

Dungeness River Management Team Meeting November 8th, 2006

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Steve Tharinger, Clallam County
Cathy Lear, (Alt) Clallam County
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Shawn Hines, (Alt) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Al Moore, Riverside Property Owners
Mike Jeldness, Water Users Association
Walt Blendermann, Sport Fisheries
Cynthia Nelson, WA Dept. of Ecology
Virginia Clark, Dungeness/Quilcene Planning

John Cambalik, PSAT and (Alt) WA Dept. of Ecology
Les Jones, (Alt) Dungeness/Quilcene Planning
John Beitzel, City of Sequim
Hansi Hals, (Alt) North Olympic Land Trust
Pete Schroeder, Riverside Property Owners
Pam Sanginetti, (Alt) Dungeness Nat. Wildlife Ref.
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Tom Martin, Clallam PUD

Others in Attendance:

Welden Clark, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Cheryl Baumann, NOPLC Coordinator
Steve Rankin, Streamkeepers
Jessica Colye, Graysmarsh
Matt Heins, Dungeness Farms
Diane Hood, Property Owner

Byron Rot, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Andy Brastad, Clallam County
Robert Brown, Property Owner
Susan Rennels, Property Owner
Bob Boekelheide, Dungeness R. Audubon Cent.
Melissa Coughlin, Independent Contractor

2:00 PM Meeting Began

I. Introductions

- **Reviewed Agenda:** New item: "Watershed Restoration Protection and Grant" was added under 3rd agenda item
- **Approval of Meeting Notes:**
 - Steve Tharinger moved to approve meeting notes from August 9; John Beitzel seconded; Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously
 - Al Moore moved to approve meeting notes from October 11; Virginia Clark seconded; Following a vote, the motion passed unanimously with two edits (pg. 1, Item I, remove "vice" before chair; pg. 2, Item II, replace "implementing" with "creating" in Joe Holtrop's remark about CELP and the Irrigation Efficiencies Program)
- Cynthia Nelson asked for copy of last month's presentation on Summer Chum; Shawn Hines will make it available

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Cambalik of the Puget Sound Action Team made several announcements:

- A new low impact development brochure is due out soon and will be used by the North Olympic Builders Association
- In mid-January, 3 new reports will be available:
 - Puget Sound – State of the Sound Report
 - Puget Sound Update
 - Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan (state's budget and workplan)
- Puget Sound Partnership recommendations will be finalized today and tomorrow and will be available for viewing on their website
- On December 11th from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M., there will be a technical presentation at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Red Cedar Room by a consultant geologist on Alternative Shoreline Stabilization Techniques. Discussion will include methods and effectiveness of 17 marine shoreline projects.
- Unfortunate news: First shellfish closure at Discovery Bay (on Jefferson County side, just South of Trendwest). Department of Health closure and response process in effect
- A report has been released on cost of NOT managing storm drain water and is available for viewing on website

- Finally, Department of Ecology has released their request for proposals for watershed projects (“capacity building”)

II. Chinook Update Presentation – Scott Chitwood

Scott gave “2006 Dungeness Chinook” presentation that bottom-lined data on the Dungeness Chinook from 1986 to 2006

- Data reflected growing numbers of adults in estimated escapement of spring Chinook spawners to the Dungeness River
- Annual estimates are made by repeatedly surveying the spawning grounds, marking each redd, determining the season total and multiplying by 2.5, which is the average number of adults associated with each redd: 1 female and 1.5 males (Jacks aren’t counted)
- Additional information is collected during the spawning surveys about fish observed, sizes and location of the redd and any carcasses that can be reached are sampled
- This year half of the fish spawned upstream – more diverse places are being used to spawn, the fish are now going to more appropriate places to spawn. Recorded abundance and location of spawning
- Flow data in ’04 and ’05 – late timing, not getting the snow melt flows. 2006 snow melt lasted for a while and upriver distribution of spawning occurred. Distribution, size of snow melt and timing are factors
- Rest of data has to do with fish:
 - Sampling carcasses on the spawning grounds enables managers to collect valuable data
 - Coded wire tag analysis was used to determine the effect of supplemental production via the captive brood program
 - From 2000 through 2004 fisheries managers recovered 130 tags with code 63-05-08 which was the code used for the 1997 brood yearling group released in spring 1999 from Hurd Creek Hatchery
- This is the type of information we use for adaptive management in supplementation program: performance of the release groups is used to drive future supplementation strategies
- The use of recovery information is important to the current release strategy as they are adapted by the success or non-success of releases
- Comments: John Cambalik and Cathy Lear attended conference in Orcas Island where they took a field trip to the hatchery and were told a high percentage of the diet was terrestrial insects. Hatchery found fish on that diet were larger than fish fed the commercial diet. Also percentage predation was allowed
 - Is this something which can be pursued at Graywolf Pond?
 - Complicated, pond is small
 - Different situation, Orcas fish are for harvesting, mainly commercial harvesting

