



January 8th, 2014

APPROVED Meeting Notes

Dungeness River Management Team

City of Sequim Council Chambers, Sequim Transit Center
Sequim, WA

2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Notes prepared by: Melissa Coughlin

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Tom Martin, PUD
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Sheila Roark Miller, Clallam County- Community Development
Cynthia Nelson, WDOE
Dan Dafoe, WDFW
Ben Smith, Water Users Association
Matt Heins, Estuary-Tidelands / Riverside Property Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries
Lorenz Sollmann, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, USFW
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future
Michele Canale, North Olympic Land Trust
Paul Haines, City of Sequim

Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Marc McHenry, USFS (alt)

Others in Attendance:

Ann Soule, City of Sequim
Dave Shreffler, Consultant for Puget Sound Partnership
Steve Rankin, StreamKeepers
Gretchen Glaub, Puget Sound Partnership
John Cambalik, Consultant for Puget Sound Partnership
Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon
Kevin Lo Piccolo, Clallam County, DCD
Robin Berry, Graysmarsh
Ivan Stockes, Graysmarsh
Marguerite Glover, Sequim Realtor
Phil Martin, Retired physicist, resident
Melissa Coughlin, DRMT Note-taker

2:00 P.M.

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review & Approve November & December 2013 DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

- Scott Chitwood welcomed DRMT members and attendees to the Sequim Transit Center. The DRMT will hopefully meet at the usual venue, the Dungeness River Audubon Center, for the February meeting. Introductions all around. No changes to the agenda were made. Judy Larson moved to accept the November meeting notes; Ben Smith seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Sheila Roark Miller made a motion to accept the December meeting notes; Judy Larson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- Sheila Roark Miller introduced Kevin LoPiccolo, who is replacing Steve Grey as the long-range planning manager for the Clallam County Department of Community Development. He will oversee Cheryl Baumann, Cathy Lear and Hannah Merrill.
- John Cambalik announced the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network is finishing up the update to the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda for the 2014-2016 biennium. Will be meeting with the steering committee tomorrow.
- Phil Martin will be ready to give an update presentation from February on.
- Robert Brown followed up on a topic he had previously brought up: the marijuana farm near him has been approved as a farm. There are still water issues: the growing will need water, possible mitigation, metering, etc. It wasn't clear what kind of mitigation (if any) will take place. Sheila explained the state decides who will be licensed to grow; there are 6 different locations under consideration. There are a couple of components to consider: growing location and resale operation. If product is a food product decisions on regulating that are pending. It may simply be an agricultural business. Robert Brown said the greenhouse will be within 800' of the Dungeness Landing Park. He thought the state law required a distance of 1,000' from a park. Joe Holtrop said the area was a dairy farm at one point. Don Hatler asked if that if the area was used previously as an agricultural business, would that be a change, or new use for water on the property. Sheila said it would be a change of the original use. Robert said the dairy hasn't operated as such for 20 years. Sheila said no growing can occur without some security level measures taken (which are prescribed by state).
- Judy Larson commented on two recent articles in the local papers: 1) article about addressing climate change (which has caused her to wonder if the SMP addressed this adequately and should be revisited on this prior to adoption), and 2) the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has taken the lead on recycling in one article – publicity for good leadership with examples.
- John Cambalik introduced Gretchen Glaub as the new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator (ERC) for the Puget Sound Partnership Strait Action Area.

II. **DRMT 2014 Elections** *DRMT Voting Members*

- There was no quorum at the December meeting so elections could not take place.
- 2014 DRMT Chairperson and Executive Committee nominations were opened.
- Ben Smith suggested announcing election and holding opening nomination discussions during November's meeting for future elections.
- Ben Smith moved to nominate the people who currently hold the positions (for Chair and Executive Committee). Robert Brown added asking those people if they are interested in continuing their service. It was determined that all were interested in continuing in their positions. Paul Haines seconded motion, which passed: Scott Chitwood (representing the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe) will remain chairperson of the DRMT; Scott (as Chair), Judy Larson, Ben Smith, Cynthia Nelson, and Sheila Roark Miller (County representative) will continue as the Executive Committee.
- Judy Larson asked if the November meeting reminder suggested by Ben needed to be incorporated into the Operating Procedures. She also said she noticed an unclear statement in the Operating Procedures regarding the standing committee in part 2. Her second comment on the Operating Procedures concerned, "Goal 5 Exchange information about relevant studies, issues and projects occurring in the Dungeness River Watershed Planning Area." Judy suggested adding "and impacting" after the word "occurring". Judy's third comment was on the geographic focus of the DRMT – specifically the justification for including Sequim Bay. Judy wants to lay the groundwork to justify commenting concerns for the proposed Battelle well. Ben said the rule wouldn't have disallowed the well, but may have required mitigation and metering. Cynthia said it is outside the rule area. In 2001 Sequim Bay's inclusion to the geo-focus of DRMT was allowed. Scott said it is not clear where the Battelle well will be in relation to the Bell Creek drainage and Creek drainage. It would be good to know where the well is located, and which aquifers will be affected.

