



**APPROVED Meeting Notes**  
**Dungeness River Management Team**  
**Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, WA**  
**2:00 – 4:35 P.M.**

*Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin*

**Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:**

Hannah Merrill, Clallam County  
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Bob Caldwell, Water Users Association  
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning  
Michael Blanton, WDFW  
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries

Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future  
Colleen Teevin, NOLT  
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future  
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners RM 3.25-4.25  
Lorenz Sollmann, Dungeness Wildlife Refuge (USFW)  
Paul Haines, City of Sequim  
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association

**Others in Attendance:**

Elizabeth Van Sickle, Property owner  
Phil Martin, Retired physicist, county resident  
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers  
Robin Berry, Graysmarsh  
Matt Heinz, Dungeness Farms  
Melissa Coughlin, DRMT Note-taker

Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center  
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Center  
David Franz, Visitor from Hoquiam  
Lee Wier, Visitor  
Ann Soule, Clallam County- Environmental Health

**2:00 P.M.**

**I. Introductions /Review Agenda / Review and Approval of November 10<sup>th</sup> DRMT Draft Meeting Notes**

- Judy Larson served as chair in Steve Tharinger's absence.
- No changes were made to the agenda, although it was noted that Cynthia Nelson absence would mean some items would not be covered in today's meeting.
- November DRMT draft notes: Phil Martin's title was wrong in the notes: he is a retired physicist and county resident. Judy Larson wanted her concern for the large variance in the ranking (under the Strait ERN Strategic Planning Request) noted in the notes. Joe Holtrop followed that in a December 3<sup>rd</sup> Strait ERN meeting the low/medium/high categories had been dropped and it is now just a list of threats, not a ranked or categorized list of threats. Virginia Clark moved the notes be approved with the amended changes, Robert Brown seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- Elizabeth Van Sickle recommended the book, "Empires of Food. Feast, Famine and the Rise of Civilizations", by Evan D.G. Fraser and Andrew Rimas; the book deals with global food distribution, soil and water conditions and is available in the library.
- Robert Brown noted the 12/07/10 article in the Peninsula Daily News about the area by the mouth of the river and cautioned about hunters that are allowed in that area which is also open to the general public. Robert Caldwell thought the author of the article, Jeff Chew, did good job writing about the cooperation of a number of agencies with different goals. Scott Chitwood said he was talking to Kyle Guzlas who is the WDFW regional wildlife biologist mentioned in the article with regards to speaking at January's DRMT meeting. Matt Heins said Greg Shirota (Kyle's boss) is also a good person to ask to present at the DRMT. Robert Brown was in favor of contacting Greg; he said that he and the DBA have had little cooperation from Kyle when discussing the area. Robert Brown seconded a motion to get one of the men to talk at next month's meeting, the motion passed.
- DRMT elections were discussed. It was determined there would be a quorum to vote today (10 of the 13 voting members). Judy Larson brought up the PSP's assignment of ranking of the threats [to the Strait of Juan de Fuca] at last meeting and was concerned that the entire voting membership was not canvassed for that ranking. Scott Chitwood reminded her that Shawn Hines had distributed the materials for review and comment and everyone had an opportunity to respond. Pete Schroeder told Judy that there is always an opportunity to write an opinion and give it to John Cambalik. He recommended checking the PSP website where there are valuable materials. Joe Holtrop reiterated that prioritizing or ranking the threats didn't happen. The category lines were wiped out, and for ease the 17 threats are just a list. It is an internal

document for the Ecosystem Recovery Network to be used to guide the Steering Committee. E-mail correspondence following the meeting clarified the intent of DRMT's review of the list of threats.