III. Puget Sound/NOPLE Salmon Recovery Planning Update/Discussion – Scott Chitwood

- Update on project funding:
 - Developed Recovery Plan: NOPLE wanted three-year project list
 - Partnership in Shared Strategy is looking for capital projects to take to governor then to legislature. Cheryl Baumann, Scott Chitwood, Cathy Lear, Hansi Hals, Randy Johnson all working on this to cut with different criteria – each cut has different criteria to fit need. Refined list to \$10 million of projects
 - Cheryl - \$10 million +/- 10% = came up with \$11.6 million
 - Will Jim Kramer (Shared Strategy) and Jay Manning (Department of Ecology) pick the projects? Waiting to see what they’ll need next. Unclear which. Too early to tell mechanism
- Cheryl passed around one excel chart of projects (difficulty copying chart)
- Two Paths: This project list and long-term capital projects. Execute projects quickly. Not a lot of land-owner buy-ins – one thing sub-committee was trying to put back into project is Dike setback (not ready to execute – studies, research in work)
- Steve Tharinger added to agenda: Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant:

- This was talked about a year ago, \$2 million supplement from EPA funding/Puget Sound Partnership linking watershed planning, salmon recovery and other issues. Have \$50K for our watershed (lead entity area); We now have the process to apply for those dollars – question is what to apply for?
- Proposed:
 - \$25K to help write WRIA 19 chapter into the Recovery Plan; this is what the DRMT Executive Committee recommends
 - DRMT to write letter (Shawn Hines to draft). Lead Entity, the County, or another jurisdiction can apply for the grant, but thought team consisting of Cathy Lear, Mike McHenry, Caroline Peterschmidt (Makah Tribe) and Anne Schaffer to help create WRIA 19 chapter
 - Concern: John Cambalik: Ecology is going to accept only one application from Olympic Peninsula. Will need to ask Tom Clingman if it can have two components (Tom is administering the grant; John can assist but we need to communicate with Tom)
 - Walt asked Cheryl to add this (\$25K for the WRIA 19 chapter – possibly having multiple components to request for the \$50K) to NOPLA December Retreat Agenda
- Ideas for remaining \$25K:
 - County or Tribe to apply to integrate water quality and salmon recovery all together in grant application
 - Cathy Lear: suggested some portion of money be set aside to help with mileage and per diem for people attending all these meetings.
 - Cynthia asked what would the product be in that situation
 - John again referred to Tom Clingman of the Department of Ecology as the person administering the program and could help with guidelines
 - Steve Tharinger asked to use the time today to discuss definition of the parameters to move forward, or are there other proposals to discuss
 - Steve Tharinger: Trying to develop Clallam County appropriate manual for stormwater ordinances, - adopting Department of Ecology guidelines. – would the manual be a deliverable?
 - Steve Tharinger: Identify the barriers and opportunities, broad guidelines in grant, and think about what our needs are – like specific tasks
- Discussions continued with other ideas for the remaining grant money
- Steve Tharinger brought up that the County and Tribe have concerns with the staffing at all these meetings – with the partnerships, what is the right government structure? Puget Sound Partners – supported council with 2 parts – (1) promote effort and (2) consortium of people to do the work. Would there be an advantage at Lead Entity level or county level to develop a Resource Council (with authority) to look at different watershed issues. What would happen to DRMT? It is an important conduit for information. Both County, local and state have funding/staffing issues – how do we consolidate these efforts. Maybe think about fitting government component with the natural ecosystems we're dealing with.
- Steve Tharinger asked people to think of possible government component/structure that might work. Suggested "Brokers" who are aware and informed on grant incentive programs at all levels. Conservation district – consolidate
- John Cambalik: Mentioned, as an example, the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council which meets monthly to address lots of issues including the environment and natural resources. This council is made of elected officials from City, County, Tribe and other organizations
- If we adopted new structure – What would role of DRMT be?
- Should we use the \$25K to explore this idea of Regional Council?
- Question of ecosystem jurisdiction came up
- How do you fit natural system into government – what is the unit? Is it Lead Entity/County/city/drainage?
- Pete Schroeder: Creating new council, take what we have and & use what we already have; Steve – roll up what we have
- John Cambalik: Recalled a similar conversation at Partnership level – do you create government structure and create tasks or define the tasks that need to be done (all shoreline master plans must

