

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of April 12, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternates Present

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County	John Cambalik, PSAT and DOE (alt)
Eloise Kailin, Protect Peninsula's Future (alt)	Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25)	John Beitzel, City of Sequim
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association	Tom Martin, American Water Resources Assoc.
Virginia Clark, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning	Cynthia Nelson, Department of Ecology
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries	Lucy Carey, Riverside Prop. Owners (RM 3.25-4.25) (alt)
Cathy Lear, Clallam County (alt)	

Others Present

Susan Stark, John King, Welden Clark, Tony Ingersoll

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF 2/8/06 MINUTES

Chair Tharinger called the meeting to order, and introductions were conducted. The agenda was reviewed, and Chair Tharinger noted that Anita McMillan could provide an update on the North Olympic Wildlife Area Planning Process, as Item II. John Cambalik indicated that he would like some time under announcements. The agenda was approved as amended.

Minutes of February 8, 2006

Al Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. John Beitzel seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

II. NORTH OLYMPIC WILDLIFE AREA PLANNING PROCESS

Anita McMillan, WDFW, indicated that although there have been plans in place for wildlife areas during the last decade it was recently decided to try a newly formatted plan. The new format would include developing a plan that was consistent throughout the state. A template was used as a guide, and information was compiled that needs to be considered when allocating resources to various wildlife areas. The draft plan was submitted in December 2005, and Ms. McMillan noted that she will coordinate with Shawn Hines to forward CDs to everyone.

Ms. McMillan noted that the intent of the planning process is to bring to the surface of what we are doing on our lands, what we need to do on our lands, recognizing partnerships, and how the partnerships assisting in land management.

Ms. McMillan discussed data compiled in the draft plan, and noted that this will be an annual review process. Ms. McMillan encouraged the Team to forward any comments or concerns following review of the plan. Discussion was had regarding coordination of efforts between various entities.

III. NASA PROPOSAL UPDATE

Tom Martin announced that NASA has approved the grant proposal in the amount of \$1.6 million. NASA selected 21 projects from the 94 grant submittals. NASA technology will assist Dungeness Valley farmers to gauge snow pack in the Olympic Mountains, and forecast water levels and flow rate far earlier than technology currently used for predictions. Current technology allows scientists to forecast only approximately one month in advance. In all, 15 scientists will join in the project that will include eight

major partners. Chair Tharinger asked that periodic updates be provided to the Team. Discussion was had.

IV. PRIORITIZING PROJECTS FOR DOE FUNDING

Cynthia Nelson indicated that the intent was to review the plan recommendations, and identify if any of the projects were listed in the plan as early implementation projects, such as Atterberry Reservoir. Ms. Nelson reviewed the criteria used by DOE to evaluate projects. Discussion was had regarding prioritization of projects. Another proposed project was moving forward with the aquifer storage and recharge (ASR). The County currently has a grant for the feasibility study that would look at installation of perforated pipes, study the function regarding recharging the aquifer, modeling and measuring, and track recharged water. The purpose would be to benefit in-stream flows and aquifer levels where there are wetland concerns. Further discussion was had regarding the feasibility study.

Ms. Nelson indicated that discussions were conducted regarding water quality including additional funding for the County's O&M septic program. EMMT talked about having someone walk the smaller streams in Port Angeles and west area, and identify sources that are dumping junk into the streams. Robbie Mantooth suggested installing oil and water separators, and helping the City of Port Angeles deal with their combined sewer overflows. Discussion included water conservation, and hiring someone to do a broadly scoped water conservation effort that would address both the short term and drought related issues, as well as raising public and government awareness about the long-term issues regarding water supply. Issues might include outreach, work with master gardeners, work with schools, and assistance to water suppliers with implementing water conservation.

Ms. Nelson noted that DOE is moving toward purchasing water rights permanently, verses water leasing. Over the next year or so, we are going to work with irrigators by issuing up-to-date certificates. At that point, maybe there will be some folks interested in selling some of their water.

Discussion was had regarding prioritization of projects, and it was noted that the priority list needs to be forwarded to DOE by the end of April. Chair Tharinger indicated that if folks are comfortable with the list, language could be defined, circulated for comment, and the list could be finalized as compiled and edited electronically.

Ms. Nelson will provide funding amounts allotted for the projects. Chair Tharinger noted that the Team should have all comments forwarded to Ms. Nelson prior to April 21, 2006.

V. PROJECT LIST FOR SRFB 2007-2009 APPLICATIONS

Cathy Lear distributed the draft project list, and indicated that the final list will be forwarded to the Shared Strategy and the SRFB. Discussion was had whether or not the list is a capitol list. Further discussion was had regarding the listed projects, amending the priority order, additional projects that should be included in the list, and ways to proceed. Following discussion, the Team prioritized the projects. Chair Tharinger indicated that there will be an additional opportunity to comment on the list at the NOBLE meeting on Friday, or at a follow-up meeting.

