

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting May 9, 2007

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Judy Larson, Protect Peninsula's Future
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect Peninsula's Future (Alt)
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Scott Hagerty, U.S. Forest Service (Alt)
Randy Johnson, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Bob Caldwell, Water Users Association (New Alt)
Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (Alt)
John Cambalik, PS Action Team & Ecology (Alt)
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1

Others in Attendance:

Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Aud. Ctr.

Jessica Colye, Graysmarsh, LLC
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Melissa Coughlin, Independent Contractor

2:10 P.M. Meeting Began

In Steve Tharinger's absence, Randy Johnson took on chairman role for this meeting

I. Introductions

- Pending paperwork, Bob Caldwell will now be the alternate for the Water Users Association.
- Reviewed agenda: deferred Water Users update in Mike Jeldness' absence.
- Reviewed May 11th meeting notes: Add Walt Blendermann to attendee list; change coho to chinook in Section 4, 2nd bullet; Virginia Clark moved to accept minutes as amended, Pete Schroeder seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

- Judy Larson noted that the Department of Ecology is open for comments for one month on fish pens in Port Angeles Harbor. Permits: new standards, calculations for loading.

II. Follow-up on Puget Sound Partnership and accompanying bills to foster Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery – John Cambalik (Puget Sound Action Team)

John Cambalik discussed in detail the structure and process of the newly formed state agency, the Puget Sound Partnership:

- The Puget Sound Partnership will consist of: Leadership Council; Executive Director & staff; Ecosystem Coordination Board; Puget Sound Science Panel
- Leadership Council will consist of seven members that develop the Action Agenda and set strategies, priorities and benchmarks. The work will be communicated through progress reports and will apply accountability provisions.
- Executive Director and staff will be appointed by the governor with advice from the Council.
- Ecosystem Coordinating Board: Will consist of one representative from each Action Area and 2 business; 2 environmental; 3 tribes; 1 city; 1 county; 1 port; 3 state agencies; 3 federal agencies; 2 Senate; 2 House and will assist the Council in development and implementation of the Action Agenda. It will assist the action areas in the compilation of local programs for inclusion in the Action Agenda as well as assessing existing ecosystem scale management; restoration and protection plan elements for the Action Agenda. The Ecosystem Coordination Board will also seek public and private funding and resources for plan implementation, assist the council in conducting public education activities and local implementation strategies to support the Action Agenda. The Ecosystem Coordination Board will also recruit involvement of, and encourage the collaboration among governmental, nongovernmental, the private sector, and citizens.
- Puget Sound Science Panel: Nine members will be selected from a list of fifteen provided to the Council by the Washington Academy of Sciences and will provide nonrepresentational scientific advice to the Council. Panel shall assist the Council in developing and revising the Action Agenda and assist in the development of an ecosystem level strategic science program, which must be

approved by Council. The Panel will develop environmental indicators and benchmarks by July 31, 2008. The Panel will also develop a science work plan.

- Action Agenda: New Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) – first draft due: July 1, 2008 - final adoption is September 1, 2008. Action Agenda will incorporate water quality, water quantity, sediment quality, watershed, marine resource, and habitat restoration plans, recovery plans for orca, salmon and other species. Existing plans and agreements signed by the governor as well as elements of the existing Puget Sound Management Plan will be incorporated.
- Goals of the Action Agenda include achievement of following by 2020: A healthy human population supported by a healthy Puget Sound that is not threatened by changes in the ecosystem; a quality of human life that is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem; healthy and sustaining population of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web; a healthy Puget Sound where freshwater, estuary, near shore, marine and upland habitats are protected, restored and sustained; an ecosystem that is supported by ground water levels as well as river and stream flow levels sufficient to sustain people, fish, and wildlife and the natural fluctuations of the environment; fresh and marine waters and sediments of a sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, & other human uses & enjoyment, and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, & shellfish of the region.
- Objectives of the Action Agenda: Protect existing habitat and prevent further losses; restore habitat functions and values; significantly reduce toxins entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters; significantly reduce nutrients and pathogens entering Puget Sound fresh and marine waters; improve quality and habitat by managing storm water runoff; provide water for people, fish and wildlife, and the environment; protect ecosystem biodiversity and recover imperiled species; and build and sustain the capacity for action.
- Action Areas: (Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, Whidbey Island, North central Puget Sound, South central Puget Sound, South Puget Sound, Hood Canal) Council will define action areas based on the common issues and interests of the entities of these areas, the characteristics of the Sound's physical structure, and the water flows into and within the Sound. The Executive Director will invite appropriate tribes, local governments, and watershed groups to convene to compile existing watershed programs relating or contributing to the health of Puget Sound. Actions, budgets, timelines and funding sources will be identified; prioritization of plan elements, projects and programs will occur; assistance to watershed groups will be provided. Local efforts suitable for adoption into the action agenda will be identified; action area and ecosystem scale proposals for adoption into the action agenda will be assembled.
- Reports:
 - Biennial updates: Identify actions for the biennium; identify responsible parties; establish biennial benchmarks; identify funding.
 - Funding report: Beginning in 2008, and then due in each even numbered year; identify funding needs and sources.
 - State of the Sound Report: Due in 2007 and again in each odd numbered year; assessment of progress.
 - Science Update: Report on the results of ongoing monitoring and research; due once every four years.
 - Science Work Plan: Biennial Plan for monitoring and research; identify who is doing the work; identify funding and funding needs.
- Accountability: The Council shall review state programs that fund facilities and activities that may contribute to action agenda implementation. By November 1, 2009 the Council is to provide recommendations on program changes to ensure funding programs implement the action agenda.
Funding programs:
 - The water quality account, chapter 70.146 RCW;
 - The water pollution control revolving fund, chapter 90.50A RCW;
 - The public works assistance account, chapter 43.155 RCW;
 - The aquatic lands enhancement account, RCW 79.105.150;
 - The state toxics control account and local toxics control account and clean-up program, chapter 70.105D RCW;
 - The acquisition of habitat conservation and outdoor recreation land, chapter 79A.15 RCW;
 - The salmon recovery funding board, RCW 77.85.110 through 77.85.150;