- Tyler Ahlgren said he attended the November 8<sup>th</sup> presentation of the Stormwater Group presentation series. Scott Kindred gave an impressive presentation where he discussed injection wells in the use of stormwater management. He remembered Ecology's concern for injecting waste water into the aquifer. Scott Kindred discussed finding a permeable layer and a filtering medium (such as a rainwater garden) and not directly injecting into aquifer. This method helps keep water from rushing out to Strait (where 80% goes now) and infiltrate back into the basin. Such practices would reduce the draw from the river and could use irrigation piping. Judy said there is a concern for contaminants in irrigation in the farming community. Bob Caldwell said it hasn't been discussed in depth, but the irrigation community does feel strongly that they have to be careful what goes out to crops. Group thought that Scott Kindred from Aspect Consultants should be contacted to speak at upcoming DRMT meeting. Other speakers, such as someone from the City of Sequim should also be contacted for presentations on 1) stormwater management and 2) how to get reclaimed water back into the system. Robert Brown suggested looking into pilot programs to access the feasibility of a program in this area. Judy suggested Ann Soule's study on recharge and possibly incorporating grants for that work. Scott Chitwood brought up that the City of Sequim and the DOE are discussing incorporating some of the reuse water into the aquifer at the city limits and Bell Creek (both from wells and from the treatment plant). Tyler told of a project 30 years ago, for a population of 40,000 people, where the waste water was treated in a tertiary plant and then run through an 11 acre man-made marsh before it was discharged to the native creeks and streams. Joe Holtrop had also attended the November 8<sup>th</sup> Stormwater Group presentation and said the methods discussed were site specific to Port Angeles where they used a back hoe to cut below the impermeable surface. Pete Schroder brought up concern for antibiotic contamination. Tyler said the man-made marsh dealt with temperature variables and was used after tertiary treatment. Tyler can e-mail links to the Professional Association for Waste Water Disposal and other associations.

## II. Clallam Conservation District Annual Update – Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District

- Joe Holtrop presented the Clallam County Conservation District's plan for next year and the achievements of 2010. The charter was developed in 2007, modified in 2008.
- *Board of Supervisors*: Joe Murray, Chair; Ben Smith, Vice-chair; Don Hatler, Auditor; Nash Huber and Marilyn Pollock. 3 of five are elected, 2 are appointed. Staff: Joe Holtrop, District Manager; Jennifer Coyle-Bond, Conservation Planner; Meghan Adamere, Conservation Planner; Gary Dougherty, Conservation Planner; Seri Mylchreest, Administrative Assistant; Beth Loveridge, Administrative Assistant.
- *Mission*: To conserve the natural resources of Clallam County by assisting land users and public organizations with the planning and implementation of conservation practices.
- Each year they review the five-year plan along with funding. All funding for programs are through grants. Current priorities are broken into land use: *2010 Highlights*:
  - **Urban Conservation**: *natural landscaping classes*: 20 educational events with 444 attendees. (about doubled attendance from past). Classes filled up so a second class was presented in spring and another class in fall, partnering with WSU Extension who handled registration. *LID and stormwater management*: Built Green Steering Committee, County Stormwater Group (finishes up their work in a few months), four years ago developed a small project stormwater, pre-engineered BMP manual for residential lots, hope to put manual to work this year with passing of stormwater ordinance. EPA grant for demonstration gardens at Carrie Blake Park.
  - **Farmland Conservation**: *water quality improvement*: practices working with bacteria reduction in surface waters and practices working with groundwater protection. Work one-on-one with people to develop environmentally sound practices plan on their farms. *Irrigation water conservation*: irrigation ditch piping, on-farm irrigation water management. *Stream buffer restoration*: conservation reserve enhancement program. *Farm water quality improvement*: bacteria reduction on 6 farms, groundwater protection practices on 19 farms, 6 horse and livestock educational events attended by 323. *Irrigations water conservation*: SPTIA and Dungeness District head-gate to Hendrickson Road: 1.22 miles piped, 2.5 cfs saved (775 acre-foot/year). \$1,050,000 total cost (\$943,327 construction, about \$75,000 sales tax generated). SRFB=\$607,304 / IEP=\$392,696 / DOE=\$50,000. Dungeness District, Towne Road to tail-water: 1.66 miles piped, 0.9 cfs savings (300 acre-foot/year). Water conservation outcomes: 3.4 cfs water saved (1,075 acre-foot/year), 25 jobs for 2.5 months; 8 jobs for 3 months. Stream buffer restoration CREP: 0.7 miles of stream planted, 2.5 miles maintained (30 acres). CREP program provides incentive for landowner to restore habitat.
  - Over the last ten years CCD has sponsored over \$8 million of projects.
  - **Forestland Conservation**: *fish passage*: Sooes River tributary: 3.22 miles habitat gained. Field Creek tributary: 0.36 miles habitat gained. Fish passage outcomes: 3.58 miles habitat, 12 jobs for 1 month. \$311,723 total cost, \$21,606 sales tax generated. *Forest road repair*: U.S. Forest Service – Goodman Creek, sponsored the SRFB grant that was used to decommission the road. Forest stewardship: 4 workshops attended by 76.