VI. PPMC PRE-SEASON FISHERIES PLANNING / FORECASTING

Scott Chitwood reiterated the planning process for establishing fisheries for the upcoming year. The management cycle typically starts in May, and continues through April of the following year. In terms of the forecast this year, there was a lot of concern regarding marine survival (Coho). During July of last year, the area achieved lower (meaning average) sea-surface temperatures in our marine environment. There is uncertainty regarding Coho run sizes, however, Chinook populations are stabilizing or improving somewhat, in terms of their annual adult production.

Having said that, there are some severe issues south with the Chinook return on the Kalamath River exceedingly far below past years' run sizes. Due to the decreased sizes, there has been discussion on

closing a 700-mile section of the ocean coastal salmon fishery this year. That is what the PFMC process spent most of its time on, dealing with ocean conditions, the Kalamath, and how to structure fisheries in a very tight season. In an area north of the Columbia River, there are fewer fish as a whole. As a result, fishing opportunities will be particularly more limited in the ocean. In Puget Sound, the co-managers set off with the objective of not increasing impacts on any local stocks, or by adding fisheries to the mix this year. But instead, adjusting fisheries and transferring impacts.

Walt Blendermann noted that another aspect of planning includes ground fish. These stocks are heavily over-fished at this time, the mortality rate is very high, there is an impact on sport fisheries, and there are very rigorous rebuilding programs in place. Other aspects of planning include knowing what other states are doing, such as Oregon, with regard to local impacts from the Lower Columbia Coho. Compensation is then necessary as a result of continued impacts, which is a very complex process.

Mr. Blendermann indicated that he sat through a lot of testimony provided by sport, commercial and charter fisherman in California, and although some of the problems have never really been addressed, discussion was had with regard to the importance of working collectively together to solve problems and improve stocks.

Scott Chitwood noted that Mr. Blendermann had a broader perspective on the negotiation process between the Tribes and Washington State, and is currently serving as an observer.

VII. DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER UPDATE

Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center, shortened his presentation, and began by indicated that the one of the main roles of the center is to provide a venue for all professionals and groups that deal with Dungeness Watershed issues. The River Center has 3 full-time employees, and the Center has 4 partners: National Audubon Society, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Dungeness River Center Foundation, and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The National Audubon Society has cut back their funding; therefore, the Center is responsible for raising money locally. Fundraising through local partners has been ramped up, and Mr. Boekelheide encouraged those who are not member of the River Center Foundation, to join.

A \$50,000 matching donation is offered if the River Center can raise \$50,000 by the end of June. Qualifications for the match include pledges for the next year. The Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society has started an electronic giving program, which any proceeds received can count toward the match. In closing, Mr. Boekelheide indicated that the annual report of the River Center Foundation is available, and that the annual meeting will be conducted on May 19, 2006 at the River Center.

Chair Tharinger indicated that additional time will be allotted on the May agenda for further presentation.

VIII. FLOOD PLAN STATUS

This item was tabled to the May meeting.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER UPDATES

SRFB/NOPLÉ Update

Chair Tharinger reported that there is a lead entity meeting on Friday, 10 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room, and he will be present to explain the new funding. The SRFB will give allocations to the regions, and the regions will then develop projects with the lead entities. Feedback will be necessary. One of the biggest issues is whether 20 should stay within NOPLÉ or move to the coast. Plan to attend the lead entity meeting on Friday, if you are interested in the process.

Community Salmon Grant Update

Chair Tharinger reported that the SRFB funded 1.5 million, to match the 1.5 million from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. This is the community small grant, and Cathy Lear is familiar with these grants, as Clallam County has received Foundation grants.

Puget Sound Action Team Update

John Cambalik reported that the draft 2007-09 work plan will be on the PSAT website this Friday, and encouraged the Team to comment on the Plan prior to May 15, 2006. Comments will be forwarded to agencies for appropriate amendments. John distributed some handout material. Recommendations of the Puget Sound Partnership will be incorporated into the 2020 agenda. Once the recommendations are provided by the Partnership, PSAT will take those that are appropriate to include in the 2007-09 work plan.

Mr. Cambalik indicated that the Puget Sound Partnership has an electronic newsletter, which is available if anyone wants to sign up to receive it. Information about the Puget Sound Partnership can be accessed through the PSAT website. There will be a series of 10-15 forums conducted in May which includes partnership activity and feedback requested from those who attend. Governor appointed members will be attending the forums as well. Feedback will primarily consist of answers to the strategic framework document of the Puget Sound Partnership. Also, public feedback will be forwarded to the Partnership to incorporate the information, and use it to develop their recommendations.

Mr. Cambalik reported that most items included in the Governor's supplemental budget submitted last fall, were Puget Sound Partnership items, and that the budget increased from \$42 million to \$52 million.

X. ADJOURNMENT