- The community economic revitalization board, chapter 43.160 RCW;
 - Other state financial assistance to water quality-related projects and activities; and
 - Water quality financial assistance from federal programs administered through state programs or provided directly to local governments in the Puget Sound basin.
 - Accountability provisions (take place after the Action Agenda is adopted – 09/01/08): Any entity that receives state funds to implement actions required in the action agenda shall report biennially to the council on progress in completing the action and whether expected results have been achieved within the frames specified in the action agenda. The Council is accountable for achieving the Action Agenda; the Partnership shall develop standards and processes to determine whether entities are taking actions consistent with the action agenda and achieving the outcomes identified in the action agenda; the Council may hold management conferences with implementing entities to review and assess performance; in the event the council determines that an entity is in substantial noncompliance with the action agenda, it shall provide notice of this finding and supporting information to the entity - if, after this process, the council finds that substantial noncompliance continues, the council may recommend to the governor that the entity be ineligible for state financial assistance until the substantial noncompliance is remedied.
 - What is different with the Puget Sound Partnership?: Expanded scope of work (including lead responsibility for salmon recovery and ensuring sufficient water supply); authority to establish a 2020 Action Agenda; tools to hold entities accountable; geographic scope is expanded (mountain crests to center of Puget Sound); firm deadline: Recovery by 2020; collaborate with local watershed groups and frameworks; independent science advice and expertise.
 - What has happened so far: Bill signed May 7, 2007 (SB 5372) (HB1374); Bill Ruckelhaus has been appointed Chair of the Leadership Council.
 - What's next: Process for Leadership Council and Executive Director search will begin; continue to implement the 07-09 Puget Sound Plan; identify a process and timeline for development of the Action Agenda, including identification of regions.
 - Contacts for more information: John Cambalik, Regional Liaison/ Puget Sound Action Team/ 360-582-9132, e-mail: jcambalik@psat.wa.gov or Ron Shultz, Director of Programs/ Puget Sound Action Team/ 360-725-5470, e-mail: rshultz@psat.wa.gov
- Questions: Where will the SRFB fit in all this? The SRFB money will be funneled through the Partnership, Won't happen right away. / Any additional funding - Governor proposed and legislature approved about \$220 million including \$42 million for salmon recovery./ Norm Dicks wants a permanent line item in budget for recovery / As far as the Science panel: will they be recommending things like a desalinization plant? Possibly.

III. US BOR Dike Subcommittee Update) – Hansi Hals (Subcommittee Member)

Hansi Hals reported that the subcommittee doesn't yet have the recommendation, but gave an update along with criteria for a recommendation:

- Length of new dike
- Acres of inundation & depth and inundation at 5 year; 25 year; and 100 year events
- Measurements of smallest channel width
- Assessment of landowners willingness and other challenges
- Flood risk reduction benefits
- Water quality implications
- Predicted channel quality following setback
- Projected map showing the 3 options (some with different versions) – still at a standstill on getting full consensus on one option.

