

# Dungeness River Management Team Meeting

November 14, 2007

Notes prepared by Melissa Coughlin

## Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Donella Pratt, Clallam County  
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners  
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association  
Bob Caldwell, Water Users Association  
Walt Blendermann, Sports Fisheries  
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries  
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning  
Les Jones, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning  
John Miller, Clallam County (DCD Director)  
Judy Larson, Protect Peninsula's Future  
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association  
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1

## Others in Attendance:

Susan Stark, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Robin Berry, Graysmarsh, LLC  
Jim Karr, Ph.D., Local resident  
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr.

Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers  
John Cambalik, Puget Sound Partnership  
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr  
Melissa Coughlin, Ind. Contractor/Note-taker

2:12 P.M. Meeting called to order.

## **I. Introductions /Review Agenda / Approval of 10/10/07 Meeting Notes**

- Mike Jeldness called meeting to order and presided as chairperson in the absence of Steve Tharinger (Chairman) and Pete Schroeder (Vice Chair for November meeting).
- Introductions all around.
- 10/10/07 meeting notes were reviewed. Judy Larson moved to accept notes. Al Moore seconded motion and the motion was passed unanimously. Cynthia Nelson noted 2 changes were needed, both under WRIA 18 Rulemaking Update heading on page 5. Change "Divergent" to "diverse" and the public workshop date is November 29<sup>th</sup>, not November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Agenda was reviewed. Al Moore made suggestion to change the heading "Other Announcements or Updates" and use that time on the agenda to give follow up status reports to close loop on open items from past meetings. Discussion ensued on how best to follow up with various projects and open items that need periodic report-backs. It was suggested that note-keeper add section at end of monthly minutes for any motions made and approved (along with who made the motion or people with responsibilities for reporting back) for follow up at next meeting. Robert Brown made motion to change section heading to "Other Business" which is more general and inclusive to review motions and other items ( in some presentations actions that need to happen are identified, but the DRMT was concerned that status on such actions is usually not reported back to the DRMT) for further follow-up, Virginia Clark seconded motion, which was then passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment:**

- Judy Larson had question about City of Sequim public notices and following up as possible topics for DRMT meetings. Example: City of Sequim wants to increase capacity for sewage plant, is this something that we can have a presentation on? The public notices were issued October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with comments due on the 17<sup>th</sup>, which seemed to Judy Larson a rather short time for comments. Cynthia Nelson said one could notify Ecology headquarters for a contact person.
- John Miller announced the Biodiversity Conference event at the Bell Harbor Convention Center in Seattle on December 4<sup>th</sup> and passed around brochures with more information on the event.

## **II. Atterberry Reservoir Subcommittee update – Joe Holtrop (Clallam Conservation District)**

- The Atterberry Reservoir subcommittee met prior to DRMT meeting. Mike Jeldness, Tom Martin, Don Hatler, Cynthia Nelson and Ben Smith attended. Mike Jeldness shared engineering data and status updates from Anchor Engineering at the meeting.
- Next step: determine what needs to be done with land acquisition or leasing land.
- Negotiations on operation and maintenance are continuing. Estimates so far include: \$4,000 for power, \$30-\$40,000 for operating and maintenance for the facility, \$8-10 million for construction.
- Cynthia Nelson and Joe Holtrop will be meeting for next steps to determine role the Conservation District will play as project moves forward.
- Mike Jeldness recommended a formal letter of support from DRMT to help with DNR negotiations. Joe Holtrop and Cynthia Nelson agreed to draft a letter of support which will be available for review at December's DRMT meeting.
- Next subcommittee meeting has not been scheduled.

- Cynthia Nelson noted the price had doubled or tripled (since project was first reviewed) and work is needed to negotiate the lease with DNR and where to find funding. More work is targeted than just the letter of support.

**Announcement:**

Mike Jeldness commented on the long deserved and hard-earned Conservation District's recent award.

