

# DRAFT

## DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of September 14, 2005

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

### Team Members and Alternatives Present

Randy Johnson, WDFW	Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries
Dean Yoshina, U.S. Forest Service	Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (alt)
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Scott Hagerty, U.S. Forest Service (alt)
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)	Cathy Lear, Clallam County (alt)
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene	Tom Martin, American Water Resources Assoc.
PlanningPam Sanguinetti, USFW	Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future
Cynthia Nelson, DOE	

### Others Present

Byron Rot, Selinda Barkhuis, Clea Rome, Tom Safford, Robin Berry, Ron Lange, and Welden Clark.

## **I. Introductions / Review Agenda / Approval of Minutes**

Randy Johnson, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting. Introductions were conducted.

### Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2005

Shawn Hines indicated that clarifications were submitted by Andy Brastad with regard to the draft minutes. Shawn Hines will forward via email the clarifications to the Team. Walt Blendermann made a motion to approve the minutes with Andy Brastad's clarifications incorporated. Randy Johnson seconded the motion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2005

Virginia Clark noted that Les Jones' name in the attendance list was split into two rows. With an amendment to correct that, Virginia made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2005 meeting. The motion was seconded. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Two items were added to Section VI of the agenda (USFS updates by Scott Hagerty and Morse Creek / PUD update by Cynthia Nelson).

### **Public Comment Period**

Tom Martin announced that American Water Resources Association is conducting its national conference in Seattle in November. Tom indicated that he has brochures for further information.

Scott Hagerty indicated that he has brochures regarding the Eco Trust watershed partnership (Pacific Coast) regarding Dungeness watershed restoration efforts, and future needs.

## **II. Clallam Conservation District's 5-Year Plan – Clea Rome, Clallam Conservation District**

Clea Rome, Clallam Conservation District, indicated that the District's 5-Year Plan was recently approved during the Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors' meeting, and she distributed copies of the Plan to the Team.

Clea discussed staffing; the function, mission, vision and values of the District; and reviewed the following goals and priorities:

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### Natural Resource Goals and Priorities to Achieve by 2010:

#### Urbanized Lands

- Manage Stormwater;
- Improve and Protect Water Quality;
- Conserve Water;
- Enhance and Restore Habitat;
- Protect and Improve Air Quality; and
- Conserve Open Spaces and Important Habitat

#### Farmland

- Improve and Protect Water Quality;
- Conserve Water;
- Enhance and Restore Habitat; and
- Conserve Working Farmland

#### Forestland

- Maintain and Improve Forest Health and Function;
- Enhance and Restore Habitat;
- Conserve Commercial Forestlands;
- Protect and Improve Air Quality; and
- Develop Alternative Sources of Renewable Energy

#### Critical Geographic Areas

- Urbanized Lands: City of Port Angeles, Dungeness Bay, Clean Water District, and City of Sequim and Urban Growth Area;
- Farmland: Dungeness Bay and Clean Water District; and
- Forestland: All Non-Industrial Private Forestland in County, Unincorporated Areas of WRIAs 17 and 18, and Salt Creek Basin;

### Information – Education Priorities and Goals to Achieve by 2010:

- Education of Youth Re: Natural Resource Conservation; and
- Education of the Public on Natural Resource Conservation

#### District Operations Priorities and Goals

- Financial Stability for District Programs; and to
- Maintain Effective and Efficient Operations including Accounting, Grant Vouchering, Personnel Management, Supervisor Elections and Appointments, Training and Development, Annual Planning and Reporting

#### Trends Impacting Conservation in the District

- Population Growth;
- Development and Loss of Farmland and Forestland;
- Land Acquisition as a means of Preserving Natural Resources;
- Greater Demand on Water Resources – Both Instream and Out-of Stream; and
- Increase in Small, Noncommercial Farms

Clea discussed staffing needs relating to the Plan, annual budget needs, key decision makers and partners. She also discussed the Districts planned priority actions for the next 12 months. These actions (outlined below), as well as the above goals, are described thoroughly in the handout provided by Clea and the Conservation District.

