

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting

January 9th, 2008 - Notes prepared by Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Cathy Lear, Clallam County
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Bob Caldwell, Water Users Association
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD

Allison Lutz, NOLT
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Les Jones, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Judy Larson, Protect Peninsula's Future
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Michael Blanton, WDFW
Scott Hagerty, USFW

Others in Attendance:

Elizabeth Van Sickle, Local resident
Cheryl Baumann, NOPL
Hannah Merrill, Clallam County
Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr.
Evan McClean, Sequim Gazette
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers

Butch Lauritzen, Resident
Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Ctr
Melissa Coughlin, Ind. Contractor/Note-taker

2:15 P.M. Meeting called to order.

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

- Chairperson Steve Tharinger called the meeting to order. Introductions all around.
- Agenda review: Robert Brown asked that item VII changed to "Other Business" as the only title, deleting "Announcements/Updates".
- 12/12/07 DRMT notes were reviewed. Virginia Clark circulated "Watershed Planning in the Dungeness River Area" for comments. She wrote this as an introductory piece for the DRMT, having misunderstood the "press release" project (part of the DRMT 20th anniversary) and thought it was a piece for new members. Mike Jeldness moved to approve notes; Pete Schroeder seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. Discussion on minutes – Robert Brown suggested a report date in addition to attaching person's name to items. One spelling error was corrected.
- Discussed recent e-mailing difficulty of sending out to DRMT and "interested parties", Shawn Hines to resume dissemination of DRMT communications.
- Circulated DRMT vice-chair schedule for people to initial.
- Passed around contact list for updates.

Public Comment:

- Judy Larson announced program at Pioneer Park at 7 PM tonight (1/9/08) on the Elwha Dam Removal, sponsored by the Democratic Club of Clallam County.

II. Proposed Carlsborg Reclaimed Water Reuse System: Letter of Support – Tom Martin (Clallam County PUD)

- Tom Martin distributed draft letter to Department of Ecology which requested funding. Letter needs to go out by Friday (deadline for public comments). If they get this funding (along with the funding County has already received), Carlsborg Reclaimed Water Reuse Project can move forward.
- Tom Martin has previously presented benefits and costs of project.
- Don Hatler asked if a decision on the technology had been reached. Tom Martin said they had agreed upon membrane bioreactor treatment (MBR) system, but have not settled on the location – either at Carlsborg or at the water reclamation at Sequim facility, (convey wastewater to be treated at Sequim and sent back to Carlsborg for reuse). Don Hatler thought transferring the water back and forth had been taken out of the discussions; Tom Martin said it was still being debated. The next step was to get a more precise picture of the costs.
- Discussion on draft letter ensued. Steve Tharinger felt it was not realistic to ask DOE to fully fund (third paragraph in Tom's letter). Commissioners have sent letter to show support and public interest in this project. Pete Schroeder suggested changing "fully" to "increased" funding.
- Judy Larson brought up the small amount of reuse of Sequim's reclaimed water and questioned how much of the new project's treated water would be reused. Tom Martin said it would all be used. Steve Tharinger mentioned Ann Soule's aquifer recharge project is looking for more locations.
- Virginia Clark made motion to support letter. Mike Jeldness seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Tharinger will sign and send out with the suggested change.
- Steve Tharinger said that the Board of Commissioners had sent its letter to Representatives Kessler, Van deWedge, and Dicks.

