

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting December 13th, 2006

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect Peninsula's Future
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Shawn Hines, (Alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Don Hatler, Sport Fisheries (Alt)
Randy Johnson, WDFW
Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
John Cambalik, PSAT and (Alt) WA Dept. of Ecology
Les Jones, (Alt) Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Hansi Hals, (Alt) North Olympic Land Trust
Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Tom Martin, Clallam PUD

Others in Attendance:

Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers
Jessica Colye, Graysmarsh
Kevin Van De Wege, newly elected state rep
Jim Karr, resident

Linus Heydon, (waste water management interest)
Diane Hood, Property Owner
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness R. Audubon Ctr.
Melissa Coughlin, Independent Contractor

2:15 PM Meeting Began

I. Introductions

- **Reviewed Agenda:** Tom Martin to provide update on Carlsborg project added to announcements/updates section of agenda; Shawn Hines noted there is reading material on the NASA project in the folder being passed around.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - November 8th meeting minutes reviewed: Walt Blendermann corrected "UGA" (not USG) in Carlsborg Sewer Feasibility Study section – page 5; Steve Tharinger had asked to consolidate programs, not the conservation district as notes read on page 3; Delete "Creating new council" and leave "take what we have..." (second to the last bullet on page 3); On page 4, second bullet, the Lead Entity meeting took place in the Loomis building in Lincoln Park (not the library). Steve Tharinger moved to approve November meeting notes; Cynthia Nelson seconded; Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- Steve Tharinger noted there is an all-day forum for incentive programs for landowners on January 5th in Tacoma. (This relates to the November minutes topic of consolidating incentive programs).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Boekelheide had the following announcements:

- "Olympic Peninsula Small Forest Workshop" will be held at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on Thursday, December 14th from 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M., Bill Wheeler to present
- Monday, December 18th is the Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This is the 30th year for the local count. The count area is from Diamond Point to the east and to McDonald Creek on the west. Talley sheets and routes are available from Bob Boekelheide at the River Center

Linus Heydon introduced himself to the meeting members:

- An accredited individual, he has been interested in cleaning up wastewater problems. He has been involved with constructed wetland research since the 1980's and is interested in helping communities build systems to clean agriculture run-off water. He has worked at Cal Poly and in Prescott, Arizona. Animal waste, fertilizer and wastewater from septic tanks pollute the ground water and raise nitrates levels. Mr. Heydon would like to share a demonstration of two types of water cleaning systems. He has a 30-minute slide presentation and two short videos available.
- Walt Blendermann suggested adding Linus Heydon to next year's workplan

- Steve Tharinger suggested Mr. Heydon approach the water districts and septic workgroups
- Don Hatler suggested Mr. Heydon contact the Conservation District, which has series of plans
- In answer to Pete Schroeder (re: microbiology and contamination) and Don Hatler's questions (re: reconstructing/building artificial wetlands), Mr. Heydon recommended the book, "Constructed Wetlands in the Sustainable Environment" for background on the system and how it's used
- Mike Jeldness suggested that Mr. Heydon contact the Clean Water workgroup at the Clallam Conservation District to get an understanding of our specific local issues. Shawn Hines noted the Clean Water Work Group has been introduced to Linus. Others suggested Mr. Heydon look into Streamkeepers group, Sequim Bay Park, Carlsborg study
- Walt Blendermann suggested Mr. Heydon look into the new Miller Park project – John Cambalik gave Peter Herzog as the primary contact for that

II. SRFB Meeting and Funding Updates – Steve Tharinger

Steve gave a summary of the SRFB Meeting that met last week for annual allocation

