

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of February 8, 2006
Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternates Present

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County	Randy Johnson, WDFW
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Prop. Owners	Tom Martin, Am. Water Resources Assoc.
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners	Les Jones, DQ Planning (alt)
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)	Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future
Virginia Clark, DQ Planning	John Beitzel, City of Sequim
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Hansi Hals, North Olympic Land Trust (alt)
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries (alt)	Cynthia Nelson, DOE

Others Present

Welden Clark, John Grissim, Byron Rot, Bill Bjorklund

I. INTRODUCTIONS / REVIEW AGENDA / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Introductions were conducted, and the agenda was reviewed and approved as submitted.

Approval of December 14, 2005 Minutes

Pete Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. John Beitzel seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January 11, 2006 Minutes

This item was tabled for the March meeting.

Chair Tharinger noted that during the Executive Committee meeting that was conducted prior to the start of the regular meeting, the Committee noticed some scheduling conflicts for several Committee members with regard to the DRMT March meeting date. Chair Tharinger asked the Team to think about their schedules with regard to rescheduling the meeting to March 15, 2006. This item will be revisited prior to adjournment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Grissim, Dungeness River property owner, reiterated his previous comments from the January 11, 2006 DRMT meeting regarding the damage done by a landscaping business to a riparian area near his home. He commended the leadership of the Team, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Commissioner Tharinger for addressing the issue, and indicated that there has been exceptional progress. Mr. Grissim reported that a WDFW Habitat Biologist visited the site last week and confirmed that there was a lot of debris on the subject property. The biologist discussed the significant problem as well as clean-up efforts with the property owner, who recognized the problem and agreed to clean the property. Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, also visited the area and concurred that the property owner is in violation of the stream buffer. A letter was then generated from the Tribe to Robert Robertsen, Director/ DCD, and through subsequent conversations with Mr. Robertsen, Commissioner Tharinger and Mr. Grissim, it was evident that there was an issue that needed to be dealt with. Mr. Grissim said that Mr. Robertsen indicated that, although the County's compliance/enforcement position is vacant, he would have a staff person visit the site soon.

II. LETTER FROM DRMT TO COUNTY DCD RE: ZONING COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT

Chair Tharinger indicated that the letter addresses issues brought to the Team's attention by Mr. Grissim, and the County's involvement with regard to compliance and enforcement. The letter was circulated for review and comment, to be revisited later on during the meeting.

III. NOMINATIONS TO SHARED STRATEGY EXPANDED DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Tharinger reminded the Team that Bill Laitner, Ron Allen and himself received a letter from Shared Strategy to appoint a representative to the Shared Strategy Development Committee. It is believed that the Development Committee will be taking on a higher profile in the rural effort of salmon recovery in the ESU unit of the Puget Sound for Chinook. At the last meeting, we discussed inquiring whether we can appoint two representatives, one each for the East and West sides. It has been discussed with Jim Kramer, but Mr. Kramer is less open to that. The DRMT Executive Committee has discussed the issue, and still recommends appointing a representative for Elwha and a representative for the Dungeness.

Nominations were as follows:

- During the previous DRMT meeting, Mike Jeldness nominated Walt Blendermann.
- Virginia Clark nominated Scott Chitwood in an e-mail.
- Pete Schroeder submitted a letter of interest via e-mail.
- Pat Crain was suggested during discussions. However, after speaking with him, he is not comfortable sitting on the Committee.
- Doug Morrill is also suggested.

Chair Tharinger announced that the Executive Committee recommends that Scott Chitwood and Doug Morrill be appointed as the representatives for the Shared Strategy's Expanded Development Committee. The Executive Committee feels as though representation from a government is important at this level, and that representation from a Tribal government would be an advantage.

Al Moore asked Scott Chitwood what his interest is in being nominated. Mr. Chitwood stated that he had discussed it with Tribal Chairman, Ron Allen, and they agreed he should accept. Don Hatler asked if Mr. Chitwood would be considered a Tribal representative or a DRMT representative. Mr. Chitwood responded that he would be a DRMT representative. Following further discussion, the recommendation and motion from the Executive Committee was seconded by Al Moore. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Tharinger indicated that the SRFB is starting to look at its funding allocation and parameters for the next round which may include funding through these regions. Further negotiations and discussion will continue prior to the SRFB meeting of April 8, 2006.

Chair Tharinger also noted that half of NOBLE is within the Shared Strategy ESU area, but the coastal zone is not; so, if SRFB goes to a regional format, a coastal region may need to be formed. He asked the Team to let him know if there are any comments on this. Randy Johnson suggested that the NOBLE should be extended to Port Townsend, and having a Straits of Juan de Fuca Lead Entity (to include WRIA 19). Pete Schroeder agreed with Mr. Johnson, and suggested the Team could write a letter.

After further discussion, Scott Chitwood made a motion to forward a letter to NOAA Fisheries to inquire about the current status of the Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead ESUs, and whether there is a reason to reconsider the ESU boundaries for both species, now that we are in the recovery phase. Tyler Ahlgren seconded the motion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The letter from DRMT to County DCD regarding Zoning Compliance and Enforcement was revisited. Don Hatler made a motion to approve and sign the letter as submitted, and forward to Robert Robertsen. Tyler Ahlgren seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

BREAK

A break was taken at 2:55pm.

IV. REALLOCATION OF USFW SECTION 6 FUNDING

Randy Johnson reminded the Team that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and USFW have collaborated on a couple of grants to purchase critical habitat in the Dungeness River corridor. The grant applications were successful due to the interest in acquisition of the Severson property, and negotiations with the landowner. Hansi Hals identified the subject area by referring to photos.

Unfortunately, the landowner's attorney is now not accepting the offer price. Norm Dicks may be giving the landowner a call, but it's not looking good. Since the available funding is due to expire, the Restoration Work Group looked through the "green book" to find other appropriate parcels for fee simple purchase (not easements). The Work Group has identified other parcels for which funding could be used.

Les Jones stated he hoped that the case wouldn't be considered closed until after contact has been made with the landowner herself, because the educational opportunities with that property are so important. Chair Tharinger indicated that he will talk with Congressman Dicks' staff, to inquire whether he has contacted Mrs. Severson, and if so, whether she has given any inclination that she is interested in selling her property. In the mean time, we need to be ready in case this property officially falls through.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR OTHER UPDATES

Chair Tharinger reported that Cathy Lear is excused, as she is meeting with FEMA to review flood maps. She can give an update at the next meeting.

Cynthia Nelson defined terms related to water rights. "Inchoate rights" is the term given to those who hold a water right certificate, but have not put the water to use. Certificates are issued after permits are issued. Permits are required to prove beneficial use. Ms. Nelson noted there is a lot of information in Chapter 2 of the Watershed Plan on water rights.

Ms. Nelson announced that WRIA 17 is hiring a facilitator, and Ecology is hiring a contractor for outreach. We hope to start again on WRIA 18 in-stream flow rule-making language in a few months.

The next DRMT meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

VI. ADJOURN