**III. DRMT Website – Susan Stark (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)**

- About a year and a half ago Susan Stark, from the Natural Resources Department at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, was given the responsibility of the DRMT website. She took all the information from the old site and updated it. Wanted to see if team had suggestions to improve site going forward.
- Team reviewed website on projected screen. DRMT web address:  
<http://www.olympus.net/community/dungenesswc/>
- Site is updated monthly with agenda and approved DRMT meeting notes. Notes go back to 2005.
- If DRMT members have news they want posted on site send to: [sstark@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:sstark@jamestowntribe.org)
- Some pages are under construction. Susan asked for pictures of the river. Bob Boekelheide, director of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, has many pictures of the river in all seasons and flows.
- Robert Brown requested that the Executive Committee be listed on the membership page.
- Team was asked if DRMT has logo, as most organizations have a logo. This started discussion on engaging community support to develop something symbolic of DRMT efforts and goals. Scott Chitwood introduced an idea of some sort of contest for school children, ideally with some sort of prize involved – there are 3 elementary schools are in this area. Cynthia Nelson asked if everyone was comfortable with having school age children designing the logo. Scott suggested the contest could be the starting point and a commercial artist could be brought in to refine logo. Cynthia Nelson said the Watershed Council may have funding to support some of this.
  - Scott Chitwood moved to develop a contest with elementary school children to help with logo development. Mike Jeldness seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Planning ideas will be brought in from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe at December DRMT meeting.
- Comments/suggestions from team to improve website included: search mechanism by topics; include letters of support for various activities, programs; links to other sites (already have many, e-mail Susan Stark for any not listed) – Mike Jeldness will get together with Susan re: Water Users – Rulemaking link is needed along with information on upcoming workshops; Robert Brown suggested placing mission statement and goals in same area; updated picture of DRMT members is needed along with list of current members; place upcoming agenda items on site; add Schoolhouse Bridge gauge to other gauges (in irrigation system area now); put flows on the main page.

**IV. Dungeness River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan/DOE Grant to Update – Donella Pratt (Clallam County)**

- Currently using the 1990 Flood Hazard Management Plan. Proposal is to evaluate existing plan and make recommendations, hold public meetings, distribute draft to Board of Commissioners and adopt the changes.
- Wanted to know how the DRMT wanted to be involved. In 2003 updates were made and the DRMT formed a subcommittee to work on this. Wondered if DRMT wanted to do that again, or just evaluate during regular meetings.
- Al Moore asked if the updates of 2003 were going to be used, Donella remarked they would be adopted, the notes had not been adopted either. Cynthia Nelson suggested taking the 2003 plan recommendations and add results from recent studies & move forward, removing outdated materials.
- Walt Blendermann asked what agency established requirement for the production of the plan. Don't know where the requirement for a flood plan came from. Was this an unfunded mandate? Typically work is in response to requirements – may influence the structure and content of plan.
- Hansi Hals stated the City requested update in 2003. She volunteered to follow-up, Bob Martin from the County may know. Hansi will look it up and get back to group.
- John Cambalik and Mike Jeldness both agreed that regardless of requirements, it is a good idea to update. May have to do with flood insurance requirements from FEMA.
- Cynthia Nelson recalled that when they had this draft plan, DRMT was involved in sessions to evaluate project proposals to reduce flood hazards which were either neutral or beneficial to salmon habitat.
- Hansi Hals thought the subcommittee was useful in 2003, suggests that would be a good way to proceed. One session of the DRMT to review would be necessary.