III. **North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon (NOPLE) Update** *Cheryl Baumann, NOPLE Coordinator, Dave Shreffler, Shreffler Environmental*

NOPLE overview and update

- Cheryl explained the Lead Entity for salmon was a consortium that includes Clallam County, the cities of Port Angeles and Sequim, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Elwha Klallam Tribe and the Makah Tribe as well as citizens and non-profit groups. They work to expand restoration work on the north peninsula with regional recovery efforts, working closely with recovery funders like the Puget Sound Partnership and the Hood Canal Council on Summer Chum. There is a team on policy (LEG) and a technical team. Last year was a good funding year from the legislature. PSAR (Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration) funding was increased which helped the east-end area projects: Dungeness floodplain protection project headed by J'SKT, re-vegetation of riparian areas and adding large woody debris (LWD) to upper Dungeness and Grey Wolf rivers. Anything that went above \$30 million went to "large cap" projects that couldn't be funded with regular allocations, there were two (NOLT project on east Lyre River and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe re-vegetation on the Elwha River). There was a competition with the top ten projects.
- Nature Conservancy put forth "*Floodplain by Design*". Multi-function, multi-benefit project: reduces flooding, salmon restoration, benefits shellfish, saves water, and improves water quality. NOPLE is coordinating partners and projects. Will be hearing more as the projects unfold (except projects that the Conservation District are coordinating with their portion of funds). County will be fiscal agent for funds (CCD will act as fiscal agent for their projects).
- Shared area with Hood Canal in summer chum recovery efforts. Steve Rankin now chair of the citizen's committee. Prioritization process currently moving quickly. Coordinating Council has representatives from Jefferson, Mason, Kitsap Counties and Port Gamble Tribe.
- Culvert inventory work with StreamKeepers (lead: Eric Carlson, NOPLE) includes ranking culverts by worst offender of fish passage issues. Set protocol from state for inventory.
- Currently: open for new projects; updates to workplan; technical team scoring in February; rollout for grant round in March, April, May and June.

- NOLT had funds for an acquisition that couldn't be moved forward so Lead Entity was able to re-allocate for some 2012 projects. May be able to use for water storage feasibility study and PSP had some PSAR funding that had not been allocated that may be used for NOLT work on Dungeness drift cell Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and protective measures for the Elwha River (with Lower S'Klallam).