be redone). Another task that needs to be integrated. Identify tasks that need to be integrated first, and look at what we have to deal with them

- Andy Brastad: Has seen tasks that aren't connected but are related – shellfish protection and water quality for example. Topics are for the Health Department and DRMT
- Next time to discuss all this is Thursday from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Port Angeles Library in the Carver Room at the retreat for Lead Entity
 - Cheryl emphasized this meeting will focus on salmon recovery, suggested that a subcommittee needs to be formed to hash through this. Suggested a work group with John and Cynthia to facilitate and coordinate. Cathy Lear volunteered to participate.
- Wrapped up topic: Shawn will draft the letter proposing that a chapter for WRIA 19 should be written using half the grant money; it will be decided later whether the other money will go for specific projects or apply those dollars to do a broader planning effort
- Hardcopy of Department of Ecology 2007 Puget Sound Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Application was passed around for people to quickly review
- Scott Chitwood: Discussed Preferred Transition SRFB Allocations for Puget Sound and the scientific based formula to prioritize projects and money allotments. In the meantime the Tribe put together structure for funding scenarios with set of action items in each which resulted in salmon recovery success (adopted by Recovery Council)
 - Investment strategy used and spread money - \$100 million list over three years on top priority projects
 - Efforts of consultants to mesh \$10 million list and \$5 million list with the \$100 million package
 - Total amount for Puget Sound is \$100 million for priority projects – allocated to 14 different watersheds and their shoreline miles

IV. On-site Septic System Management – Andy Brastad (moved Flood Plan Agenda Item)

- Statewide problem –management planning was pushed hard through legislature
- Puget Sound counties (12) have to have plan in place by July 2008
- On October 6th 25 stakeholders, 15 private individuals, realtors, bankers, County, City, Tribe, Olympic National Park, got together to come up with ideas and to discuss:
 - How to identify septic systems
 - How to enforce plan
- Next meeting is November 13th from 6-8 P.M. in the County Commissioners meeting room to discuss on-site plan. DRMT may want to attend
 - Outreach program – abbreviated Septics 101 to begin at 5:30 to bring everyone to common knowledge level
- Must identify every septic system in each area – find ones we don't know about
 - All septic systems that are conventional systems need to be inspected every two years
 - All septic systems with pumps will be required to be inspected every year
 - Entity that controls the system is the responsible party for inspections
- Part of the management plan: who/when/how of inspections
 - May be up to each county how to enforce
- Capacity and staffing will need to be evaluated
- A lot of the focus of the plan is work within the marine shoreline
 - Identified marine shoreline areas that may be impacted
- Shellfish protection district, which has already been created, may double as marine recovery area
- For the first time ever Public Health is looking at nitrogen loading as well as pathogen problems. Nitrates into surface water can deplete oxygen. Traditionally was environmental issue, not Health Department