- *2011 Work Plan*: Same list, updating the long-range plan over the next year, using outreach to solicit public input. *Urban Conservation*: LID and stormwater management; continue with Natural Landscaping education. *Farmland Conservation*: Water quality improvement, irrigation water conservation; stream buffer restoration. *Forestland Conservation*: fish passage; forest stewardship; noxious weed control.
- 2011 Work plan – Urbanizing lands: Natural landscaping outreach and education; Master Gardener LID demonstrations; technical assistances to residential landowners for LID BMP implementation.
- 2011 Work plan – Farmland: In 2006 developed an inventory of all farms in the county and ranked them according to their potential to impact surface water. Of 125 high priority farms, 36 have been removed from high priority rank since 2006. Bacteria reduction on 10 farms; groundwater protection on 25 farms. Irrigation water conservation: Dungeness Irrigation District; Dungeness Irrigation Group; Agnew Irrigation District; Delta Farm irrigation water management (Delta Farm does not have and approved cooperation agreement but is part of irrigation efficiencies program). Irrigation projects anticipated outcomes: >615 acre-foot annual water savings (2 cfs increase in Dungeness River flows); 8 jobs created/maintained for 3 months; 3 jobs created for 2 years. Stream buffer restoration: 3.2 miles of stream (39.3 acres) to maintain; 0.7 miles of stream (12.6 acres) to plant. Fish passage: 2 barriers on Colville Creek tributary.
- Matt Heins asked about “cooperating farms”, and Joe explained the land owner or land user signs agreement with Clallam Conservation District to address problems by developing plan. CCD has no regulatory ability. Only work with people who want the help. Joe said all the high priority ranked farms had livestock. Of the farms surveyed in 2006, some no longer exist, some were missed, and some aren’t problems today.
- 2011 Work Plan – *other*: Native plant sale; soil testing; environmental education in schools.
- 2011 budget – funding sources: NOAA: \$325,000; EPA: \$32,000; Conservation Commission: \$350,900; RCO/SRFB: \$ 241,000; NFWF (National Fish & Wildlife Foundation): \$17,250; DOE: \$122,500; General Funds: \$40,500. TOTAL Projected Revenue: \$1,129,150.00.
- 2011 budget – Expenditures: goods, services/ financial assistance: \$771,700; Overhead, travel & misc.: \$30,525; Salaries and benefits:\$329,625.00 TOTAL Projected expenses: \$1,131,850.00
- Pete Schroeder commented on how extremely well the Conservation District serves the area and what a fantastic job Joe does. He has never experienced any organization which does so much with so little money and staff (some staffers are only part-time). Don Hatler added it is a lean organization and the money that comes in winds up on the ground in projects.
- Judy Larson asked if the Conservation District’s website has a map or listing and locations of all the ditches in the county. Joe said that the website upgrade was started 3 years ago, but no capacity or money to work on it. The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe has all that GIS information as well. Not 100% up to date (data accumulated 1- 1 ½ year ago). County also has the information. Judy suggested asking Peninsula College for volunteer to post the information on-line. Joe said he’d follow up on that suggestion.
- Pete asked for a \$ value for cubic foot of saved water. \$8 million was spent over the last 10 years, for over 15 cfs (cubic feet per second). Pete figured about \$200/cfs. DOE and Irrigation Efficiency Program that the Conservation Districts have to implement, states the criteria for program was to save at least 1 cfs for \$500,000. Don Hatler said piping saves water and improves water quality, and it also improves the bacterial load. Results are in the Dungeness Bay.
- Joe wanted to mention that all the partners: Tribe, Irrigation districts, landowners, together make the improvements possible.
- Tyler Ahlgren is part of the County Stormwater Group, he noted that the majority of focus has been with new construction. The issues that need to be addressed have come from existing developments. Currently there is not much new development going on. Solutions have been predicated on new development which isn’t happening now. He proposed to the working group to make existing developments take responsibility with taxes. Make them responsible to minimize and reduce runoff to reduce their tax to zero. Then use the taxes for funding education, to induce other prop owners to implement LIDs, etc.