- Robert Brown suggested including any emergency services: what, where and how to respond. Mike Jeldness responded that Bob Martin is working on this now. Road Department and Parks Department also working on this.
- 2007 Update Subcommittee Members: Welden Clark, Al Moore, Hansi Hals, Bob Martin, Ross Tyler, Cynthia Nelson, Robert Brown, Clea Rome, Carol Creasy, and a flood hydrologist (might be from Department of Ecology). Donella Pratt will coordinate meeting time, place & send out announcement.
- Walt Blendermann said this will interlink with Shoreline Master Program Management Plan Update. Should coordinate with that group as well.
- John Miller added that update of plan is needed in order for homeowners to qualify for flood insurance. Base floor elevation is determined. No funding from FEMA to do this. Thanks to Department of Ecology. Suggested at this point DRMT contact Randall McCoy, GIS Specialist with the Lower Elwha Tribe, to speak on Tsunami inundation projections for coast at a future DRMT meeting.
- Al Moore asked if there were any updated maps – ran into problem finding any in 2003. No response
- Mike Jeldness mentioned hearing the National Flood Insurance Program allows for three flood incidents, then no more insurance, wondered if that were true. No comment from group.

**V. 2007 Chinook Return to Dungeness – Scott Chitwood (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe)**

- Scott Chitwood began his presentation on this year’s Chinook return by thanking people most central to the data collection and recovery work, including the volunteers at the hatcheries, those that transport to Grey Wolf Pond to acclimation facility, and particularly the staff at Fish & Wildlife, also the fish culture staff at Hurd Creed and Dungeness and field crew that Randy Cooper supervises.
- Please refer to Scott Chitwood’s PowerPoint presentation titled, “2007 Dungeness Chinook Return” which is on the DRMT website. Proportion of return went into the spawning escapements. Redds, spawners, and total return.
- Spawning distribution has been fairly lower in the river in past years, preferable to see the bulk of the spawning population using the higher habitat. Starting to see this: half of the population is below Canyon Creek, half above. Want to see bulk of spawning population utilizing the upper portions of the basin, better habitat, better incubation survival; it is thought that all the life cycles will be better survived in the upper portion.
- Don Hatler asked if one particular reach of the river has a greater falloff of adult usage (% decline relative to other). Scott answered that some years have flows which allow adults access to upstream, and some years the flows don’t allow access. Every one of these reaches has usable spawning habitat if the opportunity is provided.
- Robert Brown asked about data for fish taken (fishing activity) from mouth of Dungeness and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Scott answered that there are estimates of harvest, but not during the time these fish are in the bay. Coho fishery starts September 21 – October 10 if caught, any Chinook are to be released alive. (Probably only 3-5 fish a year.)
- Surveys start the first week of August and go through the second week of October.
- Graphs were projected showing the number of redds surveyed in a statistical week in different years. 2007 was a low year. Data was shown in a cumulative percent. Spoke to speculation of snow pack effect on spawning numbers. Last year had one of the highest snow melt years (2006) and was one of the earliest snow melt years, as a result there were a large number of spawners and large distribution (where fish selected their spawning habitats). This year snow melt pattern started early, but not with the volume of 2006, may have been when the adults were moving and may have been the reason for the distribution to higher spawning habitat (speculation). See “Annual Return of Dungeness Chinook” slide # 7 of Scott Chitwood’s presentation.
- Why didn’t the 2007 return perform as well as other years? Can speculate. One of the problems the Fraser River has is that there are warm river temperatures during the upstream migration period. Researchers there have begun to relate different levels of impact on the sockeye population related to river temperatures. Anything above 16 ½ degrees impacts swimming performance, anything above 19 degrees will impart some stress, anything above 21 degrees, finding fish mortality. See “Fraser River Average Daily Temperature” slide # 9 of Scott Chitwood’s presentation.
- Have some cold river temperatures in the Dungeness, highest temperatures are in August, but barely touch 16 degrees. Unlikely river temperatures are much of a factor for Dungeness Chinook. Pre-spawning mortality not much of a factor.
- Looked at flows in the wintertime. After spawning is finished (September), fall in October, November have high water conditions – what is the impact on laid fertilized eggs? Can’t measure

very well. Below red line: lower flows, we've had more lower flows recently. 2003 might have affected that brood year and four year olds returning in 2007 maybe didn't survive as well. Could explain freshwater survival of smolts might not be so high for this particular return. *Refer to slide #11.*