III. Clallam Flood Hazard Plan Amendment: Background and Creation of Advisory Group – *Hannah Merrill (Clallam County)*.

- Hannah Merrill is a month into her new job as Natural Resources Planner with the County. One of her first projects is to update the Dungeness River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan and the subsequent adoption of plan. There is a budget of \$34K to accomplish all by 2009. Currently County is using the 1990 plan. The 2003 plan was not adopted. Update includes integrating different critical areas, 2003 plan, any new legislation and GIS mapping into plan by 2009 deadline.
- Subcommittee list from November DRMT meeting: Welden Clark, Al Moore, Hansi Hals, Bob Martin, Ross Tyler, Cynthia Nelson, Robert Brown, Clea Rome (no one now from Clallam Conservation District), and Carol Creasey, from the County. Hydraulics person yet to be named. Hannah asked if all are still interested and if others would like to volunteer. Byron Rot added his name.
- Steve Tharinger brought up Kaiser Place (remembering residents who spoke about the flooding ramifications at their properties at previous DRMT meeting) as area to highlight for this activity. Use engineered log jams as flood mitigation projects. Asked Cathy Lear what were issues addressed in last draft. Cathy Lear: DRMT and members of river restoration group looked at BOR reports, looked at vulnerable reaches of the river and adjacent properties. Came out with series of recommendations including various dike placements, replanting some areas, ways to improve fish habitat. Looked at infrastructure, roads, and power lines – moving some roads. Spearheaded a reach by reach analysis of properties along the river.
- Timeline on grant is to have a draft plan in place by fall to go to public meetings, facilitator in place by March of 2008. There is a lot of work to be done in finding what needs to be changed, need to start by next month.
- Pete Schroeder asked if the FEMA boundary line maps were integrated with this, latest update with FEMA mapping river. Hannah Merrill said FEMA has been wrapped up with Katrina and budgets have been reallocated.
- Byron Rot had some local names to consider for facilitator position. Also mentioned grants obtained and work being done mapping. Stretch of 101 to Cayes and section of Old Olympic Highway. Will be able to present to DRMT on these activities in February or March timeframe.
- Robert Brown asked about any flood insurance implications – would any be addressed at all with the changes. Steve Tharinger responded that he thought FEMA mapping would be the link to any insurance issues.
- Pete Schroeder recommended using the Kaiser Place properties as a case study. When the plan is ready, apply to the property to see if it would have made a difference. Steve Tharinger voiced concern. Important area to look at.

IV. DRMT Logo Contest: Draft Letter – *Hansi Hals (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)* for *Scott Chitwood*

- Hansi Hals distributed draft letter developed by Scott Chitwood which introduced elementary school principal to DRMT logo project and invited school student's participation.
- Suggestions were made to improve letter grammatically.
- Hansi asked about budget for prizes – Steve Tharinger reminded members of idea to ask respective boards, agencies for financial support. Members had not yet approached others.
- January – February determined as good timeframe for contest.
- Hansi Hals recommended soliciting local stores and businesses to contribute prizes.
- Tom Martin had addressed PTA at Greywolf School in November about contest and said concept was positively received.
- Steve Tharinger said this could tie in with 20th anniversary of DRMT with award ceremony and press release. Outreach opportunity.
- Discussion on timeframe, student grades for participation: decided to include grades 4th and 5th (Joe Holthrop guessed: 300-400 students) for contest and March 1st for deadline. Susan Stark will pick up entries from school.
- Steve Tharinger suggested the top 3 pictures would be used by graphic artist to produce final logo.
- Cheryl Baumann thought the 20th anniversary was an event worthy of more than a press release. Suggested tab section of local paper that could present the winning three pictures along with history of DRMT, goals, etc. Local businesses could pay for tab section with advertisements.
- Contest parameters, time and judges to be determined. Subcommittee of DRMT will review art. Add to agenda for February.
- It was suggested that some sort of DRMT birthday party could be held in March. DRMT website will have all details about 20th anniversary and also display contest information and drawings.

