

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of May 10, 2006

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternates Present

Cathy Lear, Clallam County (Alt)	Eloise Kailin, Protect Peninsula's Future (Alt)
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning	Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Don Hatler, Sport Fisheries (Alt)	Randy Johnson, WDFW
Cathy Lucero, North Olympic Land Trust	Tom Martin, Am. Water Resources Association
Cynthia Nelson, DOE	Les Jones, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (Alt)	Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (Alt)
Pam Sanguinetti, USFW (Alt)	John Cambalik, PSAT and Ecology (Alt)

Others Present

Susan Stark, Byron Rot, Welden Clark, Hilton Turnbull, Shelley Spalding, Cheryl Baumann, Steve Rankin, Bob Boekelheide

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Virginia Clark called the meeting to order and introductions were conducted.

Minutes of March 15, 2006

Les Jones indicated that although he did not sign in during the March meeting, he was present and the minutes should be amended to reflect his attendance. Mike Jeldness made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Les Jones seconded the motion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of April 12, 2006

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

II. NOXIOUS WEEDS IN THE DUNGENESS

Cathy Lucero and Hilton Turnbull provided a presentation regarding noxious weeds in the Dungeness. *An Invasive Species: Fact and Figures* sheet was distributed. Discussion was had with regard to characteristics. Adverse impacts of noxious weeds were noted as follows:

- Invasive species compete for light, water, nutrients and space;
- Invasive species are non-native;
- Invasive species are extremely aggressive;
- Invasive species are hard to control and get rid of, once established;
- Invasive species cause economic and environmental damage;
- Invasive species destroy wildlife habitat;
- Invasive species cause flooding by backing up stream systems; and
- Invasive species reduce recreational use.

Plants v. Streams

Plants and streams are very much interconnected with various affects on one another. For example, plants/vegetation provide shade over water, which helps in maintaining lower water temperatures – and higher oxygen levels. Discussion was had regarding how plants add nutrients to the water, keep sediment from entering the water, and filter pollutants that may be in water runoff. Various noxious plant species, including ornamentals, have been identified in the Dungeness. Discussion was had regarding concerns related to Poison Hemlock, Tansy Ragwort, Canary Grass, Knotweed, and various other species.

Active measures, including projects led by Hilton Turnbull to eradicate Knotweed and Butterfly bush in the Dungeness, were further discussed, as well as tracking methods and results, public outreach, monitoring, and funding.

III. DUNGENESS RIVER AUDUBON CENTER UPDATE

History

Bob Boekelheide indicated that Railroad Bridge Park consists of approximately 28 acres with most of the Park property located on the east side of the Dungeness River. The Park is an active partnership of the River Center Foundation, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the National Audubon Society.

Mr. Boekelheide reported that the Bridge is leaking creosote into the River and will have to be replaced. He further stressed the fact that the Park is in an excellent accessible location to all.

2005 Statistics

- 491 events were held with over 11,000 people participating in events;
- Approximately 5,500 visitors signed the guest book;
- Visitors are increasing from outside the area;
- Field trips regarding watershed studies were provided to over 1,600 students (4th-8th grades) and 350 adults attending;
- 200 seventh graders from Sequim Middle School participated in Watershed Week;
- Various presentations were conducted in classrooms; and
- 74 public presentations were conducted on site.

Mr. Boekelheide encouraged volunteering to assist with facility events.

Goal & Current

The Center's mission is to interpret the natural history of the north Olympic Peninsula, focusing on the Dungeness River, the watershed, birds, fish, and residents, and to enable residents, students and visitors to explore, understand, preserve, and enjoy the unique natural environment. Mr. Boekelheide stated that staff use the facility to reach the public, involve the public in citizen science programs, preserve and manage the best public access to the lower 11 miles, and have a great place for people to utilize. He encouraged the DRMT to keep the public involved. He also noted that every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a bird walk in the Park is open to the public and visitors, and great data is being compiled from the walks.

Finance

The annual budget is approximately \$185,000 with all partners conducting fundraising events for the Center each year. Some additional funding sources include the gift shop, classes, and donations are accepted for presentations and classes. In the past three years, the National Audubon Society has covered the annual deficit of \$60,000 - \$70,000. However, during the next fiscal year, the Society is limiting their contribution to \$35,000, which means all other money will need to be raised locally. Fortunately, in April we received a \$50,000 matching donation.

Education Programs

Education programs are conducted for all ages. There are two internship programs, one for high school students and one for college students. School field trips are targeted to late elementary and middle school students. Summer camps are available to students, and volunteers are needed to assist with camp projects. Group projects are also conducted. Mr. Boekelheide indicated that they would like to develop additional classes, and solicited Team members in teaching a class or providing presentations on a specific topic to the public. The Tribe has been involved in classes at the Center, and Summer River talks are conducted at the Center each Saturday of the season.

Mr. Boekelheide distributed hand-out material as an example of data collected with 7th graders, and provided an overview of questionnaire results.

BREAK

A break was taken.

IV. DUNGENESS MIDDLE REACH ANALYSIS

Byron Rot indicated that, following a landowner urging the Tribe to provide information on the middle reach of the Dungeness River, a grant was applied for in January 2006 to conduct a study of the middle reach, specifically the stretch between Dungeness Meadows and Kincaid Island. Discussion was had. This reach was ranked number one by EDT for Chinook productivity. Byron discussed the 1971 dike, and that the river has still not recovered in that area from the consequences of gravel traps installed in 1995.

The Tribe will work with the River Restoration Work Group to narrow down the focus of the study, but it will focus on restoration, risk assessment and flood prevention, and will include a hydraulic model with scenarios of various restoration alternatives.

V. FLOOD PLAN STATUS

Cathy Lear reported that the hope is to start the SEPA on the Flood Plan this summer, once the SEPA Determination for the Elwha Dam removal is complete. FEMA is updating the flood insurance rate maps, and starting in the fall, they are planning to update Clallam County's maps using LIDAR. Hansi noted there are some areas where the LIDAR information is not accurate. Ms. Lear responded that they would like FEMA to do some ground-truthing, but it would likely need to be paid for.

Further discussion was had on whether the Flood Plan itself would be updated.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT / UPDATES

Puget Sound Public Forum

John Cambalik encouraged folks to attend the Puget Sound partnership public forum tomorrow evening at Fort Worden State Park Commons, with the open house portion commencing at 5:30 prior to the meeting. John distributed fliers for public forums, and indicated that if folks cannot attend the forum tomorrow evening, they can forward comments to www.pugetsoundpartnership.org. There is also a science forum at the UW on Monday, May 15, 2006. Discussion was had.

IFIM / RRWG

Cynthia Nelson reported that the River Restoration Work Group has been requested by Department of Ecology to begin reviewing the IFIM studies, and to also review the pulsing flows project that occurred last year.

Project List for Ecology 2007-09 Budget

Cynthia Nelson thanked those who participated in the ranking, and noted a final version has been sent via email.

Project List for SRFB 2007-09 Applications

Cathy Lear thanked Shawn Hines for printing copies of the lists for the Team that were forwarded to the Shared Strategy, and introduced Cheryl Baumann, NOPLC Coordinator, who worked on compiling information. Discussion was had regarding the project implementation information and project narratives, and Ms. Lear confirmed that everyone received the hand-out entitled *Dungeness Recovery Strategy Summary*. Discussion was had.

Public Comment

There was no final public comment.

VII. ADJOURN