

## **DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Meeting of January 11, 2006  
Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

### **Team Members and Alternatives Present**

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County	Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association	Virginia Clark, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries (alt)	Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Tom Martin, AWRA (advisory)	Lyn Muench, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Annette de Knijf, USFW (advisory)	Walt Blendermann, Sports Fisheries
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future	Randy Johnson, WDFW
John Cambalik, PSAT (alt for DOE)	Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (alt)
Dean Yoshina, U.S. Forest Service (advisory)	Scott Hagerty, U.S. Forest Service (alt) (advisory)

### **Others Present**

Welden Clark, John Grissim, Byron Rot, Bill Bjorklund, Ed Chadd, Mike McClean, Steve Obrebski, Janet Bruening, Steve Rankin, and Margaret Duncan.

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

Introductions were conducted. Approval of the December minutes was tabled to the February meeting.

### **Public Comment Period**

John Grissim indicated that he owns property and a residence on the Dungeness River. About 4 years ago, a neighbor moved into an adjacent parcel which is approximately a one-acre parcel with a manufactured home and shop on the property. The owner began a pruning business at that time, and now has a flourishing commercial landscape and pruning business. Commercial equipment is located on the parcel.

Mr. Grissim shared his concern that the owner has now completely denuded the entire 75-foot stream buffer zone along an area of approximately 100 yards of the Dungeness River. There is an extensive gravel driveway and turnaround area that exists well into the buffer. The bank area is being used as vehicle storage and a wood chipping operation. Mr. Grissim indicated that he and a group of neighbors have submitted a complaint with the Clallam Department of Community Development requesting an investigation of this issue with regard to zoning. Mr. Grissim asked for any help from the DRMT, as appropriate.

Mr. Grissim would like a Cease and Desist in place, and the property restored to its previous condition. Walt Blendermann suggested contacting Chris Byrnes at WDFW. Mr. Grissim distributed photos and information regarding the subject site. Chair Tharinger suggested that John meet with Rob Robertsen, Director, Department of Community Development, and spoke to the compliance component. A motion was made by Al Moore and seconded by Scott Chittwood that Shawn would write a letter to Rob Robertsen on behalf of the Team stating that it is imperative to get a zoning compliance enforcement person hired as soon as possible, and describing the property near the Dungeness as one of several examples where zoning codes are out of compliance. The motion passed unanimously.

Walt Blendermann announced that NOAA Fisheries will present the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Guy Cole, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and noted the importance of attendance. Mr. Blendermann noted that the Plan was written as part of the Shared Strategy and that the Plan contains a chapter for the Dungeness River. The Plan is on the NOAA Fisheries web site.

## **II. SHARED STRATEGY UPDATE**

Margaret Duncan, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound, reiterated that the Dungeness River Recovery Plan draft was reviewed by the Technical Recovery Team (TRT) in May 2005, and comments by the TRT on the Dungeness chapter were forwarded to the authors. Other areas have also completed their watershed chapters, so the draft plan is now out for public comment.

Ms. Duncan discussed issues regarding implementation of plan priorities, and the transition process toward implementation. She noted that Shared Strategy's focus until now was plan development. Now, with an 18-month extension of responsibility, Shared Strategy is tasked with helping to get the implementation process started. Shared Strategy is asking watersheds for commitment to implement.

Ms. Duncan further discussed adaptive management (April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> workshop), and coordinating Shared Strategy's next steps with the Governor's Puget Sound Initiative.

Discussion was had regarding representation from WRIA 18 on the Shared Strategy's Expanded Development Committee, and the responsibilities with which the representative would be tasked. Ms. Duncan noted that decisions on funding (such as how to get more funding for implementation or how funding would be allocated) would be made at Development Committee meetings, and subcommittees would likely be generated. After discussing whether WRIA 18 should have two representatives (one for the East 18 and one for West 18), Chair Tharinger made a motion indicating the DRMT would appoint representative(s) for East 18 on the Development Committee for Shared Strategy, and that nominations should be forwarded to Scott Chitwood and Chair Tharinger. A final decision would be made by the Team at the February meeting.

Mike Jeldness agreed to the motion. The motion was seconded. It was noted that the DRMT's decision to appoint its own representative should be conveyed to the Lower Elwha, as well as the Park Service. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Duncan discussed the presentation format of February 7<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was had regarding a DRMT display at the meeting. It was decided that if anyone wanted to help with a display, they should contact Margee. It was noted that copies of the Plan are at the local libraries, and that the public comment period ends after 60 days February 27.

## **III. 6<sup>th</sup> ROUND SRFB UPDATE**

Chair Tharinger spoke to the 6<sup>th</sup> round funding, announcing that three of five projects in our area were funded. The bigger picture update is that SRFB is now discussing what kind of round the next round will be. Chair Tharinter noted there is talk of having a shorter or smaller round, for example using the community salmon grant as the 7<sup>th</sup> round. Discussion was had about how NOPLÉ is doing compared to other lead entities, and Chair Tharinger noted the rest of the state has caught up to NOPLÉ, with regard to submitting high quality projects. Chair Tharinger advised the Team to forward suggestions to him via email. In the end, what's best for the fish should be priority.

## **IV. STREAMKEEPERS**

Ed Chadd, Co-manager, began by providing an introduction to Streamkeepers. He indicated that the grant which funded the predecessor "Eight Streams Project" ran out in 1999, and at that point a group of volunteers went to the Board of County Commissioners and indicated that the program should not end, as volunteers were accomplishing a lot of work. The Commissioners then decided to fund the project on a minimal basis. After that point, the program has been able to secure some outside funding, though that funding has varied over the years, and the Commissioners and Department of Community Development have maintained their commitment to the program in spite of that variability. In response to a question from Walt Blendermann, Mr. Chadd stated that Streamkeepers do get funding from Ecology, albeit indirectly through Ecology grants to Clallam County. Streamkeepers has also recently applied for Centennial Clean Water Funding.

Mr. Chadd distributed pamphlets which identify the main parameters that are monitored by Streamkeepers. The decision on what data to collect is driven either by technical folks or by other interested community members. Mr. Chadd provided an overview of the Clallam County Water Resources Database, along with a map of sites that are referenced. In addition to Streamkeepers data, this database also includes data from several non-Streamkeeper projects. Cathy Lear and Hansi Hals mentioned Conservation District data that could be incorporated; Mr. Chadd explained that he has talked with Joe Holtrop about doing that, but that Streamkeepers currently lacks the resources to carry out data-incorporation projects such as this one, because the work is fairly labor-intensive.

Mr. Chadd provided examples of various data, and asked whether there are some recording tools that would be useful to the DRMT or on an individual basis. Walt Blendermann suggested including water rights that have been granted for comparison purposes with regard to flow rate at various times throughout the year. Discussion was had about how/whether Ecology water right information could be linked to the database, and Mr. Chadd said he would investigate and get back to Walt about that.

Mr. Chadd posed the question of whether the DRMT had interest in further interacting with Streamkeepers, in order to better achieve the various objectives or missions of the DRMT. He introduced some of the volunteers (Bill Bjorklund, Steve Rankin, Janet Bruening, Mike McClean) that were present, and identified those involved in a recently formed volunteer research/data analysis team. Mr. Chadd asked whether the DRMT, or the individuals within the group, had suggestions with regard to analysis that would be useful to the Team. He also questioned if there is a way to make the relationship between Streamkeepers and DRMT stronger. One DRMT suggestion was displaying the data in such a way as to show success of salmon recovery projects.

Lyn Muench commended Streamkeepers on their collective work.

## **VI. ADJOURN**