

## **DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Meeting of September 13, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

### **Team Members and Alternates Present**

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County  
Cathy Lear, (Alt) Clallam County  
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning  
Hansi Hals, (Alt) North Olympic Land Trust  
Tom Martin, Am. Water Resources Association  
Shawn Hines, (Alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Annette de Knijf, USFW

Randy Johnson, WDFW  
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association  
Don Hatler, (Alt) Sport Fisheries  
Cynthia Nelson, DOE  
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust  
John Beitzel, City of Sequim

### **Others Present**

Welden Clark, Virginia Erwin, Ann Soule, Steve Rankin, Byron Rot, Larry Ogg, Nikki Sather, Heidi Vogel, Shelley Spalding, Bob Metzger, Jessica Coyle

### **I. Introductions / Review Agenda / Approval of June 14, 2006 Meeting Notes**

Chair Tharinger opened the meeting, and introductions were conducted. Mr. Tharinger noted the addition to the agenda of two updates: Bob Boekelheide, with an announcement about River Festival; and Ann Soule, with an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASE) update and announcement. These will be added directly after the first public comment period.

#### **June 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Cynthia Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mike Jeldness seconded the motion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

#### **PUD Water Right Application**

Virginia Erwin indicated that there was an article in the newspaper two weeks ago with regard to PUD requesting additional water rights from Washington State Department of Ecology for the Carlsborg area. She and asked the Team for clarification on PUD's request. Tom Martin explained that PUD submitted a water right request during August 2006 to DOE to provide water for projected use up to 2020 in the Carlsborg UGA area. Included in the proposal, was the use of three existing wells in the subject area. Mr. Martin will begin working with DOE, in order to provide more information.

Chair Tharinger reiterated notes from the June 14, 2006 meeting minutes, which included Team discussion for a water right application submitted by Battelle through DOE. As a result of that June discussion, the Team submitted a letter to Ecology requesting written clarification of the water right application process in relationship to the approved WRIA 18 watershed plan. The purpose of the letter was to ensure that DOE's process in issuing water rights is compatible with that watershed planning work. The same applies to the request by PUD.

Mr. Tharinger stated that in the plan, we did stress the importance of trying to direct water use to municipal and public purveyors, so the submitted request by the PUD is in line with what the Plan recommends. The question is how much water is available, both for water rights and surface water for salmon and other uses.

Cynthia Nelson indicated that although she does not work for the water resources program, she wanted to clarify that submitted requests are processed/reviewed, but that does not necessarily mean that issuance of permits are provided to all applicants, nor are there any certainties of getting a water right by applying. Discussion was had.

## **II. Dungeness River Festival – Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness River Audubon Center**

Bob Boekelheide indicated that the Festival will be conducted September 22 & 23, and invited the Team to attend and be involved in the Festival. Mr. Boekelheide outlined Festival activities for Friday and Saturday, and indicated that there are several groups that have already stated that they will have exhibits at the Festival, which is a good tool for public outreach. To date, those having exhibits at the Festival include: Clallam Conservation District, Clallam County Environmental Health, Clallam County Marine Resources Committee, NOAA, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, North Olympic Land Trust, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Olympic National Forest, Olympic National Park, recycling program in Port Angeles, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Peninsula Trails Coalition, Puget Sound Action Team, Streamkeepers, USFW, and Washington Trails Association. Applications for exhibits may still be entered, and volunteers are needed.

Chair Tharinger suggested having calibrated meters and related information available at the Festival, as there are meters available (through City of Sequim) for those who want to voluntarily meter their wells. Discussion was had with regard to the possibility of DOE funding meter installation. New meters may need to be purchased. Chair Tharinger noted that the County would take care of the data. Following discussion, it was decided that Cynthia Nelson will coordinate with Jim Bay. Ann Soule offered to have a sign-up sheet at the County booth, and noted she already has ten or so names on a list.

## **III. Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Ann Soule, Clallam County**

Ann Soule reported that a Technical Advisory Group met previously to this meeting to discuss the aquifer storage and recovery project. Ms. Soule provided some background information and potential impacts and concerns, and noted that a habitat evaluation subcommittee is convening to work on a study design on how to evaluate potential impacts from diverting Dungeness River water during high flows (above recommended instream flows). Questions to answer will be how much diverted water would have an impact on habitat. The meeting will be held October 12<sup>th</sup>. E-mail or call Ann if you are interested in attending or participating in the meeting. The River Restoration Work Group will be attending.

Mike Jeldness asked if Agnew/Highland runoff is being considered as a source for November recharge. That stormwater is currently directed at Johnson and McDonald Creeks.

## **IV. Bull Trout Research – Shelley Spaulding, USFWS; Larry Ogg, USFS; Heidi Vogel, graduate student; Nikki Sather**

Larry Ogg, U.S. Forest Service, provided a PowerPoint presentation on results of bull trout data collection. He indicated that the U.S. Forest Service, along with multiple partners, started the project in 2003. The implementation process and objectives were discussed. Results of radio-tagged fish were as follows:

- 72% use the entire system (fluvial), versus those that are resident species;
- 47% utilize estuaries and saltwater (anadromous);
- 69% move into saltwater between May – August;
- Remainder entered saltwater during September, October and January;
- Two radio transmitters were recovered – one in Morse Creek and one in Valley Creek; and

- Five anglers reported catches with radio transmitters;

Data was provided with regard to spawning surveys conducted on the entire Grey Wolf and Dungeness.

In closing, volunteers and numerous groups were acknowledged.

Nikki Sather presented research she is conducting near the Dungeness River mouth on salmon early life histories in the Dungeness estuary. Her work includes multiple scale analyses via fyke trapping at high tide and beach seining.

Heidi Vogel described a large woody debris study she is conducting on the Dungeness.

## **II. Adjourn**