

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Meeting of May 11, 2005

Notes Prepared By: Tami Breitbach, Clallam County DCD

Team Members and Alternatives Present

Steve Tharinger, Chair, Clallam County
Randy Johnson, WDFW
Al Moore, Riverside Prop. Owner (RM 0-3.25)
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Virginia Clark, DQ-Planning

Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries (alt)
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Cynthia Nelson, DOE
John Beitzel, City of Sequim
Peter Schroeder, Riverside Prop. Owner (RM 3.25-4.25)
Cathy Lear, Clallam County (alt)
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District

Others Present

Andy Brastad, Byron Rot, Val Streeter, Brad Caldwell, Dave Nazy, Kathleen Ensenat, Phil Wiatrik, and Tyler Ahlgren, Welden Clark.

I. Introductions / Review Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Chair Tharinger opened the meeting, and introductions were conducted.

Chair Tharinger discussed amendments to the Agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 13, 2005 will be approved at the June 8, 2005 meeting, along with the minutes of May 11, 2005.

Chair Tharinger reported that Char Apgood has requested withdrawal from the Team, and that Tyler Ahlgren be the representative of Protect the Peninsula's Future, with Eloise Kailin as the alternate Team member. Procedure is that this would be approved by Ron Allen, Chairman, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and District 1 Commissioner (Chair Tharinger), and asked for consensus of the Team. The Team approved Tyler Ahlgren, as the new Team member. No discussion was had.

Public Comment Period

Discussion was had regarding the potential sewer extension across the Dungeness River, and whether the Team would be addressed regarding this issue.

Chair Tharinger indicated that the County does support this issue, however the County's intent is to provide sewer services to the Carlsborg area, and that negotiations are continuing between the County and City of Sequim. Chair Tharinger further indicated that the public would be able to comment with regard to a GIS process.

II. WRIA 18 Plan – Approval of Revisions

Valerie Streeter reported that a final memorandum has been prepared to the Board of Clallam County Commissioners to ask them to accept the WRIA 18 Watershed Plan with amendments that were made during the previous meetings, and that a sign-up sheet is available for those willing to sign in support and/or who participated with the Plan, and will be submitted as an attachment to the memorandum. The Board will then announce a Call for Hearing tentatively scheduled for their June 7, 2005 meeting, and asked the Team to attend for additional support of the Plan. Andy Brastad distributed a copy of the memorandum and a signature page, for review by the Team. Discussion was had.

III. Drought Response Strategies

Cynthia Nelson indicated that the State is in their third year of the three-year contract with the Water Users to lease water that otherwise would have irrigated lands. An appropriation from the legislature has

been received with regard to the drought, and a 1.4 million-dollar appropriation is in the works to lease or buy water. Cynthia Nelson distributed copies of the watershed implementation funding budget, and provided review. Cynthia Nelson further noted that the Department of Ecology has a drought page dedicated to the water resources section on the State's website, and that drought funding and resources are available. Discussion was had regarding water conservation, public outreach, agriculture irrigation, and domestic water use.

Mike Jeldness discussed and distributed handouts regarding WUA water conservation activities.

IV. WRIA 17 Quilcene/Snow Rulemaking

Brad Caldwell began by indicating that he was asked to comment on streams around Sequim Bay, those of which are Jimmycomelately, Johnson, Chicken Coop and Dean Creeks. Brad Caldwell distributed a flow exceedence probability hydrograph – BOR synthesized data for each creek, and reviewed the variable annual flows. A Powerpoint presentation was presented.

A draft pre-proposal to manage Dungeness River water resources using Pacific Northwest regional collaborative tools was distributed to the Team for review. The final draft language would be available on June 30, 2005, and signed. Public hearings would begin in July 2005 with adoption of the rule in October 2005.

The hand-out with elements of rule for Quilcene Snow (WRIA 17) and Elwha Dungeness (WRIA 18) was distributed which included information regarding in-stream flows, groundwater reserves, closures, metering, future permitting, and schedule. Discussion was had regarding these items.

Chair Tharinger indicated that Andy Brastad is the contact person at the County, if there are any further questions or input.

V. BOR Hydraulic Study

Byron Rot briefed the Team on the hydraulic model which is a two-dimensional model, and is more sophisticated than the previous model. The main idea is to how to manage the Dungeness River in terms of dikes. The BOR is also interested in input from the Team with regard to any alternatives that may be applied.

VI. Shared Strategy Follow-ups

Cathy Lear began by thanking the Team for their participation in the Plan, and indicated she received a letter of appreciation from Shared Strategy regarding the timely receipt of the Plan. Cathy Lear indicated that work is continuing on Section F of the Plan, and that she met with the BOCC, Steve Gray and Rob Robertsen to discuss this section. During the meeting, the BOCC indicated that DCD would be providing the work, as reflected in Section F, and that Rob Robertsen needs to agree to the requirements of his staff as stated in Section F. Discussion was had regarding concerns of the Plan being submitted as incomplete, without Section F.

VII. Other Announcements / Updates

Cathy Lear indicated that at the last DRMT Meeting, Tom Martin made a presentation regarding a potential proposal to be submitted to NASA to take some of the tools developed, and bring into the Dungeness Watershed to assist in the management of the Dungeness River water resources by the use of Northwest Regional collaborative tools. The pre-proposal was drafted, and Cynthia Nelson briefed the Team on the context. The deadline for finalization is not clear, however, the Team can forward any comments or concerns to Cathy Lear.

2005 Salmon Management Pre-Season Planning

Scott Chitwood updated the Team by indicating that the co-managers go through a lengthy process every February, March and April, to plan salmon fisheries within the region. Scott Chitwood indicated that the Dungeness Chinook stock is no longer in the critical threshold category of Puget Sound Chinook stocks, as the abundance levels are high enough to decrease the level of concern. The current impacts on the Dungeness Chinook will not exceed 10%, opposed to previous years not exceeding 5% or 6%.

Scott Chitwood closed by indicating that a significant key issue missing as an element relied upon the planning process, was that an abundance forecast for B.C. populations, and the 2005 fishery impact analysis was not provided until three days prior to the management plan deadline. Discussion was had regarding management.

Chair Tharinger indicated that milestone information should be forwarded to Shawn Hines.

Chair Tharinger inquired whether the Team would prefer only local news articles within the news clipping file, or whether it should include expanded news articles. Discussion was had regarding the helpfulness of having the file include news articles from outside the area as well. Shawn Hines indicated that the local news articles could be circulated at the DRMT Meetings, and other articles from outside the area could be emailed to the Team. The Team agreed this would be an effective process with regard to circulation.

Tyler Ahlgren provided some personal background information to the Team.

VIII. Adjourn