- Decisions made for the seventh round – went pretty much as expected, Jamestown project for the Dungeness estuary received \$184,000; The Strait of Juan de Fuca nearshore assessment received \$385,000; Clallam Conservation District project for water conservation was funded by \$399,806; Not funded was a Lower Elwha – Pyscht River project
- Coastal Region: WRIA 20 received \$197,000 for restoration projects
- Steve Tharinger summarized that generally people were very supportive of the process, working according to regional allocations – the meetings went much quicker than previous meetings
- Funding decisions for monitoring: \$385,000 allocated for statewide projects; \$80,000 for Dungeness smolt monitoring for one year. Monitoring projects spreadsheet contained about \$10 million worth of proposed projects for one year. More and more decision-makers want to know what they are getting for the money: "Fish in and fish out". Dungeness gets funded because of the good record data we have. Contributions by the Streamkeepers were noted. The more volunteers trained, the further the dollars can be spread. This is a huge effort, but there continues to be requests for that data
- Discussion began regarding coordination of data gathering between groups like Streamkeepers, WDFW, and Tribe. Scott Chitwood: Smolt monitoring for the Dungeness – we've completed two years of data. Life cycle for one generation of Chinook can last seven years. Steve Tharinger described the "spaghetti" slide that was shown at the SRFB meeting showing data from five or six years of study which included different species (e.g. Coho, Steelhead and Chinook) and recorded fish which returned and went out; a sense of the cycles was evident. It demonstrated the need for multiple years of data.
- Next round is June, not enough time as that is when projects begin and sponsors can't do both, some talk about starting that sooner – one of the issues is the legislature doesn't leave Olympia until sometime in April. Hard for SRFB to determine what funding is available from both state and federal levels
- Some questions about who actually reviews the specific projects – what is the oversight for the projects. SRFB used to be the entity making sure of certainty that projects are benefiting salmon.
- Mike Jeldness began discussion on how SRFB measures the value of fish from different projects – Steve Tharinger: SRFB has put money into monitoring five watersheds around the state and established a baseline from which to extrapolate across projects across the state
- Steve Tharinger: Hearing on the state level concerns about how well the harvest side is being managed, SRFB concern is the habitat level
- Jim Karr: Two substantively things to be aware of with different ways of monitoring: (1) General monitoring which tracks trends. From that it is determined whether things are going south or north and analysis follows to figure out the causes of why it goes one way or the other; (2) We have to be more incisive, there is a lot of money going into these projects and much is wasted unless we are putting money into evaluating whether those projects are having the incremental improvements they claim to have, we aren't really doing the job spending public funds. Emphasis should be on long term tracking expenditures
- Steve Tharinger: re: the broader issues of ecosystem health, there is data for that – but it is not as precise, it's a difficult question. At state level there is not a clear path to find the balance

- Jim Karr: Another part of this is defining the crucial components of an effective monitoring system
- Steve Tharinger recommended reviewing the information provided at the SRFB website under Bruce Crawford's group at the State of Oregon for monitoring criteria
- Cynthia Nelson asked where the local restoration plans and projects get reviewed. Steve Tharinger responded that it varies from region to region and from state to state. For example, Puget Sound (maybe the most complex region), has a TRT (Technical Review Team) which looks at the recovery plan. In different areas they don't have a TRT, they have different groups and every Lead Entity has their technical team – it's up to the SRFB to provide the consistency to get the best projects out of the regions; that was the role of our technical review team. Some people are beginning to wonder if we have sufficient review teams for the projects. Built into the process are a number of feedback loops so people are communicating
- Walt Blendermann wanted to revisit monitoring topic – the goal of which is to meet the de-listing criteria. Would like to devote a whole meeting to the process of monitoring (include Bruce Crawford to present) and determine where we should be going on the Dungeness; is the screw trap adequate, are there other things we should be doing, leading to a scoping of projects we could submit to SRFB
- Scott Chitwood responded: Monitoring is usually a multi-year endeavor, SRFB is short-term ending
- Walt Blendermann: May have to participate and track for multiple years, but projects must lead to making the Dungeness ready for de-listing (requires number of naturally spawned and returned fish)
- Steve Tharinger suggested putting this on workplan

