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DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of July 13, 2005

Notes Prepared By: Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Team Members and Alternatives Present

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County

Al Moore, Riverside Property Owner

Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association

Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries (alt)

John Cambalik, PSAT (alt for Ecology)

Annette de Knijf, USFW

Les Jones, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning (alt)

Tom Martin, American Water Resources Assoc.

Randy Johnson, WDFW

Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)

Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning

Cynthia Nelson, DOE

Peter Schroeder, Riverside Property Owner

Tyler Ahlgren, Protect the Peninsula's Future

Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District

Others Present

Welden Clark, Diane Hood, Chris Hempleman, Luke Cherney, Janine Reed, Andy Brastad and Val Streeter.

I. Introductions / Review Agenda / Approval of Meeting Notes

Steve Tharinger, Chair, opened the meeting. Introductions were conducted.

Approval of Minutes

April minutes were approved, and June minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 1, Public Comment: Fill in blank with "Erik Prange".
- Page 1, Item II, WRIA 18 Rulemaking Update, paragraph 1: Delete "August".
- Page 2, Item III, State of the Sound Presentation, paragraph 6: Change "incline" to "decline".

Public Comment Period

Mike Jeldness stated that the water users are pulling out 59 cfs this year, verses 72 cfs last year.

Tom Martin noted that Cathy Lear will be the DRMT contact for the NASA proposal.

Cynthia Nelson stated that Department of Ecology may have funding to allow for the preparation of more detailed and formal DRMT meeting notes. If the funding is there, perhaps the County would contract with someone to do the minutes. The Team was asked to keep an eye out for anyone they think might be interested. It was suggested that someone at the River Center might be appropriate.

John Cambalik distributed the latest Soundwaves newsletter.

II. On-Site Sewage Treatment - Terry Hull, Puget Sound Action Team

Terry Hull presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Team. He noted that PSAT is preparing to work on an on-site bill for the next legislative session, as the last bill failed to pass. Bullet point facts from the presentation included:

- 500,000 Puget Sound homes are have on-site septic systems
- 3.2 mgd of sewage discharged to soils in the Hood Canal watershed

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- 54,000 Hood Canal residents use on-sites
- On-sites remove 30% of Nitrogen
- One of the priority areas PSAT is focusing on is to prevent nutrient/pathogen pollution and to have better management of on-sites

John Cambalik noted that with the Kitsap County Health District study showed no correlation with Nitrogen (N) and fecal coliform (FC). That is, they had results showing high N, low FC and low N, high FC. This suggests that FC may not be a good indicator of nutrients.

2005 Bill: This is the bill that did not pass. The bill asked for:

- Local on-site sewage management plans
- Department of Health review of plans
- Improved data on systems (help local health jurisdictions improve data management and ramp data up to a regional scale)
- Environmental authorities for Department of Health
- Funding for system repairs (this is the biggest issue for next legislative session)
- Certification of maintenance professionals

2006 Legislative Topics: PSAT is currently brainstorming and getting ideas on the table for the various interests, so that everyone can be on board. Some of the topics so far include:

- Funding system repairs
- Certification of maintenance professionals
- Regionalized management / pooling resources
- Integration of public health and environmental law and rules (there shouldn't be a disconnect)
- Other?

Pete Schroeder asked what defines "failure". Terry responded that it could be any of the following: failure to treat sewage; sewage noticed on surface of ground; swage backed up into structure; presence of cesspools; seepage pits; contaminating groundwater or surface water.

Discussion was had about the chemistry of Nitrogen as it leaves the system.

Les Jones commented that Department of Ecology goes by what the well drillers say, as far as where the wells are drilled (no ground-truthing).

Andy Brastad commented that the WRIA 18 Plan recommends that a coordination process needs to happen to get well drillers/DOE/County together. DOE has a capacity problem (staffing issue). The County is trying to inform well drillers more now.