Adaptive management/monitoring

- Cheryl introduced Dave Shreffler who has been hired by the Puget Sound Partnership to lead the adaptive management and monitoring aspects of the Chinook restoration projects.
- Dave Shreffler began with overview and background: 1999: Puget Sound Chinook salmon were listed under ESA; scientists calculated that sound-wide Chinook numbers were at approximately 10% of historical numbers. 2005: Shared Strategy (grassroots, collaborative initiative) submitted their "*Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan*" to NOAA/NMFS; 22 Chinook ESUs were identified; scientists believe Puget Sound has lost approximately 15 ESUs (evolutionary significant unit). 2007: NOAA/NMFS adopted the 2005 Plan, but mandated that monitoring and adaptive management programs be put in place for salmon recovery. 2008: Shared Strategy transferred recovery planning to the Puget Sound Partnership, a new (at that time) state agency. Puget Sound Chinook were listed as an endangered species in 1999. 22 Chinook ESUs were identified in the 2005 Chinook recovery plan, but there has been no common framework for monitoring and adaptive management.
- Puget Sound Partnership goal for Chinook management and monitoring: "*Create and maintain an adaptive management system by organizing local, watershed-scale monitoring and adaptive management plans to be consistent and integrated across the Puget Sound region.*" NOPLS is participating in the Chinook management and monitoring project to advance the actions identified in the recovery plan; as the umbrella group leading recovery on the Peninsula, determine whether on-the-ground restoration and protection projects are working; improve our understanding of the status and trends of Chinook in the Dungeness River and nearshore.
- Phase 1: April 2013 – June 2014 Translate what is already in the 2005 recovery plan into a "Common Framework," not make new policy.
- Phase 2: July 2014 and beyond: Refine and use the new framework to adaptively manage Chinook salmon recovery. By June 2014: Watershed-specific frameworks based on the "Common Framework.;" Watershed-scale status and trend information: What is the status and trend of Chinook and their habitats in our watershed? What progress are we making on plan implementation? How effective are our actions? July 2014 & beyond: Watershed-scale monitoring plans: What do we need to monitor? Why? Watershed-scale adaptive management plans: What process will we use to make course corrections?
- Geographic scope of the Dungeness Watershed: The Dungeness River and its main tributary, the Gray Wolf River drain an 172,000 acre area. As defined by the Dungeness Work Group for the Chinook management and monitoring process, the Dungeness nearshore extends from Diamond Point to the base of Ediz Hook.
- Tasks completed to date: Customizing the common framework to reflect the specific relevant details of the Dungeness Watershed & Nearshore: Identified the vision articulated in the 2005 recovery plan. Identified the Chinook populations that will be addressed through this project. Defined the geographic scope of this project. Selected components, stresses, and key ecological attributes (KEAs) relevant to the Dungeness. Identified pressures and pressure-component linkages relevant to the Dungeness. Chinook Viability Analysis: Identified the 10 recovery goals articulated by DRMT in the 2005 recovery plan. Identified the components, KEAs, and indicators specific to each recovery goal. Rated the monitoring priority for each indicator. Determined (or projected) the 2005 status, 2013 status, near-term desired future status, and long-term desired future status for each indicator.
- Dave presented flow chart: Viability Analysis: Chinook Salmon Health and Monitoring. Displayed the process using: Goal or Target (the desired future condition of a component); Component (in this case: Chinook Salmon and their Habitats Indicator); Measurable entity related to a specific information need (e.g. status of attribute); Key Ecological Attribute (aspect of a component that if missing or altered would lead to the loss or reduced integrity of the component). Results chains help project teams refine their understanding of how specific actions may reduce pressures and levels of stress to Chinook populations and their habitat. Diagramming may bring to light issues that might have been overlooked.
- Matt asked about the massive pink return this year, and wondered if the total upheaval of the spawning ground gravel will affect the Chinook population. Scott said by measuring the number of Chinook juveniles they will be able to determine an effect on Chinook productivity.

- Robert Brown asked if global warming was taken into account in the process. The increase in spring floods may wash out areas. Scott said the high and low ends of productivity are used as ranges, so it should cover that.
- Sheila Roark Miller asked with regard to the Elwha River sediment, if that sediment is expected to come down to the Dungeness Spit and cross the boundaries set up by drift cell and nearshore project definitions. Dave said that is unknown, they are modeling the Elwha River sediment transfer, but they don't know where it will end up. Some projections put the sediment as far as the tip of the Spit; other projections have it ending up in deep water.
- Monitoring has not been a common element in recovery projects not because it isn't important, but because it is rarely funded. Many times another grant is written just to cover monitoring.
- Don Hatler commented that Chinook have not been spawning above Highway 100, or up into the Grey Wolf and further upstream, this has been discussed as a limiting factor of the Dungeness. Does the plan contain specifics of how to change that? Dave said the work is on the general framework at this point, the next phase will develop strategic plans for species specific to the Dungeness River. They will develop plans by working reach by reach, along the whole river.
- Don Hatler asked if there was any historical (before anyone had started to withdraw water for agricultural and other uses) evidence of what the river could maintain with regard to fish population, Scott said most of the historical information has been from canneries. At that time most, if not all fishing occurred in fresh water. Scott has seen estimations of historical (during a time with no outside influence) populations ranging from 8,000 -14,000 fish/year.