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## Priority Actions – 12 Months

### Urbanized Lands Actions

#### Manage Stormwater:

- Assist cities and County with development and promotion of low-impact development programs;
- Assist at least 5 landowners annually with implementation of stormwater management practices to address existing stormwater concerns; and
- Assist at least 5 landowners annually with implementation of low-impact development techniques

#### Improve and Protect Water Quality on Urbanized Lands

- Assist County with programs that encourage proper septic system operation and maintenance in order to achieve a measurable reduction in fecal coliform levels in shellfish harvest areas; and
- Assist with development and promotion of a pet waste management program in order to achieve a measurable reduction in fecal coliform levels in shellfish harvest areas

#### Conserve Water on Urbanizing Lands

- Assist at least 30 land users annually with design of landscaping practices that conserve water; and
- Increase beneficial use and availability of water through increases in water storage capacity

#### Enhance and Restore Habitat on Urbanizing Lands

- Help at least 5 landowners annually address road-related water quality and fish passage concerns; and
- Assist at least 30 land users annually with development and implementation of landscaping practices that enhance wildlife habitat

#### Protect and Improve Air Quality on Urbanizing

- Help develop a recycling program for land clearing and landscape debris

#### Conserve Open Spaces and Important Habitat on Urbanizing Lands

- Assist at least 10 landowners annually with implementation of low-impact development techniques; and
- Assist cities with protection of high-value open spaces and habitat

### Farmland Actions

#### Improve and Protect Water Quality on Farmland

- Assist at least 20 commercial and noncommercial farm operators annually with implementation of agricultural conservation practices that result in a measurable reduction in fecal coliform levels in shellfish harvest areas;
- Assist at least 20 farm operators annually with implementation of agricultural conservation practices that protect groundwater from contamination; and
- Assist WUA with implementation of Comprehensive Irrigation District Management Plan (CIDMP) water quality protection activities

#### Conserve Water on Farmland

- Assist WUA with implementation of at least 25% of CIDMP actions;
- Increase beneficial use and availability of water through increases in water storage capacity;
- Assist at least 5 individual irrigators annually convert to more efficient irrigation systems and manage irrigation water more efficiently; and
- Include irrigation water management with each conservation plan that involves irrigation

#### Enhance and Restore Habitat on Farmland

- Restore proper biological function to at least 5 miles of stream buffers

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### Conserve Working Farmland

- Help develop and implement programs to better prevent loss of farmland

### Forestland Actions

#### Maintain and Improve Forest Health and Function

- Assist small forest landowners develop and implement forest stewardship plans

#### Enhance and Restore Habitat on Forestland

- Help small forestland owners address road-related fish passage and water quality problems

#### Conserve Commercial Forestland

- Help develop and implement programs to better prevent loss of forestland

#### Protect and Improve Air Quality

- Contribute to development of recycling program for timber harvest residues

#### Develop Alternative Sources of Renewable Energy

- Contribute to development of markets to utilize timber harvest and land clearing residues

### **III. Water User Association Update – Mike Jeldness, WUA**

Mike Jeldness provided a brief update with regard to the Water Users Association, and indicated that the Association has managed to meet the legal requirements with regards to water conservation (WUA is obligated to take no more than 50% of the Dungeness flow as measured at the USGS gage; this season the WUA is also leasing 11 cfs, so they are required to leave 50% of the flow, in addition to the 11 cfs that must remain instream). The WUA has managed to meet these requirements with a lot of voluntary cooperation among the water users.

Mike indicated that last Wednesday there was an emergency short order conference call with Department of Ecology and WDFW to coordinate a pulse project which was conducted successfully last Friday and Saturday. Water was shut off from the ditches from Friday afternoon until Sunday night. Cynthia thought there was around 15-20 cfs more water left in the river as a result of the shutdown.

WDFW and DOE are also currently working on financing stock watering so stock water will not have to be pulled from the river. This will be underway hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

Mike stated that irrigators will have sustained some commercial crop loss. However, the amount of loss will not be known until after harvesting.

### **IV. Summary of 8/30 PA Drought Meeting – Cynthia Nelson, DOE**

Cynthia Nelson reported that there were several presentations regarding the status of the drought and state-wide efforts to assist the public. There was a presentation by Brent Bauer, Weather Service, who noted only average flows for the area. Welden Clark noted that Brent's data didn't account for the sharp drop in flows starting in June.

Mike Jeldness said he felt it was a good meeting, but that most attendees were water managers and people involved in water conservation and restoration. There were not many members of the public in attendance.

A ten-minute break was taken.

