



**June 9, 2010 DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
**Dungeness River Management Team**  
**Dungeness River Audubon Center**  
**Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim, WA**  
**2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

*Notes prepared by: Shawn Hines and Hannah Merrill*

**Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:**

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County  
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)  
Virginia Clark, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning  
Les Jones, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning (alt)

Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries  
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25)  
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1  
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association  
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future

**Others in Attendance:**

Phil Martin, County resident  
Travis Smith, County resident/college student  
Ann Seiter, County resident  
Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Robin Berry, Graysmarsh  
Marguerite Glover, Sequim Realtors  
Hannah Merrill, Clallam County  
Robert Crittenden, Property Owner  
Ann Soule, Clallam County

Elizabeth van Sickle, County resident/property owner  
Gary Smith, Dungeness Water Users Association  
Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon  
Matt Heins, Dungeness Farms  
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers  
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Center  
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Center  
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center

**2:00 P.M.**

**I. Introductions /Review Agenda / Review and Approval of May 12<sup>th</sup> DRMT Draft Meeting Notes**

- Chairperson Tharinger called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Introductions all around.
- Agenda was reviewed and approved, noting that Phil Martin requested to make a presentation about river flow data and its relationship to ditch piping since 2000. Phil's topic to occur during first Public Comment timeslot.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> draft meeting notes were reviewed. Minor edit noted. Virginia Clark moved to accept the notes as edited; Robert Brown seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- Robert Brown remarked that he made a phone call to the County regarding handicap accessibility at Dungeness Landing County Park. He requested that the County consider establishing a handicap parking slot near the improved dock in Dungeness Landing Park, which is slated to become handicap accessible. The existing handicap parking slots are located at the opposite end of the parking lot. Robert suggested that this new slot should not interfere with the boat launch traffic. He would like follow up on that topic.
- Phil Martin provided a PowerPoint presentation offering his opinion about whether irrigation ditch piping is conserving as much water as has been reported. The next several bullets summarize some of his slides/comments. **[NOTE: Two weeks after Phil's presentation to the DRMT, he provided a follow-up email to DRMT:**

*Since my presentation was emailed to a large distribution list, with the intent to have people review it and have some follow-up discussion at July's meeting, I think it would be good to distribute the following comments to that same distribution list, in advance of the next meeting.*

*My presentation, as I had hoped, resulted in some off-line discussions, in particular about irrigation issues and what piping took place when. First, it looks like Sept. is not a particularly good month to try to look at with regard to irrigation usage (even though my choice of that month was dictated by the fact that both the slide from Dave Nazy showing*

*flows at the two gages, and the slide from Ann Seiter showing USGS-gage flows and irrigation for two particular days, were for Sept.) I say Sept. is not a good month to look at in that irrigation usage tends to taper off then, and ceases altogether on Sept. 15 as I understand it, although withdrawals for stock-watering may continue. I have not completed the work yet, but by the next DRMT meeting I expect to have similar plots (to what I showed for Sept.) for the months of July, August and October. In the meantime, simply ignore anything having to do with irrigation, including my comment about the river apparently gaining some 20 cfs between the two gages.*

*Second, contrary to what I had been told earlier, the new information I received indicates that 40.5 miles of ditches had been piped prior to 2000 (Water Users Association 1999 Coordinator's Report). So some of the reduction in irrigation usage can be attributed to the piping. One can even estimate (as was likely done elsewhere to begin with, I just don't have that info) how much was saved due to piping. Since the amount piped after 2000 was 34.1 miles, and that was projected to save 15.55 cfs, all other circumstances being equal one would expect the 40.5 miles of piping to have saved 18.5 cfs. That is 31% of the total decrease in irrigation, (taking 60 cfs as the decrease from 1987 to 1999.) So the piping accounted for a significant fraction of the reduction, but by no means all of it. But the question remains, how much does the river flow increase, relative to the decrease in irrigation? One cannot simply assume that all of it ends up back in the river...it seems to me the hydrogeology is too complicated to allow one to make that assumption.*

