

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM

Meeting of July 12, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternates Present

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County	Randy Johnson, WDFW
Tyler Ahlgren, Protect Peninsula's Future	Virginia Clark, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association	Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Hansi Hals, (Alt) North Olympic Land Trust	Cynthia Nelson, DOE
Tom Martin, Am. Water Resources Association	Shawn Hines, (Alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Scott Hagerty, (Alt) U.S. Forest Service	Cathy Lear, (Alt) Clallam County
John Cambalik, PSAT and (Alt) DOE	

Others Present

Donella Pratt, Welden Clark, Jason Wilkinson, Tom Safford, Steve Rankin, Karma Norman, Al Bruck, Laurie Yarnes, Jessica Coyle, Sarah Ferguson, Ann Seiter

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF JUNE 14, 2006 MEETING NOTES

Chair Tharinger opened the meeting, and introductions were conducted.

June 14, 2006 Meeting Notes

The meeting notes for June are not available at this time.

Discussion was had regarding funding available for DRMT to include assistance for detailed minutes, distribution of minutes, and assistance with the web site. Funding will also assist in reconvening EMMT for the purposes of moving toward Phase 4 Implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several announcements/updates were provided:

River's End, Donella Pratt

Donella Pratt, Clallam County DCD, provided a brief update indicating that one of the River's End homes is being demolished, and one is being moved to property owned by the Housing Authority to be offered as low-income housing. There are four remaining property owners that may still be willing to sell, and eight property owners that will not sell. They have received an extension on the grant.

Clallam/Cline Irrigation Ditch Piping Project, Al Bruck

Al Bruck reported that current work on the "combo project" consists of three sections of pipe which does not impact existing irrigation, and work should be completed by the end of next week. The intent is that another portion of the project will be ready for contracting the first week in August. Mr. Bruck indicated that policy decisions (by Department of Ecology) related to Trust Water Rights need to be made prior to funding availability, for future phases.

Three Crabs Road Study, Steve Tharinger

Chair Tharinger commended the Clallam Conservation District and others for their efforts on the Three Crabs project. The Conservation District held a public meeting last night; Brian Collins was present. The meeting reemphasized how dynamic the area is, with respect to habitat, geology, and hydrology.

Puget Sound Partnership, John Cambalik

John Cambalik reported that the Partnership recently submitted recommendations as requested by the Governor, which include key actions in the 2020 agenda to recover the Puget Sound. The interim findings are described on the partnership website.

Chair Tharinger indicated that Cynthia Nelson previously mentioned that it may be to our advantage to have a representative from the Partnership come talk to the DRMT.

North Peninsula Builder's Association, John Cambalik

John Cambalik indicated that the Association will be releasing low impact development (LID) principles and practices and a built green checklist within the next several weeks.

River's End Property Owner Field Trips, Randy Johnson

Randy Johnson indicated that the River Restoration Work Group has proposed doing some modification to the old salt water/sugar dikes at River's End to allow more frequent tidal flooding of the WDFW property. There has been three River's End field trips (38 attendees) to which landowners were invited. Major concerns about breaching or removing dikes seemed to center around some of the bluff property owners' concern of potential exposure of the bluff to erosion, which is an issue that will need to be addressed. Some of the dikes are used as walkways for people to cross various channels, so a footbridge may need to be installed following dike removal. An application for SRFB 7th round funding has been submitted for assessment (including cultural) and construction. Randy mentioned that Dungeness Farms has identified a dike closer to the river, previously unidentified by the River Restoration Work Group. Dungeness Farms has indicated they don't mind if that dike is breached.

Steve Tharinger noted the USBOR is studying possible extension of overflow culverts. They are also studying what flow would trigger breaching. Their report should be complete by September.

II. NASA PROJECT UPDATE – Tom Martin, PUD

Tom Martin indicated that funding has not yet been received, so there is not much to report. NASA did invite the team to a workshop in Washington, D.C. in June. Mr. Martin passed around slides from the workshop and NASA Project News.