- **Supplementation Program:** Seen a steady increase in run size of fish returning to the Dungeness the last several years. Everyone thinks things are going in the right direction, runs are recovering, but remember, most of the fish are a result of these supplemental activities. Started with the captive brooding programs in the early 1990's. Still in evaluation stage. Captive program focused on smaller fish, fry or fingerling sized, but there were also larger fish involved in the Hurd Creek release and a large number of those returned. Looked at the contribution of return year from several different brood years. Preliminary numbers for 2007. Fish come in as four or five year olds (2001 brooding year). Important to understand the relationship between producing years and return years. Hatchery fish, wild fish make up the total. *Refer to slide #12.*
- How does brood year show up in population four years later? Need to surpass the one spawner for every spawner that that spawned to achieve recovery. Even without the complete picture we can see a one to one relationship. *See slides #14 & 15.*
- Walt Blendermann asked if ocean was a real unknown in interpreting the numbers. Scott said for the Chinook it certainly is. Seeing an improved Coho picture this year relative to last year (disaster). Summer chum and pink populations of Puget Sound are in good shape. Conditions at Jimmycomelately are still immature.

## **VI. Announcements/Updates**

### **Puget Sound Partnership – John Cambalik (Puget Sound Partnership)**

- The Leadership Council met Friday and Saturday, 11/9 – 11/10, to discuss many ways to support the partnership effort. All documents that were presented and handed out at the meeting are available on the website: <http://www.psp.wa.gov/>
- Refer to handout "Proposed 2020 Action Agenda Process – November 2, 2007 draft". No timeline associated with this yet except the September 2008 deadline. Phase I Identify threats and programs; Phase II is where the Action Agenda will be created; Phase III is the main area for Action Area activity; Phase IV is the Science Panel Review and public process. Action Agenda will serve as the Natural Estuary Program Plan (this is how it will be federally funded).
- Science Panel appointments have been made: Joel Baker, University of Washington Tacoma (UWT); Guy Gelfenbaum, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); Robert Johnston, U.S. Navy; Jan Newton, University of Washington (UW); Timothy Quinn, Washington Department of Wildlife (WDFW); Frank Shipley, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); John Stark, Washington State University (WSU); Usha Varanasi, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and Katharine Wellman, Northwest Economics, Inc. Bios and backgrounds on members can be found on website. The Science Panel charter is to provide independent scientific advice to the Puget Sound Partnership as a whole. The main duties are to assist the council, board and executive director in developing, preparing and revising the 2020 Action Agenda; Identify environmental indicators and recommend benchmarks to meet Action Agenda goals; Assist the Partnership in developing an ecosystem-level Strategic Science Program; Develop a Puget Sound Science Update and a Biennial Science Work Plan; Guide implementation and coordination of a Puget Sound assessment and monitoring program; Develop and provide oversight of a process for soliciting, assigning priorities and funding research and modeling projects.
- Actions on ecosystem scale in four categories: capital, policy, education and outreach, and science. Implementers (like DRMT), Science Panel and Ecosystem Coordination Board will be asked for input.
- Executive Director has decided in order to achieve the mission of recovering Puget Sound by 2020 the following must be done:
  - Ramping up public outreach
  - Create the Action Agenda
  - Develop accountability system
- The Executive Director has decided to reorganize staff – John Cambalik and others have been told to find new employment or apply for various positions within the PSP. Liaison work will continue, but in what form and who will fill that position is yet to be determined.
- Judy Larson asked for the justification for the staff change. John Cambalik answered that to accomplish the mission and three main tasks it was felt they had to reorganize the entire staff and change the mix.