### III. Other Business / Announcements – Washington Department of Ecology Updates

- Cynthia Nelson was absent, but Hannah Merrill had some DOE news from her. Hannah could not address: WRIA 18 Rule-making or Graysmarsh, but did know there had been a limited amount of funding for some gages.
- Hannah handed out, “Phase 4 Funding Notes for DRMT – 12-08-2010”, which was forwarded to her from Cynthia Nelson to help decide about phase 4 funding applications. Operational budget applications are due next Friday, next month the Capitol budget applications are due.

- In July DRMT came up with a list of 8 projects (for Ecology's "budget-building" process that estimates need); however, it must be noted that funding will be very limited in upcoming year. Cynthia suggested prioritizing two proposals for Capitol and two for Operational applications. She advised DIP (Detailed Implementation Plan) be the first priority, and #2 Water Conservation. If funding later becomes available Cynthia can come back to DRMT for further priorities. Today need DRMT consensus to move priorities forward.
- Piping will move forward rapidly as a lot is done. Aquifer Recharge Planning has an alternative funding source through EcoTrust, (according to Ann Soule) so it was suggested the second priority be "Budget Building – late season flow". It was not clear what this was, but some members thought it may be establish funding for water bank (lease or buy water). It was suggested that this list be clarified for the January meeting. **Note: Per Shawn Hines, "budget building – late season flows" refers to the flow augmentation project that was proposed during Ecology's budget-building process in July. The project involved working with the irrigation community to come to agreements on late season leases. The project proposed to augment streams by up to 15 cfs via late season leases (from August 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, depending on water user's participation.**
- Hannah said that Cynthia strongly recommended that the team apply for the DIP (Detailed Implementation Plan for the WRIA 18 Plan) implementation funding to move things forward.
- Judy Larson asked about adding the Streamkeepers funding as a priority.
- Robert Brown said priorities were dependant on Instream Flow Rule implementation – and questioned if it would be wise to put money towards something that may not come about next year. Hannah said the initial list was approved by DRMT in July [during Ecology's budget-building process]; suggested DRMT approve priorities so they can be moved forward. Michael Blanton said that it was a way to move forward and made a motion to move those which Hannah suggested, even if they are not as detailed as the members would like. Virginia Clark seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion began: Pete Schroeder asked if the list of priorities included aquifer recharge. Hannah said only the highest priority items will move forward, if money comes available then other list items would be regarded. Ann Soule had told Hannah about a possible alternative funding source for the aquifer recharge project. Scott Chitwood suggested generating additional list items after funding was known.
- Judy wanted to know how to best recognize the value of Streamkeepers; would funding for Streamkeepers be next on a list? Hannah said it was the group's decision. Scott said that because watershed planning was mature here and was likely to get funded it should be identified as the highest priority. May not get any funding if we wait another year. Other projects will be considered only as additional money is available.
- The motion to approve high priorities as DIP and water conservation on applications to move forward passed.

#### **Shoreline Master Program Update**

- Hannah Merrill gave brief update: Focus groups with shoreline property owners, businesses related to shorelines, and stakeholder group are scheduled for January in east side of WRIA 18, west side of WRIA 18 and the west end. Postcards will be sent to invite people to the focus groups.
- Suggestions for large local meeting places included: Dungeness Schoolhouse, Carrie Blake, Olympic Theatre Arts and Pioneer Park. Dates for focus group meetings have not been decided.

#### **EPA's "Watershed Central WIKI" web resource**

- No one had any idea what this is, so it was moved to the January 2011 agenda.

#### **2011 Elections for DRMT Chair and DRMT Executive Committee**

- Voting members: Clallam County; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Riverside Property Owners river mile (0.0-3.25); Riverside Property Owners (river mile 3.25-4.25); Water Users Association; Sports Fisheries; WDFW; WDOE/PSP; Dungeness-Quilcene Planning; City of Sequim; NOLT; Protect the Peninsula's Future; and Dungeness Beach Association.
- Scott Chitwood made a motion to keep the existing members of the Executive Committee if they agreed to continue serving, Steve Tharinger to recommend someone from the County to take his seat. Tyler Ahlgren seconded the motion which passed. Bob Caldwell, Scott Chitwood, Cynthia Nelson, Virginia Clark and permanent County representative TBD (Cathy Lear is alternate in 2010) to serve on Executive Committee.
- Due to Steve Tharinger's frequent travel to Olympia he will be unable to carry on as the chair next year, Pete Schroeder made a motion for Scott Chitwood to Chair the DRMT, the motion was seconded by Tyler Ahlgren and passed unanimously. Scott agreed as long as no one else was interested in serving.

