

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting

April 9th, 2008 - Notes prepared by Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Cathy Lear, Clallam County, alt
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, alt
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, alt
Cynthia Nelson, DOE
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Bob Caldwell, Water Users Association, alt
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
John Cambalik, Puget Sound Partnership, alt for DOE
Lorrie Campbell, NOLT

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Les Jones, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning, alt
Judy Larson, Protect Peninsula's Future
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District, adv
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Pam Sanguinetti, USFW-Dungeness Wildlife Refuge, adv
Laura Dubois, Mayor of Sequim
Tom Martin, Clallam PUD, adv
Scott Hagerty, USFS, adv
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries, alt and CCD, alt

Others in Attendance:

Gary Dougherty, Clallam Conservation District
Lori DeLorn, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Andy Brastad, Clallam County
Hannah Merrill, Clallam County
Janine Reed, Clallam County
Liz Maier, Clallam County
Matt Heinz, Dungeness Farms

Jack Osborn, Cons. Engineer
Tiffany Royal, NW Fisheries Commission
Dana Woodruff, Battelle Marine Sciences Lab
Elizabeth Van Sickle, Local resident and property owner
Linus Heydon, Innovative Waste H₂O Mgmt Consultant
Evan McLean, Sequim Gazette
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr.
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr
Melissa Coughlin, Ind. Contractor/Note-taker

2:10 P.M. Meeting called to order.

I. Introductions /Review Agenda / Approval of 3/12/07 Meeting Notes

- Chairperson Steve Tharinger called the meeting to order. Introductions all around.
- Reviewed agenda and added Department of Ecology Watershed Project list.
- 3/12/08 DRMT notes and additions to NASA section from Robert Brown were reviewed. Virginia Clark moved to approve notes and additions; Robert Brown seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Pete Schroeder wanted the record to include that the Tribe's watershed plan (*Protecting and Restoring the Waters of the Dungeness*) is the first certified by the Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S. (Item 3 on today's agenda).
- Steve Tharinger announced that Virginia and Welden Clark were two of seven recipients of the 2008 Clallam County Community Service Award for their extensive work with watershed planning and protection of local water supplies.
- Judy Larson suggested US Forest Service video fly-over tour of Dungeness River Valley as part of the DRMT celebration.
- John Cambalik encouraged all to register for the low-impact development series sponsored by WSU extension and Tribe. Speakers and fieldtrips start in May; four two-day celebrations. Cost: \$50/each two-day session. See PSP website May-June.

II. Microbial Source Tracking Update — Dr. Dana Woodruff (Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory)

- This Microbial Source Tracking Study is one of several tasks in the Tribe's EPA Targeted Watershed Grant, on which some of the members of the Clean Water Work Group are partnering. The goal of EPA's Targeted Watershed program is to demonstrate measurable improvements in water quality by building on strong public/private partnerships. The program stresses innovation, environmental results, broad support, and outreach.
- County funded feasibility study in 2003 to determine which bacterial source identification methods would be most appropriate and useful for determining sources of surface water quality pollution in our area. The study recommended RNA ribotyping, which provides species-specific identification of target organisms.
- What is MST (Microbial Source Tracking)? Method of determining sources (i.e. host organisms) and leading contributors of fecal coliform contamination in surface waters. It is an emerging science and research tool. Ribotyping method works with a signature (source) database. The Institute of

Environmental Health has the main database, with over 30,000 signatures. Our study added local sources (e.g. dog, donkey, deer, human, etc.) to the main database.