V. Input for Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda – Steve Tharinger (Clallam County)

- Cathy Lear, Cheryl Baumann, Hannah Merrill, Allison Lutz all met with John Cambalik Monday. Was some question as to John staying on – he will be. John is currently liaison to Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam Counties (or sub-regions), in addition to other sections. John thinks that is too much to cover, is trying to focus on Straits.
- Team should expect letter from David Dicks and from John Cambalik with a matrix to inventory efforts. People will need to fill in what projects, efforts they are working on. Due end of month. John has been told this is not realistic, Strait area needs introduction to the process.
- A gathering is planned for Wednesday, January 30th in Blyn at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center to talk about the Partnership, the subareas, agenda and all it means. Includes all delegates, agencies: Tribal, City, County, Land Trusts, Conservation District, NOPL, Lead Entities, WRIA planning groups are all invited. Might go over matrixes. Submit the filled matrixes to John Cambalik who will consolidate information for the 30th. It will be a day to hear from all on what work is being done and how it fits into Partnership. Will be given an update on the planning of the Action Agenda.
- The Ecosystem Coordination Board has stressed to the Leadership Team (and David Dicks and staff) that a great deal is expected between now and September. Legislation requires that they have an Agenda for 2020 recovery.
- Why September 2008? Incredible amount of work. Action Agenda is not a plan for September 2008. 1) We want to have something keyed up for next bi-annual budget for legislature. 2) Olympia wants some consolidation of different efforts. September 2008 first page of the Action Agenda. See some consolidation to broader ecosystem approach years down the road. Advantage to look at as phases. Move forward to distill and prioritize.
- Matrix is on Puget Sound Partnership website. (go to Action Agenda- download Action Agenda Inventory Form). Categories are out of the legislation. “Protect Habitat/Land Use”, “Restore Habitat”, “Species, foodweb, biodiversity”, “Toxics control and reduction”, “Nutrients and pathogen control and reduction”, “Stormwater management”, “Water flow (people and environment)”, “Human health”, “Human prosperity”, “Other” (e.g. climate change, other). Columns are: “Capital programs”, “Policy and regulatory programs”, “Education and outreach”, “Scientific/research/monitoring”. Programmatic approach vs. project approach. Benchmarks (monitoring for funding amounts) broad.
- David Dicks explained that agencies go to Action Team to disseminate.
- Bottom up approach – what you need: Gathering is place to discuss, express concerns.
- Don Hatler asked about the structure of the January 30th gathering. Steve Tharinger said there would be a facilitator; Partnership has designated a member of the Leadership Council to attend (Bill Wilkerson our member). There will be an update from Leadership Council, but purpose is to get together.
- Tom Martin talked to people from Ecology about Centennial Clean Water Fund and how Partnership will affect funding. Project manager said that in the future PSP will give recommendation and those will be the projects that get funded. Concern on reviewing. Steve Tharinger answered that it will be a more strategic approach. Ecosystem based, not just salmon and habitat but ecosystem-based, so included will be: stormwater, on-site septic, etc. eventually agenda will become more sophisticated and prioritized
- Judy Larson asked about individual input (like from Dr. Karr – local resident with extensive knowledge on issues), how are they invited to gathering. Robert Brown asked if landowners have any input into the Action Agenda. Steve Tharinger said that any of these meetings would have public input. Any program that affected your property – on-site program sewer, stormwater program there would be public input through your neighborhood, or work through DRMT or commissioners.

VI. DRMT Workplan

- Discussed upcoming agendas: February will have members from WRIA 17 in to discuss how we might work in collaboration with them. Aquifer Recharge program update. Cathy Lear confirmed Dr. Dana Woodruff is ready to discuss preliminary MST results. Cynthia Nelson had requested March DRMT to update on Rule-making, also want to add NASA and Carlsborg (this will be on-going) updates to March agenda.

Team was asked for other topics to address and add to future agendas:

- Judy Larson requested stormwater contaminate update (Ann Soule had a report from 2005, but haven’t seen anything since then).
- Cathy Lear requested update on Flood Plan. (Summer or later)