V. Flood Plan Update/Status/Next Steps – Cathy Lear

- Plan was completed in June 2003

- Individual items in the plan are being implemented (River's End estuary restoration, dike setback study)
- The draft has been referenced in Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 18 watershed plan and the salmon recovery plan
- Plan describes the physical, regulatory, and socio-economic setting of the Dungeness River. Generic structural remedies are offered. Non-structural recommendations form the heart of the plan
- Flood and erosion hazards along the river are identified, and up to 5 alternatives listed for each of the sites. Alternatives include no action, acquisitions, setbacks of roads and other infrastructure, bioengineering, armoring, and the placement of large log jams.
- Why is plan still in draft form?
 - Lack of designated funding (a partial factor)
 - Lack of capacity (change in staffing levels and focus)
 - Other projects: Hazard Mitigation Plan, salmon recovery plans
 - FEMA maps delayed by a year – due out in 2008. The updated maps will incorporate Lidar data and relevant BOR data.
 - What needs to be done to have the plan approved by the DRMT and BOCC?
- Procedurally:
 - SEPA processes clarified: are they needed? EIS?
 - SEPA conducted
 - Public hearing at county level
 - Board approves and adopts
- Additional (suggested)
 - Fix the formatting
 - Incorporate new information
 - New areas of concern? / Areas no longer of concern
 - BOR dike modeling
 - Brian Collin's work (historical overview)
 - Kincade studies
 - Climate Impacts Group findings (needs update)
- What should we do to move forward
 - Capacity is still a factor
 - Discussion began from Walt's questions on who requires this plan, is it mandated, what should the plan address, who funds it
 - Department of Ecology funded, but it has taken longer and more parts were included
 - Plan helps the Department of Ecology – would prefer an adopted plan in place to implement
 - Funds would have to be applied for to finish the update
 - Old plan is outdated, some parts need to be pulled – this is a chance to update whole piece
- It was agreed that plan should be finished and a consultant should be hired to do the necessary work

->> Anyone with photos of last week's flooding event – please send to Cathy Lear <<-

VI. Letter RE Puget Sound Partnership Stormwater Recommendations – Andy Brastad

- Ann Soule wrote the letter, identified the importance of stormwater management – not just managing quantity but quality. Problem with stormwater hitting the aquifer before being treated
- County has already had comments incorporated into the comments section of letter
- Should team write letter to endorse?

VII. Carlsborg Sewer Feasibility Study – Tom Martin

- PUD and Clallam County teaming together to do this feasibility study to determine what it takes to set up sewer system in Carlsborg
- Carlsborg as a growing USG needs sanitation services

- Provide sewer system:
 - Conserve and reuse reclaimed water: looking for best ways to reuse this water
 - Augment Dungeness River flow
 - Aquifer recharge
 - Irrigation
 - Other non-potable uses
 - Improves water quality – reduce nitrates
- Consultants working with study: Triangle Associates: public relation/involvement firm; Aspect: Hydrolo-geologists; Anchor Environmental Montgomery Water Group for water rights and surface water aspects
- Had a very good and well attended public outreach meeting at Graywolf School to introduce the study to interested residents
- Proposed MBR membrane bio reactor – modular sewer system can grow- with several distributed around the UGA
- Will ask in second meeting who will be interested in hooking up now (week of December 11th is the next public meeting)
- Walt Blendermann: suggested looking to Sequim Plan as they addressed issues for recycled water plant for reclaimed water uses

VIII. Announcements / other updates

- Hansi Hals: “Reclamation: Managing Water in the West” is out (passed around hard copy that was brought in for Cynthia Nelson) and can be sent through e-mail (Pam Sanginetti warned not to send large documents to federal employee e-mail as they can’t accept); Matt Heins requested to become member of dike study subcommittee as a lower river land manager (Dungeness Farms).
- Welden Clark: Professor Steve Malone will present “Volcanoes and Earthquakes” at 7 P.M. at the Dungeness River Audubon Center
- Scott Chitwood shared “On Tap” publication article on watershed approach – Dungeness mentioned
- Cheryl Baumann: Salmon Homecoming in Seattle next week

Meeting Adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

Handouts:

- DRAFT Dungeness River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan 2003 (tables)
- DRAFT Dungeness River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan 2003 8. RECOMMENDED PLAN
- Draft Meeting Notes DRMT 08/09/06
- Draft Meeting Notes DRMT 10/11/06