*Phil Martin]*

- The first chart showed Dungeness River flow and precipitation, though he noted that it hadn't been updated since 1996.
- Another chart showed USGS average flow data for September.
- Irrigation usage chart displayed, with note that data from 1980-1986 missing. He indicated the chart may not be appropriate for illustrating irrigation usage since years are missing.
- Phil showed a chart originally created by Ann Seiter comparing Sept flows before irrigation conservation to after irrigation conservation. Phil thinks it's oversimplified. He also thought it was inappropriate since he thought most of the piping was completed after 2000. [Note that Phil learned that this is not true. A lot of piping did occur prior to 2000].
- A chart was shown that Phil received from Dave Nazy showing September flows between 2000-2008.
- In summary, Phil's point was that, based on his interpretation of river flows between the USGS and WDOE gages, irrigation piping has only saved 3cfs, not 15cfs. [Note that Phil's later email discounts this point].
- Gary Smith asked how complete/accurate the WDOE gage is.
- Ann Soule commented on one of the slides that showed 60cfs being diverted from river for irrigation. She emphasized that the 60cfs was not diverted in September.
- Matt Heins pointed out that irrigation ditch piping is not only implemented for water conservation, but also for water quality improvements.
- Steve Tharinger suggested at this point that folks have time to review Phil's presentation (to be sent via email), and then come back for follow up discussion at next DRMT meeting.
- Marguerite Glover asked why irrigation ditches are still flowing after September 15<sup>th</sup> in some cases? Gary Smith responded that irrigators have a year-round water right for stock-watering.
- Byron Rot highlighted that the Dungeness River system is very complex. Need to be careful about numbers/assumptions.
- Ann Soule said she was troubled with the averages Phil sited in his presentation.
- Phil stated that if you want to help the river, aquifer recharge is needed.
- Scott Chitwood suggested that a better way to find out water savings from piping would be to look at each outtake separately. There are too many variables between the two gages. Probably need to look at each system individually to figure out water savings.
- Gary indicated that the question posed is interesting. We haven't really looked at effects of piping on WDOE gage. Thought the question deserved being answered.
- Marguerite stated that she thought piping is good for water quality, but that she has always agreed with Phil's thought that exempt wells do not have as big of an effect as people say they do. It irritates her that

when she is out showing property, irrigators are watering like crazy – yet the new property owners aren't going to be able to do that.

## **II. DRMT Regular Updates**

### **Dungeness Instream Flow and Water Management Rule Updates – Cynthia Nelson, WA Department of Ecology**

- Steve gave a brief update on rule process in Cynthia's absence. He said WDOE distributed a draft Citizen's Guide to Dungeness Water Management to a small group of folks who were reviewing it for WDOE. He indicated the guide wasn't what some people expected. He thinks missing information will be folded into another document that has more details.
- WDOE has been meeting with small groups. Thinks still on track for submitting rule in July. Clallam County's water staff has been working closely with WDOE on the MOU between WDOE and Clallam County. Ann Soule said it is hard to know how much more work is needed on the MOU, possibly a few more meetings. The MOU should be done by time of rule publishing. Steve said another meeting is scheduled for Monday.
- Robert Brown asked if the County is planning to staff a position for rule implementation. Steve said the County is not supportive of some aspects of the rule, so not supportive of hiring anyone to do something they don't support. Not in County budget to process all the items in the rule.

### **Shoreline Master Program Update - Hannah Merrill, Clallam County**

- Hannah Merrill said County is working on jurisdictional/public access maps. In the fall, doing forums for shoreline owners. Working on getting RFP out.
- Scott Chitwood asked how well the coordination between other agencies is going. Hannah said Port Angeles has hired consultants. Port Angeles, Sequim, Forks, and the County are all on each other's distribution lists, and all are tracking each other's progress. Overall, the tracking is going well.
- Judy Larson had a question about the Rayonier restoration effort. It is part of the City of Port Angeles SMP, so County is not involved.

## **III. 2010 SRFB Project Proposal Presentations for NOPLE**

Cheryl Bauman passed around the two project proposals.