- Targeted Watershed Grant (TWG) was granted to Tribe in October of 2004; Fecal coliform monitoring started August 2005; MST data collection began mid-2006. MST data gathering entailed monthly waters samples at selected sites in river, bay, and a ditch. Sediment and wrack (vegetation) samples were also collected in the bay. Final reports for the various TWG tasks are due this summer.
- Collected source samples from the following locations: Clallam County Fair, Battelle Marine Lab, Graysmarsh Farm, Dungeness Wildlife Refuge, lighthouse, Cline Spit, mouth of Dungeness River, Protection Island Wildlife Refuge, Olympic Game Farm, NW Raptor Center, and others. Source sampling resulted in 105 samples, and 41 local species. 472 MST water samples were collected; 1,163 isolates were analyzed.
- Data is preliminary. Need to be careful when interpreting results; results are not quantitative, but semi-quantitative. From randomly selected isolates: 1,163 isolates – 92% match – 34 groups/species/sources identified. Only 8% of isolates were unable to be matched.
- Preliminary data suggests largest number isolates, from highest to lowest: Avian, gull, waterfowl, raccoon, sewage/septic, rodent, dog. Controllable sources: sewage/septic and dog
- Did not find a big “unknown” contaminant.
- Judy Larson asked if sampling was done with timing of closures. Answer was sampling was monthly, with seasonal data at some sites.
- Next steps: Incorporation of final interpretive report from IEH (some questions to be answered: definitions of sewage, septage etc.) into final MST report; Analysis and interpretation of additional datasets (e.g. coliform, rainfall, nutrients, irrigation piping, septic of concern); Implement Phase II Source Tracking Study (Centennial Grant to fund). Will decide to move to different methodology or continue with MST; Final MST report for TWG – later Summer '08; Public outreach talks are scheduled. Dr. Woodruff advocates using new methodology for Phase II.
- Review of long-term outcomes: Determine predominant fecal coliform sources at key sites; Identification of sources that can be controlled; Identification of temporal patterns; Implementation of mitigative measures; Long term reduction of fecal coliform.
- Robert Brown asked if controllable sources will be quantified. Dr. Woodruff answered that is part of what the grant is about. Best practices, reduced loading outcomes.
- Pete Schroeder asked about sewage treatment plant numbers. Hansi Hals answered that recorded data goes back to 1999.
- Steve Tharinger asked about the other methodology Dr. Woodruff referenced. Dr. Woodruff said there are several methodologies that can tell contaminant human/ wildlife/ pet. If a study had the outcome % human and % “other”, there would be a concern about the “other.”. Results help build database on some causes.
- Steve Tharinger asked if there were any data that suggested coliform levels down? Hansi Hals answered that the State Department of Health averaged results from bay stations over the last 40 months and in August all of the stations made the standards (although not by much). It was asked what it would take to open again-> the standards would have to hold and improve over a period of time before opening.

I. Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Dungeness Watershed Plan — *Hansi Hals (JS’KT)*

- Hansi handed out the table of contents from “Protecting and Restoring the Waters of the Dungeness- A Watershed-Based Plan Prepared in Compliance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Sequim, WA”. CDs and hardcopies also available of the entire report.
- EPA grant required report prior to applying for implementation funding.
- First watershed plan certified by the EPA in the country; Ann Seiter was key contributor.
- Plan will be on the Tribe’s website.
- Hansi walked team through the hardcopy of the document’s table of contents.

IV. Dungeness Channel Migration Zone Study — *Byron Rot (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe)*

- Byron Rot stated the study report is in draft form right now. Reviewers will comment and final will be ready next week.
- Using multiple aerial photographs which had plotted historical channel migrations, Byron walked team through the Dungeness River. The sum of where river has been across the river bed, as determined

through aerial photographs and historical maps, is used to determine the channel migration zone (CMZ). River has changed channels dramatically and often in the past. Channel migration zone study determines relative risk of channel change to public life, safety, property and infrastructure.

- Definitions: (CMZ) = Historic Migration Zone (HMZ) + Avulsion Hazard Zone (AHZ) + Erosion Hazard Area (EHA). HMZ: Edge of river channel. Used map/photos: 1855, 1942, 1965, 1985, 1994, 2000, 2005; AHZ: Areas of likely rapid channel change beyond HMZ. Used LiDar, 1914 tax map, field visits; EHA: Buffer for 100 years of erosion; DMA: the disconnected migration area behind dikes is not considered part of the CMZ.
- Should development occur in old flood channels? 1914 old river bed: suggested building moratorium in this area. Land Trusts and critical areas are also considerations here.
- Byron displayed hazard zone maps that plotted various historic courses.
- Definitions: Where the channel has been in the past (HMZ); Where it is predicted to rapidly move in the future (AHZ); How much erosion will occur in the next 100 years (EHA), and what is disconnected from the historic channel network and behind dikes (DMA).
- Assessed likelihood of flooding in different areas including around various dikes and erosion hazard areas. In the 1940's and 1950's there were side channels utilized by the river prior to be disconnected by the dike.
- Bridges will be maintained so are not considered hazard area.
- Hannah Merrill is developing the Flood Hazard Plan for Clallam County.

