

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of March 15, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternates Present

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County

Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners (RM 3.25-4.25)

Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25)

Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)

Virginia Clark, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries (alt)

Les Jones, Dungeness-Quilcene Planning (alt)

Lyn Muench, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)

Tom Martin, Amer. Water Resources Association

Cynthia Nelson, Department of Ecology

John Beitzel, City of Sequim

Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association

Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (alt)

Annette de Knijf, USFW

Others Present

Dana Woodruff, Laurie Yarnes, Liz Maier, Bill Bjorklund, Janine Reed, Lief Neisham, Lara Johnson.

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Tharinger called the meeting to order, and acknowledged Don Hatler's recent election success. Introductions were conducted. The agenda was reviewed. Shawn Hines indicated she did not receive confirmation on whether or not Anita McMillan, WDFW, would be able to attend today.

It was noted that Cathy Lear was excused, so there will be no flood plan status update. Chair Tharinger indicated that, time permitting, Scott Chitwood could provide an update regarding the Salmon Council for Shared Strategy. The agenda was approved as amended.

Minutes of January 11, 2006

Virginia Clark made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no comments at this time.

II. CLEAN WATER WORK GROUP / EPA TARGETED WATERSHED GRANT UPDATE

Lyn Muench explained that she and others from the Clean Water Work Group are here today to provide a PowerPoint presentation update on activities of the Clean Water Work Group. Lyn provided a brief overview of the water quality problems in the watershed, and on the Targeted Watershed Grant Program, a grant awarded by EPA to the Tribe to help address some of these problems. She identified on a map the areas of the Bay that are problematic and causing closures to shell fishing. Various partners in the Clean Water Work Group (Battelle, Clallam County, Clallam Conservation District, Tribe, Dungeness River Audubon Center) are helping implement the tasks included in this grant. Tasks are listed below, with updates from the presenters.

MST: Dana Woodruff, Battelle, discussed Microbial Source Tracking (MST), and how it will be used in relation to the closure of shellfish beds in Dungeness Bay. There has been much discussion about the sources of bacteria that are contributing to the water quality problems in the bay. MST can help identify which sources are the contributors. In 2003, Ms. Woodruff led a feasibility study on behalf of Battelle for Clallam County to review various microbial source tracking methodologies, and to better understand problems within the Dungeness watershed. It was necessary to select a method that would be appropriate for the watershed, and develop a strategy for implementation which included seeking funding. There were several offers of funding to conduct very small-scale studies. However, MST needs to be a larger study that is designed appropriately to provide answers rather than more questions. So, when the EPA grant opportunity came about, a proposal was submitted for a reasonable amount of money to conduct a worthwhile study.

Ms. Woodruff explained that the ribotyping method was selected as being most appropriate for the Dungeness watershed, primarily because Dungeness is a fairly complex watershed with several bacteria sources involved, and ribotyping methodology is capable of differentiating species.

Ms. Woodruff identified study sites, and indicated that sampling will be initiated next month. Both freshwater and marine water samples will be taken monthly. For the marine stations, water, sediment and vegetation samples will be collected (with the exception that vegetation will not be collected during the winter). Part of the ribotyping methodology also includes collecting known source samples for one year, which will be sent to the Institute of Environmental Health in Seattle. The expected benefits include determining the predominant source of fecal coliform at the key sites, and understanding sources that can be controlled. Discussion was had.

Mycoremediation Demonstration Project: Lara Johnson, provided an overview of the mycoremediation demonstration project, which uses live native fungi to filter out harmful bacteria in surface water. The site was constructed in the fall of 2005, and entailed excavating two "cells" with a barrier in-between. One cell has native plants, and one cell has both native plants and fungi. Irrigation water will be run via inlet pipes to both cells. Monitoring will sample water before it enters the cells, and after it exits. Improvements to water quality after the water exits the cells will be compared. Lara described the location of the site, construction progress, selection of various native plants, and current methods of monitoring plant health and stabilizing the area. A fence was installed on the site after deer were discovered grazing. Some of the plants may need replacing.

Homeowner Septic System Maintenance and Education: Janine Reed, Environmental Health Specialist, Clallam County, began by indicating that currently her main duties focus on Septic 101 education, which include site visits, providing cost-share incentives to homeowners door-to-door, providing training for performing operation and maintenance, and assisting in the settlement of operation and maintenance (O&M) agreements.