IV. **Clallam Conservation District Update** *Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District*

- Clallam Conservation District newsletter has gone out. It can be viewed on the website: <http://www.clallamcd.org/>

Update on piping:

- Clallam Conservation District has been working with the Dungeness Irrigation Group on the final phase of piping. Started piping project in 2001. An article in the newsletter prompted some calls. There was some confusion on what the piping meant. One caller thought that water could not be taken from the river unless by pipe. One caller asked if that meant the whole project was complete. The three entities: Clallam, Cline, and Dungeness irrigation systems wanted a closed system (except for three small laterals) to irrigate and water stock. Clallam and Cline have finished piping their systems; Dungeness will be finished by irrigation season. Annual Dungeness River water savings resulting from these irrigation efficiencies projects could flood about 3,400 football fields with a foot of water. This equals nearly half the total water savings from the projects of all seven Dungeness Valley irrigation districts and companies since 2000.
 - Judy asked about hearing some part of the piping project has to be re-done. Joe said that Agnew Irrigation District has been in discussion with the County Road Department regarding the effect of the road widening effort west of McDonald Creek on Old Olympic. They have to move the pipe and will (road department will pay for moving the pipe).
 - Judy asked for a map of the piping project. Joe said there is one on the website, but it is not totally up-to-date. Judy asked when would a complete map showing all the piping work from all of the irrigation companies and districts would be available. Joe replied that the map currently on the website will be updated with all the piping projects soon (it is 99% finished now). Current map of companies and districts with piping: <http://static.squarespace.com/static/52a1fa6fe4b0b2685d1ec5f9/t/52a7acf8e4b080ad5ccef6e0/1386720504362/2012%20Pipes%20Ditches%20Boundaries>
 - Joe had spoken with Agnew Irrigation District who said that they completed 2 ½ miles of pipe themselves last year and another ¾ mile was completed by a private party.
 - Matt Heins said that during the Clean Water Work Group meetings they have discussed the correlation of piping and shellfish upgrade (500 acres in Dungeness Bay). It is significant to emphasize the water quality aspect of piping. Shellfish harvesting has been upgraded to conditional use. Suggested a presentation be created to educate public.
 - Low instream flows in Dungeness River are one of the most critical habitat requirements which is a critical reason for ditch piping; however, piping began because of water quality issues (eliminating tailwater at the end of ditches).
- Aquifer Recharge planning with Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association and Washington Water Trust Update*
- WWT is the lead on SRFB grant (for feasibility studies on aquifer recharge and storage), which ends in June.

- Currently in the design phase for two sites (from Ann Soule's pilot projects) of the Aquifer Recharge projects.
- Two laterals located between Costco and Highway 101 are proposed for piping and aquifer recharge. We had intended to put in leaky pipes alongside the regular pipes. Consultant Peter Schwartzman wants to pursue with open ditch. . Area is destined for development.
- Ben voiced concern that the perforated pipe silt built-up may not be manageable. Joe said that their engineer is considering a filtration system for perforated pipes.
- Joe doesn't know whether these will be flow restoration or mitigation projects. Judy asked if currently the ditch is open. Joe said yes.
- Storage sites: design for Atterberry reservoir was completed a few years ago. No one has taken ownership of that project. Cost/benefit concluded that reservoirs are difficult and expensive. Smaller projects may be more economical. The site at McComb Road looked promising but will only hold enough water to provide for about 10 - 14 days of irrigation.
- Judy asked about an area near Silberhorn Road where there was an illegal gravel pit used for the bi-pass work, there is a big hole. Joe said that the site had been reviewed for possible storage and recharge. It was not a good site for recharge as groundwater level is too close to surface and additional water could leak through to Highway 101. As far as storage, couldn't use gravity to feed water out of the system, water would have to be pumped out.
- There is an area on the east side of River Road (Boyd property) that was taken into consideration and was not found promising, however there is an area on the west side of River Road where a large storage area with potential for gravity flow in and out. This is DNR property (DNR is open to the proposition) and is the most promising site so far.
- Clallam Conservation District is leading the PIC (pollution identification and correction) planning effort to identify and correct sources of water pollution. Strategic way to look and at non-source pollution working closely with state DOH and with Clallam County Environmental Health. Water quality monitoring is key to pinpoint streams that are highest priority for attention and then launch campaign to solve problems and move on. StreamKeepers are on the committee.
- Matt asked if Joe could speak to the grant discussed at last month's meeting. Joe said the legislature approved \$4½ million for the conservation districts to work on projects that benefit shellfish growing. This affects Puget Sound and the two coastal counties for 2 years. Joe said there is other state-wide funding (\$4½ million) for non-shellfish areas.
- Clallam Conservation District will get referrals from the County Environmental Health to provide financial assistance to repair failing septic; County Environmental Health has information on failing septic in the area. Initially, financial assistance will be limited to failing septic located in the Clean Water District.
- Paul Haines said re: water storage – pipes can store a lot of water. If changed out pipes for over-sized pipes they could be used for storage. An example of adaptive management approach to holding water. Judy asked about the cost difference with the larger pipes. Joe said the major cost involved in piping is labor.
- Cynthia asked about the PIC plan. Joe said the Conservation District will draft the PIC plan but it is being developed by the Clean Water Work Group. Environmental Health doesn't have the staff to write the PIC plan.