III. Septics of Concern Update - *Andy Brastad and Janine Reed, Clallam County*

Andy Brastad handed out and discussed a fact sheet on On-site Septic System management Planning and summary of the local existing conditions. He commented that the systems are good, but capacity is poor (not enough staff/resources), and that permit fees do not go over well with the public.

Steve Tharinger commented that the systems need to be looked at as part of an overall single infrastructure.

Joe Holtrop asked if larger systems (like Costco) have good maintenance records. Andy said no.

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Janine Reed gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the latest progress on the Septics of Concern (SOC) list. To be considered a SOC, criteria include one of the following: age of system, history of repairs, no records on file.

Janine discussed the following statistics: 123 properties were sent letters asking property owners to get their systems inspected; 16 allowed the County to inspect. 3 out of the 16 showed system failures, which have since been repaired.

In 2005, 16 more repairs have been completed so far, or are pending near Matriotti, Mud, Meadowbrook Creeks and near Golden Sands. Repairs have also been conducted of properties not on the SOC list.

Janine reported that she received dye-test training from Kitsap County, and she has started conducting the tests. Janine discussed the cost-share program for helping to pay for system repairs. Interested public must meet certain criteria and attend a Septics 101 course.

Cost-share: The cost-share includes:

- up to 50% cost of inspections, system location, tank uncovering (up to \$200);
- up to \$150 for riser installation;
- up to \$ 175 for pumping tank, once inspection and riser installation is completed; and
- up to \$ 75.00 for minor repairs such as baffle replacement or replacing broken lids on a riser.

So far, 2 property owners have participated in cost share. The next steps include site visits focused at properties near Matriotti Creek; continued monitoring of failures and repairs in the Dungeness area; and monitoring of the Thornton Drive ditch.

An O&M Workgroup has been established; two meetings have been held. The group decided to have WOSSA proctor the County's O&M certification tests.

IV. Low Impact Development (LID) - *John Cambalik, Puget Sound Action Team*

John Cambalik presented a PowerPoint presentation on Low Impact Development. The presentation outlined stormwater runoff impacts to water quality and quantity, and showed that LID is a key piece to managing stormwater. John also discussed the effects of population growth and the problems with conventional stormwater management. The rest of the presentation gave examples of LID, outlined the contents of the LID Technical Manual produced by PSAT, and described integrated management practices including: bio-retention, amended soils, permeable pavement, vegetated roofs, rainwater harvesting and minimal excavation foundations.

For more information, see www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/LID.

V. Other Announcements/Updates

Joe Holtrop announced several Conservation District updates:

1. The Three Crabs area (Meadowbrook, Casselary, Cooper Creeks) assessment grant through DOE will start in the fall. It will assess restoration options, water quality and flood control and will look at all the options for restoring estuarine functions in the area.
2. The Conservation District has been awarded a grant from the EPA to work with Clallam County Department of Community Development on development of an LID template/strategies and work on permitting process to make it easier to implement LID projects.

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3. Another grant has been awarded by DOE to the District to fund technical and financial assistance to farm operations throughout the county for water quality protection/improvement. There will also be an education component for providing outreach to schools.
4. The project funded by IEP/DOE Ref 38/EPA to join the main canals of Clallam, Cline and Dungeness District is in the engineering/planning phase (engineering to be completed next month).
5. Conservation District has also applied for drought response funding for soil moisture monitoring equipment for irrigators.
6. The re-regulation reservoir project has started, but is currently on hold – waiting for more funding. The project will start up again in August, and is expected to be completed in the fall.
7. Luke Chirney introduced himself as the full time CREP Coordinator for the two Conservation Districts in Jefferson and Clallam counties.

Joe handed out the draft of the long-range plan for the Conservation District. It was approved by the Board to go to public review. There will be a public meeting on August 23. A press release will announce it.

Cynthia Nelson noted that DOE will be meeting internally to discuss priorities for the \$1.5 million proviso.

VI. Adjourn