayonier hazardous waste clean up project – relates to Puget Sound clean up and orca whale protected water bodies
- Judy Larson asked where she can view the City of Sequim’s Comprehensive Water Plan – Jim Bay responded that it has to go to the State first, after it is approved by Department of Ecology and Department of Health it will be available in the library and on-line
- Lyn Muench and Bob Boekelheide announced the Olympic Birdfest: James Karr will be keynote speaker at the event which includes birding field trips, salmon dinner, silent auction and will be held March 30th and 31st and April 1st
- Upcoming events at the River Center include: Al Gore’s movie, “*An Inconvenient Truth*” will be shown on April 6th. Taldi Walker, Alaska Field Coordinator for the National Audubon Society Policy Office will present, “*From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and opportunities in Alaska*” on March 16th. On March 21st at 7:00 P.M. Jeff Ward, Senior Research Scientist, Batelle Marine Sciences Laboratory in Sequim will discuss “*Bringing NASA Technology to the Olympic Peninsula*”. March 22nd, 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. *Climate Change* Panel discussion. Also, Belinda Carol is beginning a class, *Wells 101*, soon so homeowners can learn basics of wells
- Judy Larson asked for any monitoring development results, and for any results from the aquifer recharge tests – Steve Tharinger suggested these were good topics for the team to bring for updates

II. Update: Carlsborg Sewer Feasibility – Tom Martin (Clallam County PUD District #1)

- Feasibility Study is the combined efforts of:
 - PUD #1 of Clallam County
 - Clallam County
 - BHC Consultants: Prime Contractor and Project Engineer / Triangle: Public Involvement / Aspect: Hydrogeology
- Looking at three-component wastewater reclamation system:
 - Collection
 - Treatment
 - Reuse
- Considering a membrane bioreactor treatment (MBR) for Carlsborg UGA. Different than what is in Sequim, has a smaller footprint and is modular – can expand as treatment requirement grows
 - MBR systems produce Class A reclaimed water, which meets strict standards for non-drinking purposes:
 - landscape and agricultural irrigation
 - heating and cooling
 - industrial processing
 - safe discharges into freshwater
 - MBR plants are smaller and have a lower profile than traditional systems
 - MBR wastewater discharge is seven to ten times cleaner than typical secondary treated wastewater
 - MBR improves water quality over existing septic tank discharge
 - MBR reclaimed water reuse protects aquifer and aquatic environment
- Scheduled public involvement:
 - Pre-Study Meeting: August 2006
 - Request feedback on scope of work
 - First Public Meeting: October 2006
 - Present information on preliminary findings
 - Hear concerns and answer questions
 - Second Public Meeting: February 2007
 - Present costs and benefits
 - Request feedback on who is interested in hooking up
- Second public meeting cautions and qualifiers:
 - Only preliminary stage of sewer planning
 - Land use and zoning densities **will change**
 - Facilities are **conceptual**

- Costs are **estimates**
- Funding and financing are **undefined**
- Actual assessment method still to be determined
- Schedule is tentative
- **Lots can and will change**
- Financing
 - Grants: money that will not have to be repaid
 - Low-interest loans: money to be repaid at less than market rate
 - Contributions: costs to be recovered from future development
 - Future development: will pay higher fees and charges
 - User charge: more sewage volume pays higher rate
 - Adjustments: hardship, elderly, functional on-site system
- Capital Costs
 - Construction costs include:
 - Collection system
 - Treatment facilities
 - Reuse system
 - Sale tax
 - Contingencies
 - Project costs include:
 - Sewer feasibility study
 - Facility plan
 - Local utility district formation (LUD)
 - Financing
 - Engineering design
 - Construction permits
 - Environmental review & mitigation
 - Construction oversight
- Estimated funding
 - Estimated total project cost: \$12,500,000.
 - Assumed total agency funding: \$3,400,000.
 - PUD #1 of Clallam County
 - Clallam County
 - Washington Department of Ecology
 - Federal agencies
 - Amount assessed to property owners: \$9,100,000.
- Properties within initial phase
 - Category parcels
 - Residential 28
 - Commercial 20
 - Industrial 5
 - Vacant 11
 - Public 7
 - Parkwood 3
 - Total properties 74 parcels
 - Approximate existing equivalent residential units: 320 – 330
 - Approximate potential additional ERU: 340 – 370
 - Potential equivalent residential units: 660 – 690
- Typical total conceptual assessments
 - Existing single-family, lot not sub-dividable: #12,000 - \$16,000
 - Existing single family, sub-dividable lot: \$25,000 - \$100,000
 - Existing small commercial property: \$18,000 - \$17,000
 - Existing large commercial property: 40,000 - \$300,000
 - Vacant and undeveloped parcel: \$60,000 - \$250,000
 - (NOTE: THESE ARE ONLY ESTIMATES, AND BASED ON SEVERAL ASSUMPTIONS)
- Estimated monthly charge for operations & maintenance