#### **2011 DRMT Goal Setting / Themes and Calendar Planning Discussion**

- Copies of "Dungeness River Management Team Mission Statement and Goals" and "Dungeness River Management Team 2010 Meeting Schedule and Activities – Synopsis" from Shawn Hines were handed out to help facilitate the discussions.

- Robert Brown noted that it would be advantageous to periodically determine how well the organization has met goals and suggested it was a useful activity to review them and report back at DRMT meetings. May want to review to see if there are things that we are not doing, or should be doing. Judy Larson suggested rating each goal on scale of 1-5 and e-mailing ratings prior to meeting. Pete Schroeder asked about the data for those decisions, what would constitute baselines for rating. Discussion on topics began:

### **Agenda Topics**

#### ***Items that weren't discussed at the December meeting to move to January's agenda:***

- WA Department of Ecology Updates – Cynthia Nelson
  - WRIA 18 Rule-making
  - Graysmarsh
  - Gaging
- EPA's "Watershed Central Wiki" web resource.
- Phase IV Funding Notes for DRMT handout: wanted to have list clarified (some confusion on the "remaining projects" list, especially what "Budget building – Late Season Flows" meant).

#### ***Other topics discussed for January agenda:***

- River's End update – Kyle Gozlas, DFW regional wildlife biologist or Kyle's boss (Greg Shirota?)
- Stormwater and Reclaimed Water topics.
- Scott Kindred, ASPECT Consultants and/or other speakers (ex: Someone from City of Sequim) about what has come from the Stormwater Group work.
- Detailed discussion on goals for 2011, evaluate existing goals for changes, additions and other edits. Prioritize for 2011. Keep in mind objectives when speaking of goals.

#### ***Other agenda topics:***

- Dungeness River Flood Hazard Management Plan – Hannah Merrill
- Tyler Alghren to give update/summary of Stormwater Group meetings so far. May use Scott Kindred's PowerPoint presentation.
- National Estuary program update.
- NASA projects update.
- NOAA global warming data update.
- Health of eelgrass beds in WRIA 18 update from Ann Shaffer (program funded by MRC). Michael Blanton recommended Ron Thom, Battelle's international eelgrass expert for presentation.
- North Olympic Land Trust's 2011 goals– Colleen Teevin or other NOLT representative
- Topics consistent with 2011 DRMT mission and goals, concentrating on topics in Dungeness watershed.
- Discussion on goals continued, concern about some wording, such as, "prevent loss of life and property from flooding", the DRMT is not a regulatory body. This in particular is more of a County Planning goal. Goal #4, #5, #6, and #7 are more appropriate for DRMT. #1, #2, and #3 are in the Dungeness Flood Hazard Plan. Are the goals list something to prioritize for 2011 and do we reevaluate again next year? Objectives should be placed under the goals somewhere. Branding and filing the Instream Flow Rule should be included.
- Homework for team is to consider the goals (especially #4, #5, #6, and #7) and see if there are additional goals or measurable objectives to be added in addition to word-smithing suggestions.

### **Meeting Adjourned at 4:35 P.M.**

#### **Handouts:**

- Phase 4 funding notes for DRMT 12/8/2010
- From Tyler Ahlgren: "Many Coastal Wetlands Likely to Disappear This Century" December 2, 2020 article, source from listserve: U.S. Geological Survey
- "New Dungeness River vistas – Opportunity 'great' to view and hunt fowl" by Jeff Chew, Peninsula Daily News 12/07/2010.
- From Shawn Hines: "Dungeness River Management Team – 2010 Meeting Schedule and Activities Synopsis"
- From Shawn Hines: "Phase 4 Funding Notes for DRMT – 12-8-2010"
- From Shawn Hines: DRMT mission statement