

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of August 9, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternatives Present

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County	John Beitzel, City of Sequim
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Eloise Kailin, Alt. Protect Peninsula's Future
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners	Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning	Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust	Cynthia Nelson, DOE
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District	Annette de Knijf, USFW
Shawn Hines, Alt. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries

Others Present

Cheryl Baumann, Welden Clark, Jessica Coyle, Sarah Fergusen, Steve Rankin

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF 6/14/06 MINUTES

Chair Tharinger called the meeting to order, and introductions were conducted. Chair Tharinger indicated that Shawn Hines can provide handout material to those who missed the field trip conducted prior to the meeting. Further discussion with regard to the field trip will be had at the end of the meeting, time permitting.

Approval of the June 14, 2006 minutes will be tabled. Chair Tharinger noted that Tami Breitbach's work load is significant especially now that she is Clerk to the Clallam County Hearing Examiner, and that there is not enough time for her to listen to meeting tapes and transcribe minutes in a timely fashion. Discussion was had with regard to funding for a staff person or individual to prepare minutes, as well as the transition process. Cathy Lear is the lead on the grant that will pay for new help on DRMT minutes.

II. UPDATE DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS SALMON RECOVERY/PLANNING FORUMS & DRMT'S ROLE WITHIN SUCH FORUMS

Scott Chitwood began by indicating that this agenda item stems from a conversation with the Executive Committee, and he thought this would be a good time to conduct a review of salmon recovery and the local connection to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.

Hansi Hals distributed hand out materials, and reviewed chronologically the steps taken in the creation of the Dungeness Chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and DRMT's involvement. She explained that our Lead Entity (LE) Group was not the group that submitted the Recovery Plan chapters, as was the case with other LEs. So, we never officially had a group to call "watershed lead". Various individuals have been attending the Watershed Lead's meetings, but there was never an official DRMT representative. There has not been a link between the Watershed Leads meetings and DRMT. Cheryl Baumann said she tries to attend the Watershed Leads meetings regularly, and she encourages others to also attend.

Scott Chitwood noted that the Salmon Recovery Council provides policy recommendations to Shared Strategy. Steve Tharinger added that the Council eventually is to become the governing body of Shared Strategy.

Discussion was had regarding separation of WRIA 20 from NOPL. Steve Tharinger stated that WRIA 20 wants to be its own LE. It's a Fish and Wildlife decision (funded by Shared Strategy).

Scott Chitwood proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation on local salmon recovery. He indicated that the purpose of the discussion is to provoke thought regarding the fate of salmon in the Dungeness River and Puget Sound, and is a means of engaging the community more effectively in necessary work relating to salmon recovery. Scott Chitwood reiterated the active components of the salmon recovery approach in the North Olympic region through the DRMT, NOPLEG, and other entities, and noted that we need to continue to think about what we can do to be more effective.

Scott Chitwood noted that Steelhead will soon be added to the list of salmon that need protection in the Dungeness River. There are two populations, winter and summer runs.

The Puget Sound Recovery Plan is currently being reviewed by NOAA Fisheries, and there will soon be a map approved by the federal government for recovery of salmon in Puget Sound.

Discussion was had regarding implementation, funding, prioritizing current funding, ideas of setting priorities with regard to salmon recovery spending, and assisting property owners with protection and restoration measures of important habitat that is on their property.

Scott Chitwood indicated that perhaps the DRMT needs to revisit the geographic range and priority of the NOPLEG, to decide whether some changes are necessary, and posed the following questions:

Should the geographic area of the North Olympic include WRIA 20?

Should WRIA 20 conduct their own work and be part of the coastal region?

Does the NOPLEG mission statement need to be amended to include salmon recovery?

Does the DRMT mission statement need to be amended to include salmon recovery?

Does it make sense to provide a more direct interface between our lead entity and our watershed planning teams?

Should we incorporate the needs of WRIA 19 in our Salmon Recovery Plan?

Should we seek a connection with the lead entity for the Summer Chum ESA, which extends from Hood Canal to the Dungeness?

Following discussion, Chair Tharinger asked the Team to forward input and suggestions to Shawn Hines, and the Executive Committee will revisit this item for further discussion at a future DRMT meeting.

A break was taken.

III. LETTER TO ECOLOGY RE: BATTELLE WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

Chair Tharinger indicated that Shawn Hines amended the letter, as previously discussed by the Team, and it was circulated for signatures.

Cynthia Nelson clarified that the DOE did not encourage Battelle to apply for a water right. Rather, DOE had discouraged Battelle from going forward with this process, as DOE does not think that a water right would be approved. Modeling indicates a widespread affect from water withdrawal in that area. Cynthia Nelson further clarified that she had encouraged PUD to file a water right application, but an application has not been filed to date. Discussion was had.

Shawn Hines will forward the letter to Department of Ecology.

IV. WRIA 18 RULE MAKING

Cynthia Nelson introduced Sarah Ferguson, and indicated that she has been assigned to assist with writing the Dungeness Elwha Rule, as well as other projects. Department of Ecology is responsible for responding to every comment received as part of the formal hearing process. Cynthia Nelson is working on a draft RFP to hire a facilitator to discuss issues related to water supply and the instream flow rule, and she briefly reviewed the RFP outline.

Cynthia indicated that certain issues must be included in the rule:

- Instream flow recommendations
- Administrative flow closures
- Closures
- Conditions under which new water rights can be obtained
- Mitigation
- Enforcement
- Reviewing rule in certain amount o fyears
- Well drilling management
- Water supply

Cynthia reminded the Team that Overriding Consideration of Public Interest (OCPI) could not be used in the Dungeness to justify a ground water reserve, because there is no water availability. Water banking, however, is another supply option.

Sarah Ferguson outlined the schedule of the rule-making process. Ecology will start process by filing notice of intent of initiating rule. Government group meetings will start, likely once a month, to work out issues in Plan. Meetings with stakeholders (business, members of public, etc) will meet less frequently. Cynthia Nelson indicated that they would like to run issues by the Team prior to the public process, and then bring the public's comments back to the Team in order to work in conjunction with the Team. In general, Ecology wants a lot more outreach. The rule would be drafted based on all the reviews and public input. The goal is for filing to be conducted April-May 2007. Filing starts the 180-day clock, within which the rule needs to be revoked or accepted. Meetings should begin in September.

V. I-933 PROPERTY RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Scott Chitwood indicated that Initiative I-933 is approved for the November ballot, and asked if the DRMT would be interested in making a statement with regard to the affect this initiative would have on salmon recovery in the Puget Sound. If so, the action format would need to be decided

by the Team. Steve Tharinger asked the Team what action if any does the Team wish to take. After discussion, Steve Tharinger, Pete Schroeder and Eloise Kailin all recommended that members should write letters individually – rather than a statement from the Team.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR OTHER UPDATES

Change Next Meeting Date – Propose September 5th or 6th

Following discussion, it was decided the Team should forward ranking information regarding SRFB projects to Shawn Hines no later than September 7, 2006. Shawn will consolidate the comments and rankings, and forward to Cheryl Baumann. The DRMT will meet next month at its usual time, the second Wednesday of the month (September 13, 2006).

Public Comment

Joe Holtop indicated that the Conservation District is sponsoring a presentation by Jim Johaneson, Coastal Geologist, specifically focused on the Three Crabs area. The presentation will be conducted on August 22, 2006, commencing at 6 p.m. at the Dungeness River Center. The Team and public are invited to attend, however the presentation is targeted to the property owners in the Three Crabs area. Chair Tharinger requested that the Conservation District provide a presentation to the Team when work is completed.

VII. ADJOURN