- Single family: \$45 - \$60
 - Small commercial: \$55 - \$100
 - Large commercial: \$100 - \$600
- Comparable assessments City of Bainbridge Island, South Island sewer LID City contributed \$609,051
 - Rockaway Beach: 77 lots /average: \$22,869
 - Point White: 63 lots /average: \$19,989
 - Pleasant Beach: 33 lots / average: \$8,112
 - Emerald Heights: 43 lots /average: \$26,988
 - Blakely School: total: \$688,195
- Comparison with City of Sequim:
 - Current sewer connection charge: \$4,350
- Comparable conceptual assessment charges:
 - Estimated cost for existing home on 10,000 square foot lot: \$2,600 - \$3,900
 - Estimated const for new home on 10,000 square foot lot: \$4,6000 - \$5,900
 - Sequim surcharge note
- Monthly charge for sewer service by Sequim:
 - Residential inside city limits: \$43.14/month
 - Residential outside city limits: $\$43.14 \times 150\% = \64.71
- Responses appearing in Peninsula Daily News and Sequim Gazette:
 - Sequim surcharge is negotiable for a large contract (Carlsborg)
 - Last year Sequim estimated \$2.5 million to build a pipe across the river
- Benefits of Carlsborg sewer system:
 - Water quality
 - Nitrate concentrations now nearing maximum contamination level (MCL)
 - Wastewater treated to Class A standard (cleaner than river water)
 - Reduce nitrate loading from septic tanks
 - Water quantity
 - Continued return flow to local aquifer/creek
 - Reclaimed water reuse reduces peak demand
 - Reuse for outdoor use reduces river diversion
 - Economy
 - Enable concentration of growth in UGA
 - Enable construction of affordable housing (dense housing)
 - Enhance potential of commercial/industrial development
 - Encourage construction of other infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks)
- Status / accomplishments of this sewer feasibility study:
 - Considered future land use
 - Projected future population & economic development
 - Developed expected wastewater flow and pollutant loads
 - Conceptualized sewer facilities
 - Studied reuse opportunities
 - Estimated total project costs
 - Assumed funding and financing
 - Described one assessment method
 - Distributed costs to typical parcels
 - Described operation and maintenance program
 - Projected monthly charge to customers
 - Prepared draft feasibility report
- This is a feasibility study, **NOT** an actual sewer plan and was never intended to be one

Discussion/questions after presentation:

- John Cambalik: with more development - more storm water run-off, how will that be handled?
 - At this point not thinking about storm water treatment facility