### **Dungeness River Corridor Protection SRFB Proposal - Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe**

- Proposal to purchase 28 acres of floodplain property adjacent to some riverside properties. Project is both strategic and opportunistic.
- Background: In 2003, Hansi Hals led an effort to prioritize riverside parcels. This project was one of the "High" priority parcels referenced in that prioritization process, so the project is strategic in that sense. The fact that the parcels are currently buildable adds a sense of urgency for protection.
- On socio-political side, this would be a great addition to Railroad Bridge Park; would mean more management responsibilities for the River Center, but a lot more educational opportunities for the Center, too.
- Benefit to salmon: spawning, rearing habitat for a lot of species.
- Promotes ecosystem function: protects riparian forest/floodplain, allows for river movement and meander development, sediment storage, side channel habitat, future ELJ project potential.
- Critical Areas Ordinance is not enough to protect variances. Exemption/exceptions happen within critical areas.
- Project ranked number 9 in NOPLE Strategy.
- \$242K cost estimate. Already have \$60K from another source. Need \$182K (includes cushion.)
- Steve asked if there would be a possibility of having public access trails, perhaps along McComb Road. Byron said they would need to discuss with Bob Boekelheide and Hansi. Discussion ensued about whether trail can connect the properties.
- Robin Berry asked if the project would protect the parcels in perpetuity. Hannah said a formal notice (Deed of Salmon Right) would be attached to the title.

### **McDonald Creek Large Wood Recovery SRFB Proposal – Hilton Turnbull, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe**

- Project would build upon 2009 project (Phase I), continuing downstream with LWD installation.

- 8 jams, 1,300-1,500 feet. Smaller jams, maybe six-eight pieces each, placed strategically to enhance natural features, encourage high flows, while at the same time controlling invasive species.
- Last year, flood of record in McDonald Creek, just over 3,000 cfs.
- The project would address recommendations from both Limiting Factors Analysis (pg. 124) and the 2001 Habitat Survey.
- The creek currently does not have as good escapement as other neighboring streams (e.g. Jimmycomelately, Seibert).
- Only listed stock is Steelhead. No recovery plan yet, but this project would be supported in any eventual recovery plan.
- Completely intact corridor from Highway 101 downstream.
- Landowners on both sides of stream are supportive.
- Generous donation of wood from DNR (\$11,200).
- Judy Larson asked what were the lessons learned from Phase I. Hilton said this phase will use an anchoring system, as some installations in Phase I that weren't anchored blew out. This will help keep the jams in place, at least long enough to build conifer understory.
- Tom Martin thought that bringing in wood was a cost-effective way to bring back habitat. How long will it take for it to recover? Hilton said they will do some monitoring. It is hard to figure when there will be a fisheries response. Elwha has shown quick response. Happens pretty quickly, as far as gaining new habitat. Scott Chitwood mentioned that the pool/riffle ratio will help with that. Hilton said monitoring of pools/riffles before and after installation will occur. Tom said that the PUD is interested in this type of project in WRIA 19. Thinks this kind of restoration is way more cost-effective than adding flow. Scott Chitwood noted that there is a tendency for smaller systems to become bound by sandbar at mouth. Clallam is an extreme example. Need some amount of flow to overcome that tendency.
- Don Hatler asked about redd counts on McDonald. Scott Chitwood said there are index areas, but the entire creek has not been surveyed.
- Don asked about bang for buck. Discussion ensued about bang for buck in relation to fish. Scott Chitwood said we do have smolt trapping data, providing some direct measure.
- Steve Tharinger asked about the fact that alternative funding sources have also been sought. Hilton said that more funding means a better project. There is more work to be done on McDonald.

### Other

- Cheryl Baumann walked through the NOPLÉ ranking handout. TRG recommended funding the top four. Page 2 shows local technical ranking. DRMT scores and comments due to Shawn 6/17.
- Robert Brown asked about surveying on Towne Road and about volunteering for SMP process. Hannah said that Fish and Wildlife made an offer on one of the properties. WDOT is surveying east side of Towne Road, may purchase wetlands for Hwy 101 mitigation.
- Bob Caldwell mentioned the Finnhall Farm Conservation Easement project by Friends of the Fields. \$1.6 million to protect farm property. Clallam County official sponsor; NOLT processing it. Also, Jarvis Farm in Agnew area – 60 acres sustainable farming methods. Clallam Conservation District put in constructed wetland.

## II. Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

### Handouts:

- Two SRFB proposals.
- NOPLÉ/TRG ranking.
- Phil's presentation to be sent out via email.