III. NOAA PROJECT: ANALYZING SALMON RECOVERY IN PUGET SOUND – Tom Safford, NOAA

Tom Safford distributed a one-page handout describing the project, and indicated that the goal of the NOAA Coastal Services Center is to provide information and technology to State, local, and Tribal managers to support personal management. There are numerous projects located throughout the country to help achieve that goal. Several pilot projects are located in Washington, including a project Mr. Safford is currently involved in with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. That project is integrating social and cultural information into a broader database of scientific information to support the River restoration and dam removal process.

Mr. Safford indicated that he is also involved in a project with WDFW related to the potential restoration of the Deschutes Estuary in downtown Olympia. His team is in the process of getting input from the public about the types of benefits, as well as economic and social implications, of the potential removal of Capital Lake and the restoration of the natural estuary in downtown Olympia.

Mr. Safford indicated that opportunities are also being sought to potentially collaborate on projects related to salmon recovery. Initial discussions with folks from the State and other multi-agency groups working on salmon recovery have focused on how to implement the various plans for salmon to recover the Puget Sound. They also want to look at how goals are being reached, in terms of water quality and water quantity, for rearing habitat and spawning habitat. They have established a pilot project to look at how social sciences can contribute to this. Initially, the idea is to look at how places across the Sound have implemented activities related to one of the limiting variables, namely water quantity. The project will run for approximately one year, and is currently in the very early stages. Formal and informal efforts will be reviewed with regard to management of water quantity to support salmon recovery across the 18 Puget Sound WRIs. Participation with various groups, such as the DRMT, will further educate Mr. Safford and other staff, and involved parties.

One of the results of the project will be a report documenting everything that is learned, providing interested parties an opportunity to see what other people are doing in the various watersheds. NOAA will also produce a technical document to share with the Shared Strategy, partnership folks, and NOAA folks, to assist with implementation stages of planning processes related to salmon recovery, and also to demonstrate that social science information can be very useful.

Chair Tharinger asked Mr. Safford what the highlights have been so far in what he has learned from speaking with various people involved in watershed restoration. Mr. Safford indicated that he has received several recommendations of using the Dungeness as a model of good work.

Virginia Clark noted that the Water Users Association is a big reason for some of the accomplishments made so far in the Dungeness Watershed. Ann Seiter stated that it has been challenging, in that there is a strong sense to do the right thing and work within the community, but then you are faced with new laws that crop up. Getting projects completed inspires people to keep moving forward. This is less tangible at the state/partnership level. Ms. Seiter also recalled that the Team had to push to get watershed planning and salmon recovery to be coordinated.

Mr. Safford stated that his team will be conducting interviews, notes will be compiled, and a report should be finished by spring, covering multiple WRIAs. The information will be shared with the Team.

IV. WATER USERS ASSOCIATION UPDATES - Mike Jeldness, WUA

Atterberry Road Reservoir

Mike Jeldness distributed a site plan, and memorandum from Montgomery Water Group (MWG), the engineers on the project. He explained that funding was obtained from Department of Ecology to do site-specific engineering on the project, a reservoir that would hold 650 acre-foot of water (8cfs for a month, from August 15 – September 15), and serve all users (not just Agnew) on the west side of the river. The project would result in 10-12cfs more water back in the river. One of the main obstacles appears to be funding for O&M, which is estimated to be \$15,000/yr. The cost of leasing the land from DNR (30-acres) is also a barrier. MWG has been working on the project for approximately one year. Some of the statistics are as follows, as of June 30, 2006:

<u>TASK</u>	<u>COMPLETION</u>
Site Survey	15 % Complete
Geotechnical Exploration	100 % Complete
Design	50 % Complete
Specifications	5 % Complete
Cost Estimate	0% Complete
Environmental Review	97 % Complete
Permitting	40 % Complete
Financing Report	0 % Complete
Meetings/ Public Involvement	18 % Complete
Project Management	69 % Complete

Port Williams Re-regulation Reservoir

Mike Jeldness briefly described the project, which involved piping of 16,000 feet of ditches and creation of a reservoir to hold 1.5 million gallons of water. It was designed to eliminate tailwater and eliminate conveyance loss. Any overflow from the reservoir enters Graysmarsh. Mr. Jeldness indicated that so far everything is working well, and at least 2 cfs is being conserved.