- Steve Tharinger: right now development is 2 unit/acre, would like to see 4 unit/acre and linking factor of sewer and water – low-impact developing techniques
- John suggested that requiring higher stormwater standards, including Low Impact Development techniques, within this UGA might be an appropriate approach to properly manage stormwater runoff.
- Don Hatler: question on your comment about typical septic system, what did you mean by including nitrate removal?
 - Typical septic are not efficient for removing nitrates. There are some on-site septic systems that remove nitrate without chemical additions
- Discussed outfall – Tom Martin would like to see purple pipe for lawn maintenance. Jim Bay said reuse water is freely distributed for landscaping
- Pharmaceutical removal was discussed: remains in water even through filter and membrane technology. Department of Health and Ecology issue – State and Federal government looking at this now
- Tyler Alghren brought up reuse and what to do with outfalls – It's good to have reuse programs for the summer months - have to plan for winter when no one is watering lawns – in Southern California, Tyler Alghren worked with a program that had a created wetland where water went through the wetland before it was put back into streams and rivers (ran through 3-4 million gallons/day). This addressed the temperature issue, wondered if the DOE had any thoughts on this
 - Cynthia Nelson answered one concern was what goes into the surface water, rule creation is in the works
- John Cambalik asked about provisions to handle possible failure of system, where would the untreated material go? River? Dungeness Bay?
 - Jim Bay answered that the state requires capacity 5 or 6 times for holding pond. Outfall and holding pond has 5 day storage
- Rainwater system alternatives/gray water system discussed: Potential contamination too great – sources of water-born diseases

III. Update: Dungeness Artificial Recharge (AR) Feasibility Study – Ann Soule (Clallam County)

- Pilot recharge project: working from a storage and recovery grant
- Test recharge using abandoned ditch – intentionally putting water in ground in measured way and monitoring for what the effects are
- Narrowed to three sites to perform recharge test: 1) Jakeway; 2) Olympic Discovery Trail; 3) Green Acres Mobil Home Park pond (see map on potential recharge sites)
- Have assistance from irrigators' staff
- Water right application – waiting to be signed – problem e-mailing to Ecology. Application is for this year only, asking for some amount up to 10cfs from mid-April through the end of 2007. Expecting to be limited to high flow snow melt season to conduct test, would also like to have the option of using fall rain flood events as well
- Monitoring is an important aspect of project – have 3 students from Peninsula College who will be paid through NASA's funding on research on Dungeness projects
- Other pilot recharge test in City of Sequim. Having consultants look at possible sites – will update as more is known
- Modeling: using the model that was developed for irrigation companies. At review now. Friday, 3/16/07 is the peer review conference call. TAG meets monthly – refining recalibration for model. Developing different scenarios on both sides of the river.
- Prior to the scenarios, it will be several months to re-model. Mid to end of summer before starting with scenarios
- Considerations: habitat concern, water availability, logistical findings -- consultants to discuss at TAG meetings
- Data collection and management:
 - Monitoring: stream flow measurements and large network of wells. Local (not full) network will be established
- After some modeling results DRMT will be involved
- Steve Tharinger asked if existing gauges were being used or are new ones set up

- Looking at locations where gauges have already been installed. Half of the gauges from 2002 BOR Study are still in place - may need to add new ones.
- Judy Larson asked if Streamkeepers were involved in monitoring
 - Ann Soule replied so far they have not been requested to help – but may eventually
- Judy Larson asked what is the timeframe for the pilot project, when will there be results?
 - Ann Soule replied end of the year
- Cynthia Nelson mentioned gaps in monitoring wells – wells can be added
- Ann Soule asked for recommendations for additional wells for modeling
- If you would like updates or reports along the way, contact Ann Soule