V. Viewing of Jimmycomelately Restoration Outreach Video *Cheryl Baumann, NOBLE Coordinator*

- Cheryl explained that they used some funds to produce a video on the work done on Jimmycomelately Creek. Shelly Solomon from Leaping Frogs Films based in Port Townsend was contracted. There will hopefully be a link to the video from DRMT website; you can view from YouTube. It is on the NOBLE habitat work schedule.
- Tells salmon story in way general public "gets it".
- Film showed flowing aspects of project: Gravel and woody debris were brought in, native species of vegetation was planted, meandering channels were dug by large back hoes. Bridge was replaced to allow unlimited fish passage. Fish species need productive habitat to thrive. In 1999 there were 7 returns. Over 4,000 returned in 2010, probably due to improved spawning habitat.
- Paul Haines asked Cheryl about the intended audience and goals for the film. Cheryl used the video instead of metrics to tell the complete story of the restoration. Helps people understand importance of these projects. Paul felt it was designed more for believers, the audience and goals for a video needs to be considered.

- Scott Chitwood said it told the story of what we did, Scott said he would put more emphasis on why. Late 90's there were dueling issues with landowners at the lower end of creek and the listing of the Hood Canal Summer Chum and Chinook. People got together to work on both issues at the same time. Matt emphasized property owner's cooperation and agreement to support restoration projects. Scott Chitwood said the great success achieved by this restoration effort was due in part to the overwhelming buy-in and cooperation from the landowners. Matt said the Dungeness River beds are privately owned. Must convince stakeholders and owners – this type of video will help convince. There is a need for a video on the frustrations encountered at the beginning of the effort. Joe also said acknowledging partners and funding sources involved is important.
- Judy suggested adding a "before" picture of the area and then list all the people responsible for the change.
- Robert Brown suggested showing mud beds the way it was to show how much has changed. Show what will happen during flood now, and how the restoration fits into the whole environment. Non-believers always ask about tribal fishing rights and how that fits into restoration.
- Ben felt there should have been more done to highlight the "boots on the ground" people involved in the project, to get critical continued involvement by the boots on the ground contributors.
- Paul commented on a video that showed how cranberry growers, the environmental community and shellfish people all came together to save Wilson Bay. Model of disparate organizations coming together to accomplish a goal.
- Robert Brown suggested having students film the area so there will be some stock footage available when needed for "before" shots.
- Matt Heins suggested documenting the start of the levy setback and 3 Crabs projects as it is important to have the struggles of the beginning of project work recorded.
- Dave Shreffler commented with regard to Don Hatler's mention of the template of Jimmycomelately "lessons learned" report – it has been widely circulated and has been very helpful.

V. Open Actions:

- Robert Brown asked Sheila who is responsible for the pilings at Dungeness Landing Park as some need to be replaced and/or removed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

OPEN ACTIONS/TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP:

UPDATE ON DELTA FARMS – (FROM 4/10/13 MEETING REQUEST)
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CANYON CREEK FISH LADDER STATUS FROM WDFW (TOPIC SUGGESTED AT 10/13 DRMT MEETING.)
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UPDATE ON SURVEY WORK FROM CORPS OF ENGINEERS --- WHEN IT PROGRESSES FROM PLANNING STAGE). (TOPIC SUGGESTED AT 10/13 DRMT MEETING.)