CIDMP

Mike Jeldness indicated that the March 2005 draft of the CIDMP will change only a little. He explained that the intent was to produce a template for a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which would also provide assurances for the irrigators. The Water Users Association wants a 30-year assurance that they will still be in business. At this point, the issue for NMFS is that they require that no more than 20% of the water can be taken from the River. This has caused an impasse in the CIDMP process, and they are currently seeking additional funding to continue discussions. The minimum in-stream flow NMFS is quoting is 105 cfs, which would essentially shut down the irrigation system by August in one out of every five years.

Cynthia Nelson said Ecology is thinking about what other mechanism may be available to alleviate the problems in the river, to reduce the burden on the Water Users Association.

V. LETTER TO ECOLOGY RE: BATTELLE WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

Chair Tharinger reminded the Team of the Battelle water right application, which was presented by Phil Crane in June. Shawn Hines was asked in June to draft a letter to Battelle, describing the Team's concerns about the application. The draft letter was forwarded to the DRMT via e-mail. Shawn Hines also noted the e-mail dated June 1, 2006 from Peter Schwartzman regarding stream flow depletion predictions for Battelle. Mr. Schwartzman was hired to look at potential impacts that could result from the requested withdrawal. The preliminary modeling he conducted showed impacts to some of the area streams, and the Dungeness River.

Discussion was had regarding whether there was consensus to forward the letter. Chair Tharinger spoke to the necessity for a Ecology to maintain a consistent process, and he suggested adding language in the letter at the end of the final sentence, as follows: *"The DRMT urges Ecology to postpone the water right application by Battelle until instream flow rulemaking has been achieved for WRIAs 18 and 17 to assure consistency in the process. The DRMT would appreciate a written response to our concerns and questions.*

Discussion was had regarding whether changing the language from recommending to Ecology that they "deny" the request to "postpone" the application was appropriate or not. Shawn Hines noted that the original language is in line with the intent of recommendations the Team made in the WRIA 18 Plan.

Mike Jeldness indicated that he does not support forwarding the letter. Al Moore initially stated he needed additional information. Tyler Ahlgren and Randy Johnson spoke in support of the letter, as written. Hansi Hals spoke in support of the letter and spoke with regard to time sensitivity, and working toward process and consistency. Chair Tharinger asked if the Team would be supportive of a mitigation process, which may be proposed by Battelle. Chair Tharinger suggested the Team could send amore generic letter that addresses the process issue. The Tribe could send a separate letter indicating their position.

Chair Tharinger indicated that he, as well as Cynthia Nelson and Mike Jeldness will abstain from signing the letter. Randy Johnson expressed concern whether those abstaining from signing the letter would impact the credibility of the letter.

After considerable discussion about whether there was enough support by the Team to change the language in the letter, Ms. Hines proposed amending the Team letter to "postpone", and that the County, Tribe and anyone else interested could submit additional letters. The Team letter would then be e-mailed to everyone for final approval.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES

Dungeness River Festival – September 23 & 24

Chair Tharinger indicated that when the Executive Committee met, there was discussion about possibly having a booth at the Festival for volunteer metering. Jim Bay has meters available. Further discussion will be had at the August meeting.

FEMA Maps

Cathy Lear indicated that FEMA has set their schedule back, so instead of draft maps out in Fall 2007, FEMA is now saying 2008, as they are over budget.

VIII. ADJOURN