IV. Puget Sound Shared Strategy Status – Steve Tharinger (Clallam County) and Cheryl Baumann (NOPLC Coordinator)

- Current legislature forming new Puget Sound Partnership and working on funding Puget Sound Initiative
- Monday (3/12/07) article in Peninsula Daily News outlined the Partnership. Passing a bill to merge Shared Strategy and Puget Sound Partnership as overseer of multiple projects to clean up Puget Sound – all moving forward
- Watershed Lead meeting in Tukwila next Tuesday
- There have been about \$10.6 million in project requests to legislature. Great that many letters were written. Jim Hargrove thanked Cheryl Baumann for letters on salmon recovery to legislature
- As WRIA 20 is in process of separating – not eligible for Puget Sound money
- Brought up issue of giving money just to Puget Sound, or should dollars go to other areas? – Cheryl will be getting more information on this
- SFRFB historically gives money throughout state for salmon restoration
- Legislature –Friday 3/16/07 from 10 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. in Olympia – Looking for people to talk about work in this group (DRMT). Important to show legislature salmon recovery efforts and their importance to constituents in this area. Setting up meetings with: Kevin Van De Wedge, Lynn Kessler, Jim Hargrove – let Cheryl Baumann know if you are interested in carpooling. Awards may be given out. May confirm Lead status to WRIA 20 then
- A lot of funding proposals out right now. Friday is deadline for Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary. Bryon Rot had pre-proposal; Hansi Hals had one for North Olympic, and others. Competition for funds. Quite a few have submitted pre-proposals. Called Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary and Salmon Restoration program right now
- John Cambalik reminded Team to stress eco-system benefits of projects
- April 20th is deadline for public requests for proposals for community salmon funds
- Postcards passed around advertising SFRFB event: Workshops (Protection & acquisition; Habitat restoration; Nearshore & estuary projects; Fish passage & screening), Panel discussions, Displays, Networking opportunities in Tacoma on Thursday, April 26
- Steve Tharinger noted it was important to contact Lynn Kessler: \$45 million in governor's budget. \$6 million for infrastructure (staffing) - an issue for Tribe and local government to keep it going
- Senate bill (Bill Rockefeller) to add second layer of 7 regions that would orchestrate the Puget Sound Partnership. Water Partnership (management council)+ 7 major regions + 7 councils
- Uptigrove's bill has 14 watershed and implementation council - SFRFB favoring - doesn't want another layer of staff
- There will be a new structure, new Puget Sound Partnership and new dollars to fund it. It will deal with a lot of things talked about today, sewers, aquifer recharge, storm water and salmon recovery issues. Shared Strategy will fold up into that
- SFRFB meeting last Thursday finalized criteria for next round. Nothing really changing. SFRFB panel review projects to make sure they fit the strategy – actual habitat projects connected to salmon recovery. Review panel out early to look at projects. Make sure they are good salmon projects, looking to diminish redundancy. Clarity – looking to streamline process
- Funding: Shared Strategy has used historical allocations. Adjustments to develop science based equation to distribute money. Same this round.

- In the future would like to move toward geographic science-based formula. Asked what DRMT thought – criteria (defined by local groups). If team is interested put on agenda and make recommendations
- SFRB approaching 8th round
- Cheryl Baumann recommended looking at following Puget Sound bills: 1374; 5372 (Senate); House Bill 1598 – open public records; House Bill 1656: establishes Puget Sound Research account for funding and coordinating research
- SFRB will look at multiple entities projects
- SFRB: Regional request from Columbia - \$5.3 million next two years for operation. Funded for one year – they'll have to come back for additional funding
- Independence of local scientists reviewing projects. WRIA 17, 18, 19 – decided to broaden own technical reviewers. If you know anyone with engineering background interested in applying to become reviewer have them send a letter of interest with name and contact information
- There was some talk about giving credibility for projects that are “ready to go”. SFRB and Recovery Council for Puget Sound. Assume these are smaller projects. Need to move forward on funding/money
- Hansi Hals suggested having planning money available, could get programs up to speed. Then move to bigger pots as we get projects ready
- Cheryl Baumann noted it knocked out rural competition who don't have planning teams
- Steve Tharinger suggested loosening up assessments, SFRB not funding only science projects, fit framework of salmon recovery