III. River's End Update — *Byron Rot (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)*

- River's End ownership map (2008) was displayed showing which parcels had been purchased with WDFW funds, SRFB funds, parcels purchased by other project partners and which remained private. 29 parcels in total, 17 have been purchased. Funds are still available from SRFB (funds end in July) and from WDFW (funds end in December).
- Pending tasks: Grant extension notification to private owners; remove a structure and move to Robin Hill Park; remove other outbuildings, remove sewer and septic systems.
- Scott Hagerty asked if residents knew that the dike will not be maintained. The answer was yes, but Robert Brown said that was an issue- that if the dike was breached enough to cause damage to properties or road, the Dungeness Beach Association would take action to repair that.
- There were a number of meetings 2006-2007, questions resulted in two studies, "Hydrogeologic Characterization and Assessment of Saltwater Vulnerability at River's End", by the Pacific Groundwater Group, and "2D Hydraulic Modeling to Assist Dungeness Estuary Bluff Stability Assessment", by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Slide of "12 hour flood of record through a tidal cycle" was shown from the BOR study; BOR model showed high avulsion risk with tidal basin construction.
- January 2008 - decided not to pursue dike removal at Pioneer Beach Community property due to liability issues. Plan now is to lower tidal dike and breach one dike to open up tidal channel. This would occur on Dungeness Farms property.
- Discussion on road construction began, but plan is only in preliminary stages. Discussion with DBA was suggested by Steve Tharinger so that Team could be informed of the issues as they are unclear.
- Concepts 1 and 2 of the Dungeness River Estuarine Restoration – Marsh Connectivity Project were shown:
 - Concept 1 (Construct two 150' long tidal channels: 50' wide @ 7.0' with 20' wide channel @ 6.0'; Regrade 300' of dike to elevation 8.5; Excavate 15' wide opening through berm to elevation 8.3' at WDFW property)
 - Concept 2 (Construct two 150' long tidal channels: 50' wide @ 7.0' with 20' wide channel @ 6.0'; Regrade 250' of dike to elevation 8.5; Excavate 15' wide opening through berm to elevation 8.3' near county lot on WDFW property) of the Dungeness River Estuarine Restoration - Marsh Connectivity Project were shown.

IV. Other Business

- Steve Tharinger brought up the landowner letter re: excavator in the river. Michael Blanton was unaware of letter – will check into and work with Shawn Hines to respond.
- DRMT 20th Anniversary party: will set aside last hour of June meeting. Will invite past DRMT members, chairs, etc. Will incorporate Virginia Clark's narrative on DRMT history into handout for attendees at Anniversary party. Will issue a press release.

- Puget Sound Partnership website: keep up with new postings. Topic forums coming up (Human Health, Water Quality, Cross-topic meeting, etc.); need to RSVP if you plan to attend. Legislature extended timeline for Agenda from September 1st to December 1st. Series of White Papers for each topic are planned for reading prior to each topic forum.
- Ecology Watershed List: Building budget request for legislature. Need highest priority projects listed for EMMT and DRMT. Cynthia Nelson to forward last list to DRMT. Projects range from funding for Streamkeepers, Atteberry Storage Reservoir, and next stage of Aquifer recharge. Need to update status on all projects and if anything new needs adding.

Public Comment

- Robert Brown reminded Team that NASA project had requested feedback from DRMT.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Handouts:

- Table of Contents: "Protecting and Restoring the Waters of the Dungeness – A Watershed-Based Plan Prepared in Compliance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Sequim WA" handout from H. Hals