- Hansi Hals volunteered Ann Seiter to present on Dungeness Watershed Plan update/introduction. (March – about a half an hour to present).
- Judy Larson asked for update on City of Sequim Comprehensive Plan Water Use and Treatment/Stormwater Planning. (April – Jim Bay is retiring, new Public Works Director will be hired, perhaps William Bullock can present? Contact City of Sequim for stormwater plans, manual?)
- Robert Brown asked about Dungeness Creamery (now designated conservation land with no development rights) as part of plan to move dike east of Dungeness River and south of Schoolhouse. Will that change the plan, what is going to happen with moving Towne Road? Steve Tharinger answered that workgroup will be meeting on the 28th. First phase doesn't include the Brown property. Bob Caldwell (Friends of the Field) or Hannah Merrill (Project Lead for County) can talk to this. Can be scheduled as on-going updates, beginning in February.
- Cheryl Baumann said that NOPL is working on contracting someone to work with Technical Review groups and Lead Entities to better integrate workplan and updating strategy. Working to change timeline: January–April work intensely on strategy. SFBD working to make grants available in April. Potential projects for SFBD round. Shared Strategy- how to regionally work with Puget Sound Partnership. May will be Lead Entity month. Lead Entity Day in Olympia to work with legislatures and local Lead Entity Day.
- Judy Larson asked for update on on-site septic – concerns - has it been actually finalized? Steve Tharinger replied that policies have been adopted – end of month. Robert Brown thought it would be interesting to follow up with statistics, how many people have been certified to do their own inspections. Hansi Hals added that county is working hard to get programs up and running – trying to secure funding, but right now haven't. Have to schedule date within next six months. Steve Tharinger thought this (funding for these programs) was issue for Partnership.
- Cheryl Baumann suggested tentatively scheduling sponsors of projects to present in June. Also, as a result of hearing concern for monitoring, Pete Schroeder has volunteered to attend meetings of Lead Entities State-wide, which he can report back on.
- Tom Martin asked for update(s) on Atteberry Reservoir project. Don Hatler said that Cynthia Nelson is getting a cost/benefit analysis done, which can be presented when complete.
- Rivers End update: Cathy Lear reported that 8-9 houses have been removed. Many of the buildings have been recycled. One has been moved to Robin Hill Park, others have been donated to the Housing Authority of Clallam County. Re-vegetation has begun on some of the properties. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has other restoration projects on the 40-45 acres. Still have properties that have not been purchased. Hansi Hals will e-mail updated map. Robert Brown said that in recent meetings with Byron Rot and Randy Johnson -status is that the studies are complete, but nothing beyond that. Identified the preferred configuration of what they'd like to do, but that would require a breach of the road that Dungeness Beach Association owns. Might involve constructing a bridge over that, future project. Robert Brown mentioned that Dungeness Beach Association is planning to move the gate north (by one property) on the road and installing combination lock this year. Discussion began on private property, access and Fish & Wildlife property.
- Scott Hagerty can give update on Clallam Stewardship Project - commercial thinning receipts are going towards the restoration of upper Slab Camp area. May do restoration work on Upper Dungeness – Congressman Dicks has money for projects. Gold Creek Road: Decision will be made by next month when contract-ready (can report on this in summer – possible field trip). Pacific Northwest Trail construction will start in summer: Spring follow up with this and possible field trip.
- Don Hatler suggested in fall or summer for WDFW speak about Canyon Creek fish ladder and access to Canyon Creek.
- Cheryl Bauman: Habitat Work Schedule – training in summer. This has all the projects, from Tribal, non-profits. (Michael Blanton has the web address).

VII. Other Business

- Virginia Clark thought her project was to produce an introductory piece for the DRMT. Draft was handed out for comments. May make into a brochure.
- Reminder: Ex. Committee meets at noon every other month beginning in February prior to DRMT.
- Robert Brown asked about the schedule for DRMT photo shoot – Steve Tharinger suggested next meeting or the one after.
- Additional agenda items from this meeting (outside the workplan topic): DRMT subcommittee to judge logo contest (February agenda); Bryon Rot to talk about mapping (February-March agenda).

Public Comment

- Butch Lauritzen came by to give update on his property at Kaiser Place. He can get grant from state, has grant writer working on that. FEMA has application. Can get a loan easily enough to get what needs to be done. FEMA called courthouse in Clallam County and things got confused. Butch is not quitting, learning a lot.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Handouts:

- "Watershed Planning in the Dungeness River Area" written by Virginia Clark, circulated for comments
- DRAFT letter to Dan Filip of the Department of Ecology Water Quality Program dated January 9 from DRMT in support of the Carlsborg Reclaimed Water Reuse Project - for discussion and comments
- DRAFT letter to Principal Patty Grenquist (Greywolf Elementary School) dated January 9 from the DRMT asking for student participation in DRMT logo development project.