- Walt Blendermann asked where within the goals and objectives does salmon recovery council fit now? John Cambalik answered, “very prominently”, and recommended checking the PSP website – there is an open position for salmon recovery coordinator and two salmon recovery watershed coordinators. These are about the only technical positions other than science staff.
- Shared Strategy will be officially terminated by the end of the year. Their responsibilities will revert to the Leadership Council, contractors and staff.
- Don Hatler asked what will tell us when the goals have been met for a healthy Puget Sound. John Cambalik said the Science Panel will be developing benchmarks and indicators, as well as the monitoring factors.
- Scott Chitwood expressed concerns on the increased capacity needed to deal with Action Agenda and recovery of Puget Sound by 2020. Tribe has spoken specifically to Norm Dicks on this. Looking at the outline there are ten months to accomplish goals. Suddenly the “bottom-up” approach we’ve been taking in salmon recovery has been turned upside down- asking for rapid fire and the capacity to deal with Action Agenda needs is required. Will we be looked upon as the answer-providers for our Action Area? John Cambalik said there is a \$50K capacity grant that will go to each Action Area, certainly won’t provide for the full capacity expenses. There is also \$35K for salmon recovery plan and \$15K for integration effort to better coordinate with adjacent planning areas.
- Walt Blendermann had comments: Jim Cramer made an interesting comment at a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan meeting, SFBFD had received 150 proposals during a cycle, the committees that reviewed them found 50 were deficient, basically due to lack of capacity. Implementing the lower level of detail associated with the monitoring becomes a large job. Development of metrics that allows demonstration of accountability. This is a status report or report card. Monitoring for various phases of a project and the various elements is spectacular.
- John Cambalik: Monitoring has to include implementation effectiveness and validation monitoring. How effective are our local regulations on the ground (example: permit process). Public outreach – we can make people aware, but do we actually change their practices and behaviors on the ground?
- James Karr added that an even more important level of monitoring is that which monitors the effect on the environment.

#### **Rulemaking Update – Cynthia Nelson (Washington State Department of Ecology)**

- Public workshop is all set for November 29<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the John Wayne Marina. As described at last meeting there will be one-on-one stations and poster sessions. Currently putting together a poster which will be finalized tomorrow.
- General categories at the event: Fish habitat in the Dungeness River; Fish have flow needs; effects of low flows/high flows on the fish population; water rights for fish (Instream flow rule); Tribal rights; what is good for fish is good for people; limited resource: options for managing water - Atterberry reservoir, piping, general conservation; Conservation District landscaping workshop; low-water garden; partnerships; importance of healthy agricultural economy; encouragement of public water system; grant process; water law; wet water vs. paper water; water plan for Dungeness basin; water availability; water in the future. Will have photographs and supporting documents at event.
- Hope to get more people exposed to water management, watershed plan, rule-making, and available resources in the Dungeness Valley. Find out how people think water should be managed.
- Robert Brown asked how rules are enforced. Cynthia Nelson replied they are self-implementing.

#### **Other Business –**

- Motions: Formal letter of support for the Atterberry Reservoir Project from the DRMT
  - Cynthia Nelson and Joe Holtrop to draft letter for review at December DRMT.
- DRMT to support art contest for school children to design logo for DRMT.
  - Scott Chitwood to bring ideas from Jamestown S’Klallmam Tribe to December DRMT
- Find out which agency/organization mandated the Flood Hazard Management Plan
  - Hansi Hals to follow up.

#### **Agenda Topics for future DRMT meetings mentioned at this meeting:**

- Tsunami Inundation Projections for Coast
  - Contact: Randall McCoy, GIS Specialist with the Lower Elwha Tribe (457-4012x27)

#### **Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 P.M.**

##### **Handouts:**

- Grant Application from DOE / Shorelines & Environmental Assistance Program – Donella Pratt handed out copies for review.
- Draft of “Proposed 2020 Action Agenda Process November 2, 2007” – Phased timeline handed out by John Cambalik.
- Brochure “Biodiversity Conservation: What Works, What’s Next” (information on December 4<sup>th</sup> event at the Bell Harbor Convention Center in Seattle was circulated.