Discussion ensued on next steps:

- Still need to talk more with landowners, all are invited to the next dike subcommittee meeting May 30.
- Have met with landowners on field trips to determine their issues and see if something would work for them. One landowner was concerned with who would maintain any facilities (County or Corps).
- Still experimental with what will work. Flood fence: example of what can be used to eliminate debris may be agreeable to Brown's, but need to provide the information etc... The Brown's have expressed that woody debris left after flooding would be an issue for their dairy farm.
- John Cambalik suggested bringing landowners/farmers to the DRMT to talk about their issues.

- Another landowner was concerned with the Schoolhouse Bridge. (BOR considered lengthening the bridge and excavating to 1930s topography). Randy Johnson and Byron Rot will be presenting their further analysis at the May 30 dike study meeting.
- Randy Johnson pointed out there was another bridge at RM 2.75 – proposed getting rid of Schoolhouse Bridge. Walt Blendermann pointed out it was a main artery for emergency vehicles. Randy Johnson asked how frequently are bridges needed on the Dungeness? Just setting the dike back will see a lot of benefit without lengthening the bridge.
- Cynthia Nelson reminded the group of the possibility of acquiring more land for the Brown's dairy to compensate for concerns related to dairy nutrient management..
- On the west side, the Beebe option matches Ward Road option. Proposal out to acquire all the property between Ward Road and River. Ward Road would become the dike. Preference is to have it on Ward Road, but Beebe option is satisfactory.
- Inaction on any option will result in dike failure (predicted by BOR modeling with high flow events).
- Randy Johnson brought up relocating a portion of the Corp dike – would be a major sub-project. One mile section of the Corps dike would be removed.
- Diagram was shown: Byron Rot spoke to water surface elevation reduction relative to existing conditions for each setback option at the 100-year flood.
- Cynthia Nelson suggested that Ecology would be in favor of something being done in the north section and pursuing option with Towne Road.

Other Announcements or updates

- Cynthia Nelson on the Watershed Planning Grant: Need to reconvene a group – DRMT and Elwha Morse Management Team had a subcommittee last year to prioritize project list - now need to review and provide more detail for projects they prioritized. Between now and the end of the month a small group is needed to decide what projects get priority, since priorities may have changed since last year. Volunteers? Conference call vs. getting together in person for a meeting. Cynthia will resend the list that was put together last year. Capital and operating budgets are both under discussion: For capital budget there is likely money for water bank for the Dungeness. Operating budget: Top priority is water conservation programs, second is water quality programs. Application needs to be submitted no later than June 15. Will the Executive Committee work on this, or are there volunteers? Virginia Clark, Tyler Ahlgren, Judy Larson, Walt Blendermann volunteered, need someone from County, Tribe and others.
- WRIA 17 Rule-making public outreach video/DVD was shown. It was created by contractors to help increase public awareness and to introduce the basics for discussion. Cynthia Nelson wanted to know if group thought this was a worthwhile effort to pursue for public outreach in our rule-making process. The DVD would be available to take to different groups, would be shown on cable TV and would be available on the website. Topics discussed on DVD by various people involved in the rule-making process (and other stakeholders): seawater de-salinization; aquifer recharge & recovery; instream flow rule; conservation and efficiency technologies (drip irrigation); giving fish a water right; stewardship promotion; water decisions. Overall, group thought it a good way to introduce rule-making process. Agreed that a county-specific video would be worthwhile.

Comments

- Judy Larson would like to hear from County and City re: stormwater management as a topic at a DRMT meeting (what are plans for stormwater with increased commercial development). Hansi Hals recalled this was a recommendation a couple months ago (results of monitoring, where the county is with this).
- John Cambalik reported that the second marine shoreline landowner workshop had 60-65 landowners in attendance. Great feedback was given and a lot was learned. Two field trips are planned for landowners who attended 1) to north of Sequim Bay and 2) to conservation easement between Port Angeles and Sequim. Attendees were mailed invitations to workshops.
- Judy Larson and Virginia Clark: Board of Health Advisory Group: Health officers will decide, but soon all septic systems will have to be inspected. Landowners with on-site septic systems may take a class to inspect their own systems, but this may be too difficult for some landowners. The whole county will have to follow this law to inspect. May be a real problem for people on social security and other

economic constraints. Inspections will have to take place every three years for conventional gravity septic systems and every year for all others. Process has not been determined for inspection (private or professional inspections).

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Handouts:

- "The Puget Sound Partnership – May 7, 2007" (from John Cambalik)

Passed around for review:

- Folder with current articles of interest
- Packet from marine landowner workshop