Ms. Reed indicated that Clallam County conducted a paper survey in 1999-2000, which identified subject properties with septic systems of concern. Septic systems of concern criteria include septic systems that are 10 years or older, have a history of repair, and no County record of septic location. Currently, there are 123 septic systems of concern that fit the criteria.

In April 2005, letters were mailed to inform subject property owners that a representative from the County would be visiting with regard to information homeowners provided on the survey. To date, Ms. Reed indicated that although she has visited over 80 properties, a lot of property owners were not home and access was denied to 3 properties. Notification of sites visited are left at the property if the owner is not home, asking them to contact the County to set up an appointment for a site visit. However, it appears property owners are afraid to call with regard to potential costs or other consequences. A weekend trip was conducted to try to reach property owners, but was not that successful.

Ms. Reed reported that there has been some success regarding repair. Since 2004, there have been five septic systems of concern that have been repaired, or have submitted repair permits. 15 neighboring sites (septic systems that neighbor a septic system of concern area, but that are not included on the official list) have also been repaired. Two properties that had direct discharges have been repaired, or are in the process of being totally repaired. Ms. Reed identified the repair sites on a map. Associated repair costs and funding options were discussed.

Ms. Reed indicated that Septic 101 classes are being conducted monthly, with a steady attendance of ~25. A homeowners' survey is being sent to those who attend the classes to document any changes the homeowner may have made in the home since taking the class. This will help track whether education is being applied. During 2005, 2 industry training sessions were conducted, and there are two currently scheduled for spring. Industry training focuses on the installation and maintenance of alternative systems.

Ms. Reed noted that there were 39 O&M agreements facilitated during 2005, and three for 2006.

Stormwater Demonstrations: Laurie Yarnes, Clallam Conservation District, distributed a summary of activities conducted by Clallam Conservation District related to stormwater. Of the three listed grants, two were received. Joe Holtrop has been working with 5th graders at Helen Haller Elementary to provide

education on raingardens. They are constructing one at the school. The natural landscaping short course is provided in partnership with Peninsula College, and classes are available.

Clallam/Cline Irrigation Ditch Piping Demonstration Project: Ms. Yarnes introduced Al Bruck, Project Manager, Clallam/Cline Project. Mr. Bruck provided a brief overview of the project which would combine the Clallam and Cline main irrigation canals into one pipeline. Mr. Bruck outlined the following benefits:

- Eliminate conveyance losses (ditch leakage) in existing main canals and reduce Dungeness irrigation diversions, resulting in improved flows (6.5 cfs saved)
- Prevent fc loading in area upstream of Heath Road by eliminating tailwater, resulting in improved water quality (36 fc/100mL reduction)
- Reduced pollution in water that is returned to the river and bay via piping
- Reduced use of energy

Mr. Bruck described the timeline and some of the obstacles encountered:

Phase I: Pipe Cays Road to end of main canal

- 1st bidding process unsuccessful
- Construction & material prices have increased significantly
- Postponed until after irrigation season
- Looking for further \$\$\$\$\$

Phase II: Realign portions of Cline main canal

- May- August 2006

Phase III: Pipe all remaining Clallam/Cline ditches

- Fall 2006
- Looking for further \$\$\$\$\$

Effectiveness Monitoring Water Quality Sampling: Lori DeLorm, Natural Resource Technician, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, indicated that her main duties relate to water quality, and she explained there are 52 upland freshwater sites that are monitored monthly related to this project. Pre- and post-project monitoring also includes the combination project that Mr. Bruck discussed. Also, 7 ditches along Marine Drive are currently and will continue to be monitored. Ms. DeLorm discussed monitoring areas, various monitoring methods and techniques, and that there are four teams of two individuals that conduct the monthly monitoring. The data is recorded and will be analyzed by Battelle, Clallam County, and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, with substantial input from the Clean Water Work Group.