III. Update on 2007 Puget Sound Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Proposal – John Cambalik

- Last DRMT meeting this group agreed to send a letter to Lead Entity in support of the creation of a salmon recovery plan for WRIA 19 – which was appreciated by the Lead Entity group at their meeting and they decided to develop a proposal
- Cynthia Nelson and John Cambalik offered to facilitate, coordinate and organize the effort
- Cheryl Baumann developed the first draft – out for comments – still needs some work
- Grant is for \$50,000; \$35,000 will go towards the creation of a fresh and marine salmon recovery plan for WRIA 19 – that money will be passed through the county to the Lower Elwha Tribe. \$15,000 dedicated to a “Bridging the Gaps” workshop (not for the general public – Fall is target timing): (1) hold planning meeting for stakeholders from Neah Bay to Jefferson County line (2) Develop agenda for workshop to include stakeholders throughout the region to determine issues to be integrated across processes and geography. Plan to continue communication after the grant
- Follow up workgroup meetings to better formulate plans for that dialog. Citizen survey: what does the average person know about the processes and issues. Surveys will produce data from which local outreach material will be developed
- Concern that there will not be enough money to achieve all. MRC may help with survey money
- Grant deadline – end of December
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- Working Technical and Executive Groups for Rulemaking – Cynthia Nelson
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- Have begun the rule making process. The first Water Management Instream Flow Rule meeting was October 18th. It will be a multi-month process, hope to file draft in 2007
- At the first meeting it was decided to proceed with a two-tier approach. (1) Executive group will consist of representatives from Department of Ecology, WDFW, City of Sequim, PUD, County, Water Users, Tribe, and DRMT. This group will discuss the issues, make the decisions and scope the tasks for the (2) Working group, made up of agency level staff and others. Working group members will be chosen from the departments/groups listed in the executive group + hopefully realtors, developers, business, homeowner associations, and others suggested by DRMT.
- Walt Blendermann wanted to know what the output/deliverables would be from the working group
- Cynthia Nelson: (1) education process, refine message to take to the public. (2) will take assignments from the executive group – looking at water demand, will give information on water supply and future demands. May have joint Executive and Working group meetings at times. Outreach and science review.

- Walt Blendermann related that he had been associated with similar (not rule-making) projects, the Dungeness/Quilcene water planning included certain group of stakeholders and Sequim wastewater plan had group (technically oriented) – if we want public to be a part of that we need others than just realtors in the working group. Look at the people involved in previous plans + rule making
- Cathy Lucero: get the right people involved ahead of the public unveiling. Want to avoid the problems that were encountered with Jefferson County / WRIA 17
- Group agreed that controversial issues require some sort of framework to be presented to the public so they can understand the development of rule-making and won't erroneously think that everything will be dealt with under the rule. Other sides of the issues will be brought up as well and programs (joint outreach, etc.) will be developed. One problem is that people don't come to the meetings, many times until a county commissioner meeting (well after much of the work has been underway)
- Steve Tharinger proposed engaging lots of groups (i.e. Irrigators, Tribe, etc.) and involve them early on
- Cathy Lucero: Cited Burnt Hill example: All the work had been done (2-3 years worth) and when the information was made public the neighborhood didn't like it, so it had to be thrown out
- Question: Will the rule be enforceable by law?
- Yes, it will be law – applying to Dungeness
- Virginia Clark remarked that in California during a water shortage people were pretty compliant to follow the rules of water rationing
- Recommendations for recruiting members of the working group included contacting: North Olympic Builders Association, Kevin Russell, Suzie Chad for home builders, developers -> get names from John Beitzel, Larry Freidman of the Planning Committee (he is a major developer), someone from the city, PUD, Homeowners Association (like Bell Hill, Sunland, Solmar, Mains Farm), Industrial folks, groups with independent water, private communities, water purveyors. DRMT will be officially involved in some capacity
- Attendance concern: Had specific meetings for well-drillers only and two showed up, suggested having meetings in the evenings for better attendance. May add or stagger meetings
- Les Jones emphasized that we must convey the necessity of WHY we are doing what we are with this rule. Not an issue of control, but one of water shortage – need to make people aware of problem
- Recharge of groundwater and stormwater management will be looked at, but that won't be part of the rule
- At the first IF Rule meeting, *water banking* (Yakima) was discussed. Expert Bob Barwin will come from Yakima to present at future meeting
 - Walt Blendermann asked if the working group would be working on "what if..." prescriptions for certain scenarios. Cynthia Nelson felt that would be beyond the scope of the rule work. Steve Tharinger felt the working group will work on the rule which focuses on availability and access
- Rule won't address water rights
- Executive group meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month
- A facilitator has been hired. Public workshops will be scheduled
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- DRMT Workplan / Public Outreach and other Goals for 2007 – All
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- Discussed many topics for possible 2007 agendas: Army Corp levy setbacks – some decisions will have to be made; different efforts that are going on, such as forest stewardships – Dungeness to get dollars from limited harvest for fish projects; Tribe is sponsoring some modeling restoration projects and evaluating risks to landowners (Hansi Hals); 3 Crabs project and continued updates on piping progress (Joe Holtrop); SRFB statewide projects; presentation by Conservation District on all their projects; engineering work on the 30-acre reservoir will be completed, presentation could be made in March / Atteberry project is on-track and within budget – should complete end of January / last year's water use outtakes – first accurate reflection of water leasing (Mike Jeldness); Carlsborg Sewer Feasibility Study – in January hope to have second public meeting – to be completed by end of April (Tom Martin); NASA project that which will involve the DRMT (Shawn Hines); field trip to