V. Update: Dungeness Rule-making status – Cynthia Nelson (Department of Ecology)

- Working Group is up and running
- Multi-faceted process – staff level working group consists of members from government, DRMT, businesses, realtors, well drillers, and builders. Decision-making group consists of people from government, Irrigators, Tribe, county and state agencies
- Many representatives couldn't make the first meeting of the working group. The next meeting is March 28th 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Regularly will meet at the Dungeness River Audubon Center from 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. on the 4th Wednesday of the month
- Next meeting of the working group will be an orientation giving exposure to watershed planning and rule-making. Meeting is open to working group representatives, alternates and the public
- Topics for next working group meeting: Basics of water law; discussion of water resources; review of elements and recommendations of watershed plan; what goes into rule
- Public will be notified by ad in paper
- Water Banking – water for maintaining instream flow – topic to be covered before any rule setting
- Will address water supply and rule elements
- Hope to file draft rule 4th quarter 2007. Staff shortages: rule writer is on maternity leave, several rule making efforts are happening simultaneously, Christine Corrigan out for several months in summer
- Public outreach includes workshops on drafting rule language. Will schedule so people can get up to speed prior to drafting rule
- Plan to meet with different interest groups – DRMT can help with suggestions, expand beyond landscapers, as potentially a lot of people may be affected
- Elwha and Dungeness rule making will be addressed separately, one at a time
- Husseman Fund: no one in area has applied yet – due 3/16/07 it is for projects dealing with habitat restoration and development of aquatic GIS - \$50,000 maximum amount. Go to Ecology website for link under “Grants” for more information

VI. Announcements / Other Updates

- NASA tool: Cathy Lear had conference call with researchers and interested people from DRMT, Batelle and Peninsula College. Good discussion on what user needs on ground and if NASA tool could survive that. Discussed what DRMT decided was needed from tool, talked about what tool could provide now and what it may provide later, (e.g. too coarse to provide soil moisture predictions now, but maybe in future?).

- No forecasting in groundwater model – hydrographic forecasts during snow melts/ capability of tool? Probability of flows
- Cynthia Nelson let everyone know the Elwha-Morse Management Team has been resurrected – will meet soon
- Virginia Clark passed around March 2nd letter from the USDA regarding the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe request for permission to harvest approximately 1,000 live and down trees from the National Forest land to be used in a restoration project. Suggested it would be appropriate for the DRMT to write a letter of support. Lyn Muench and Hansi Hals agreed to draft letter. Virginia Clark made a motion to endorse the Tribe’s request by writing a letter, Al Moore seconded motion, motion passed unanimously. Chair Tharinger to sign final letter
- Hansi Hals mentioned three copies of a 15-minute DVD on the Quilcene Snow Watershed rule development process came to her office. Consultant worked on videos (four in all) as part of outreach program. DVD is orientation of water law issues and water supply in the Quilcene Snow Watershed. Steve Tharinger suggested DRMT view at next meeting. Cathy Lear requested copy
- Lyn Muench announced that the River Center board is happy to have the DRMT meet here monthly and thanked Ecology for paying for the last 12 monthly meetings. Would like to remind members of DRMT that it costs \$214,000 a year to run the facility – a lot of that is through fundraising. Last year a anonymous donor gave \$50,000 in a matching challenge grant and they have offered the same this year. Please consider joining OPAS or River Center Foundation
- Welden Clark urged all to attend *Climate Change* Panel discussion next Thursday, March 22nd from 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. at the River Center. A panel of three scientists/researchers will discuss Global Climate Change and its impact on the environmental conditions of the Pacific Northwest, John Pollack will moderate
- Judy Larson suggested adding on-site septic update to agenda in near future. Possibly use funding from Clean Water District as seed money to tie water quantity and water quality. Lyn Muench said Centennial money is used now to fund efforts to insure integrity of septic systems in Puget Sound area. Steve Tharinger noted there are funds, but need local dollars to match. Flush tax, and slush funds based on parcels were mentioned. Hansi Hals announced Public Hearing scheduled for April 12th at Macleay Hall from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Handouts:

- “Sewer Feasibility Study for Carlsborg UGA - Second Public Meeting” 22 February 2007
- USDA March 2, 2007 Letter on Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe tree harvest on National Forest land
- Map of potential recharge sites in Carlsborg
- Postcard: Salmon Habitat Conference