Public Outreach: Hansi Hals noted that the Tribe received an Ecology Centennial Grant, a companion grant to the EPA Targeted Watershed grant. The Centennial grant will supplement funding for the MST project, and will also go toward funding a pet waste program. This program includes pet waste data collection, public outreach and education, and installation of pet waste receptacle bins. Ms. Hals further indicated that, although the Tribe has funding available to install pet waste receptacle bins, Clallam County Parks and Recreation is participating in discussions for long-term budgeting and maintenance of the bins. Ms. Hals displayed a draft poster as an example of what could be placed in high profile locations to promote awareness and education. She is working on a draft poster for our watershed.

Ms. Hals also outlined the other public outreach tasks included in the Targeted Watershed grant, such as public talks and children programs on which the Dungeness River Audubon Center is partnering.

BREAK: A 10 minute break was taken.

III. THREE CRABS ROAD STUDY UPDATE

Laurie Yarnes, Clallam Conservation District, distributed photos of flooding at the Three Crabs Road area. Ms. Yarnes indicated that the Conservation District has a Dungeness Comprehensive Water Study Grant that is a two-year (4 phases) project with focus on the Three Crabs Road area. With the project in

the beginning stages, currently there is discussion to hire a consultant and meeting facilitator. Aspects of the project include restoration, enhancement, and education. An advisory committee will be formed to work with the County regarding septic issues.

Janine Reed noted that several septic systems are affected by the flooding in that area.

Chair Tharinger discussed the breaching of Meadowbrook Creek (it's currently heading out to Straits instead of to the River), and high tide and wind action contributors. Another issue is the high water table in the subject area. Discussion was had. Chair Tharinger indicated that if anyone is interested in participating in the project, they should contact Laurie Yarnes or Clea Rome, Project Manager.

IV. PHASE IV WATERSHED PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION

Cynthia Nelson discussed the watershed meeting conducted yesterday in Tacoma, and handouts were distributed. One of the handouts included a letter from Jay Manning (DOE) encouraging the DRMT to be involved in assisting Department of Ecology with setting its 2007-2009 budget priorities for that cycle. Another handout was a copy of the presentation that Joe Stohr (DOE) gave yesterday. Mr. Stohr has been talking internally as well as to community members, and DOE is serious about wanting to hear from the planning units regarding priority projects being included in its budget. A schedule is included in the presentation handout. Ecology has asked that information be forwarded to them by the end of April, and project requests will be submitted through the watershed leads to the respective regional offices. Priorities will be taken to the southwest regional office, and an internal review with other watershed leads and management team will be conducted. Projects get higher points if they were mentioned in the watershed plan specifically as an early action implementation item, such as the Atterberry Reservoir. Ms. Nelson suggested deciding who is going to do the first work on this. She also suggested looking at the projects that were mentioned in the Dungeness Chapter of the Salmon Recovery Plan, as well as those that are being submitted to Shared Strategy for SRFB 2007-2009 term. Other helpful items to review would be the projects in the watershed plan and the original DRMT project list. Ms. Nelson noted we need to figure out which projects are ready to go, and which fit the watershed criteria.

Chair Tharinger indicated that there is some work that needs to be done to set some priorities within the categories earlier discussed, and that relate to water quality issues.

In order to proceed, Cynthia Nelson asked what the Team thought of a smaller work group reviewing the items noted and making a presentation in April. Discussion was had in support. Ms. Nelson asked who was interested in participating in a smaller group, and indicated that she will provide regional clarification via email, as well as meeting information and materials. Further discussion was had.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER UPDATES

SRFB / NOPLE Update

Chair Tharinger reported that various scenarios will be addressed this Friday, and that he will submit his recommendation to the SRFB for the April meeting. Currently, regional allocations are being reviewed, and a fixed allocation will go to the regions. The concept is to develop strengths within the regions, but not to lose the strategic approach through the lead entity effort, and to build the relationship between lead entities and regions to develop recovery.

Further discussion was had regarding accessing funding. One of the issues includes what to do with the west side of the NOPLE with WRIA 20. Chair Tharinger indicated that he will recommend setting up a coastal region. There is a issues task force meeting on Friday to review proposals, and then Chair Tharinger will make a presentation to the SRFB. Finally, development of the final policies will be conducted in April, and be ready to begin the grant round in May.

Cynthia Nelson provided an update regarding project suggestions for the Environmental Assessment Program.

VI. ADJOURNMENT