Atteberry Reservoir, log jam project at Dungeness River; monitoring, waste water treatment, Clean Water District, Watershed planning.

Steve Tharinger suggested organizing workplan according to themes or multiple project updates by agencies/organizations. For example, look at various topics related to water storage.

Pete Schroeder thought it would be helpful from a public education standpoint to be able to take twelve years of salmon data and create a matrix showing each year and what happened relative to the money spent on restoration projects

- Scott Chitwood: in regard to relating to fish population, so far we haven't seen any response
- Steve Tharinger suggested a subcommittee could look at the scientific data to develop protocol for team to monitor. Team as whole could look at what is out there and identify gaps and tools
- Walt Blendermann on water quality, referred to current criticism in the paper of the Department of Ecology for all the 303d impaired waters. Should we be looking at which and why those waters are impaired – Cynthia Nelson remarked that there are TMDL plans for the Dungeness River and Bay
- Tom Martin asked Tyler Alghren what was going on in Victoria – what are they doing with wastewater, what types of problems are they having. Tyler works 3 weeks out of the month in Victoria, usually during the scheduled DRMT meetings, but he would be willing to present
- Have to be very careful when looking at the chemical criteria to judge impairment from biological perspective – doesn't work based on the analysis that was done
- Jim Karr did a study a couple of years ago on the Puget Sound streams **not listed as impaired under DOE proposed chemical criteria but for which we had solid data on their biological condition.** Six out of seven cases (looking at unimpaired **[as defined by DOE]** water bodies) had substantively degraded biological health (based on biological criteria). The chemical criteria were not protecting the biological health of the **state's** waters. **For one of the seven sites, there was insufficient chemical data to draw conclusions, but that site too was substantially degraded in biological terms. In short, our results demonstrated that compliance with all proposed chemical water quality criteria is often not sufficient to ensure protection of designated uses--namely salmon spawning, rearing and migration--as required under the state's own water quality standards.**
- Steve Tharinger posed that if workgroup based on a Dungeness Basin-centric scientific framework may be a useful tool for us – executive committee can meet to discuss this further
- Shawn Hines will draft list, ask for further DRMT feedback, then meet with Executive Committee to refine.
- Introduced Kevin Van De Wege, Newly elected state representative, to DRMT
- Mr. Vad De Wege's campaign focused on education and family issues and the resource issues that this team works on. DRMT can be a good resource for education or to answer questions Mr. Van De Wege may have. Volunteered mutual resource. Went around room with team introductions.
- 2007 DRMT Elections
- Shawn Hines provided nomination ballots and voting ballots. Last year members nominated out loud from the floor, it was agreed to do the same this year
- Positions: Chair; Executive Committee has 3 positions plus one County position and one Tribe position
- Incumbents: Chairperson: Steve Tharinger; Executive Committee: Cynthia Nelson, Virginia Clark, Mike Jeldness (plus Scott Chitwood and Steve Tharinger). Members of the Executive Committee were all willing to serve again; Randy Johnson moved to nominate all three. Tyler Ahlgren moved to nominate Steve Tharinger for Chairperson. Unanimously approved that incumbants would remain in office for 2007.
- Announcements / other updates
- Virginia Clark brought wonderful, delectable goodies for end of year celebration
- Jessica Coyle brought delicious homemade cookies for end of year celebration

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Handouts:

- Draft Agenda – December 13, 2006
- No other handouts except folder which circulated with NASA project information