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### V. Lower River Updates – Cathy Lear, Clallam County & Hansi Hals, Jamestown Tribe

Cathy Lear distributed materials related to Phase 2 of the Lower Dungeness River Restoration showing the status of properties on River's End Road, as of September 12, 2005. A chart and map showed land that has been purchased, land in the process of being purchased, landowners that are undecided or are having their property appraised, and land that was rejected or had no offer so far.

Cathy noted that decommissioning and replanting on two parcels will also happen on recently purchased places (except for three or four which will be relocated for use by Habitat for Humanity).

Walt Blendermann asked if any re-grading had occurred at these properties. Hansi Hals responded that regrading only occurred where septic systems were pulled out.

Hansi Hals spoke about the planting along Towne Road. Around 11,000 plants were placed. Some of the plantings are doing well while others are not. Monitoring will continue in the project area.

### VI. Announcements / Other Updates

#### Ecology Funding

Cynthia Nelson distributed three grant applications. One grant is for funding of watershed councils, for meetings where people would be reviewing implementation of the watershed plan (\$15,000 limit). This funding could also go toward general watershed council support, such as taking minutes or helping with related websites.

Another grant is for a water storage and construction grant, for those building an aquifer storage facility and recovery, or reservoirs, etc. (\$200,000 limit). Cynthia mentioned that Graysmarsh is interested in this.

The third grant is for an infrastructure project (\$250,000 limit) which is solely for infrastructure improvement projects and other water management actions that benefit stream flows and enhance water supply.

#### Morse Creek / PUD Water Right

Cynthia Nelson indicated that although the Morse Creek situation is not within the DRMT's planning area, it remains next door, so she thought the Team would be interested. She stated that in the early 70's the PUD applied for a surface water diversion or water right off of Morse Creek, and the PUD was issued a water right by Department of Ecology that was conditioned on a low-flow proviso. The proviso indicated that when the flows in Morse Creek dropped to 25 cfs, they were required to curtail use. The water right is 1.5 cfs. There are two gauges on Morse Creek, which are monitored on Department of Ecology's Stream Habitat Unit website.

Cynthia indicated that following recent flows of 24-26 cfs in Morse Creek, Ecology contacted the PUD with regard to the proviso. Since the conversation, the PUD has gone to a mandatory Stage 3, which is in-house water use only, and has an auto-dial program in place to phone their customers, reminding them of the mandatory status, and any new related information. The PUD submitted various drought applications to Ecology. However, the current status is questionable. Cynthia stated that PUD will be working on a long-term solution, and they might be interested in one of the grant applications for storage. Ecology hasn't enforced the proviso, but they are asking PUD to think about it.

#### Suggestions for future DRMT meetings

Shawn Hines indicated that November and December DRMT meeting agendas are open. If the members have suggestions, they may contact Shawn. It was suggested that the Dike Study Group provide an update at a future meeting. Canyon Creek and Burnt Hill updates were also suggestions.

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### Ideas for improving DRMT website

Shawn Hines stated that suggestions for improving the DRMT website are welcome, as there is a web designer change in progress. Cynthia Nelson suggested that handouts and presentations be placed on the website. Scott Hagerty suggested that information on milestones and related photographs be accessible. Randy Johnson asked that the Team to log onto the website, review it, and forward any suggestions to Shawn Hines via email.

### Slab Camp Collaborative Stewardship Project – Scott Hagerty, U.S. Forest Service

Scott Hagerty indicated that the U.S. Forest Service is embarking on a collaborative stewardship project in the Slab Camp area which is located east of Lost Mountain Road, as there are a lot of restoration opportunities in the area. The U.S. Forest Service will be building a stewardship team comprised of various partners that share interest in restoration of the subject area.

Scott H. stated that the stewardship team would assist in identifying timber stands that require commercial thinning (approximately 70 acres), with implementation of generated proceeds going directly toward restoration. Generated funding is estimated at \$80,000 to \$100,000. Projects include road decommissioning, improving forage to assist with elk management, water quality, etc. The stewardship team will assist with prioritizing projects, funding appropriation, and seeking future grants. A presentation on this Collaborative project will be given at the October DRMT meeting.

### Decommissioning / Gold Creek – Scott Hagerty, U.S. Forest Service

Scott Hagerty indicated that this is an active restoration project with the subject area located west of Mount Zion. The U.S. Forest Service has decommissioned approximately one mile in the subject area, and the Sleepy Hollow culvert has been removed and has opened up some resident fish habitat. Scott stated that approximately five miles of the main road will be converted to part of the Pacific Northwest Trail system.

## **VII. Adjourn**