



February 12th, 2014

APPROVED Meeting Notes

Dungeness River Management Team

Dungeness River Audubon Center, 2151 W. Hendrickson Road
Sequim, WA

2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Notes prepared by: *Melissa Coughlin*

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Sheila Roark Miller, Clallam County- Community Development
Cynthia Nelson, WDOE
Tom Martin, Clallam County PUD #1
Robert Beebe, Riverside Property Owners
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Dan Dafoe, WDFW
Ben Smith, Water Users Association
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
Marc McHenry, USFS (alt)

Others in Attendance:

Charisse Deschenes, AICP Planning Consultant
Chris Hugo, City of Sequim Community Development Director
Bob Martin, Clallam County Public Works
Kevin Lo Piccolo, Clallam County, DCD
Robin Berry, Graysmarsh
Ivan Stockes, Graysmarsh
Marguerite Glover, Sequim Realtor
Phil Martin, Retired physicist, resident
Mike Langley, Sunland Water District, NOSC
Melissa Coughlin, DRMT Note-taker

2:00 P.M.

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review & Approve January 2014 DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

- Scott Chitwood welcomed DRMT members and attendees back to the Dungeness River Audubon Center, which is still in the midst of repair from burst pipes. Introductions all around. No changes to the agenda were made. Judy Larson added more to the section on the irrigation piping map in January's meeting notes; Tom Martin needs to be listed, as he attended the January meeting. Robert Brown moved to accept the amended January meeting notes; Judy Larson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- Robert Brown commented on the cedar compost piles at the east side of Towne Road; it has been there for weeks and he wondered why it is there. Joe Holtrop said that is the DOT mitigation site; the mulch will be spread out in hopes of knocking back existing vegetation to allow for less competition in the spring when it will be planted.

II. Carlsborg Sewer Update *Bob Martin, Clallam County Public Works*

- Bob Martin commented this is a good time for an update as the county has just received some preliminary results from the consultants. Yesterday Bob briefed the Board of Commissioners as well as the Carlsborg Citizen Advisory Council with 90 minute presentations. The facility plan to WA DOE that called for a treatment plant in Carlsborg has been revised. The plan was re-submitted with the alternative option of connecting to the Sequim sewer treatment plant. This option to transport waste from Carlsborg to the Sequim facility is within budget - in the \$14 million range. The cost to build a treatment plant in Carlsborg has gone up considerably since the first plan was submitted (building new treatment plant estimation is now \$5 million over the first estimate). Scott Chitwood reiterated that there is a \$5 million difference between 1) building sewage treatment in Carlsborg and 2) transportation of sewage for treatment in Sequim. Bob said that the original plan estimated \$14 million to build treatment facility in Carlsborg; this has been revised to \$19 million. Current estimated cost is \$14 million for the option to route and treat in Sequim.
- There will be one force main pipe (8") to connect to Sequim. There will be two lines (one 8" and one 12") in the same trench to take advantage of capacity to pump sewage to Sequim throughout the life span of the system to the projected build-out. Conveyance cost did increase, but not significantly. Judy Larson asked the length of time for "life of the system" of the facility. Bob said that the initial system would have collected waste immediately, and throughout growth rate is (assumed 2085 is the timeframe for build out). Demand drives connection and volume for the next 20 years. Bob said with the pipes in the ground the design life is about 100 years.
- Judy asked how many total connections will be served in 2085. Bob said that at build-out, Carlsborg (as defined by recommended zoning from the Carlsborg Advisory Council) will be the size of Sequim today, with possibly 6,000

connections. Paul Haines said there are 4,400 connections presently, but the Sequim system can manage double that capacity. The exact numbers will be in a presentation the public can find on the county's website: <http://www.clallam.net/PublicWorks/CarlsborgSewer.html> after Peter Shwartzman finishes his report.

- Robert Brown asked about the impact of the loss of water in the area – will reclaimed water come back to Carlsborg? (Bob said this will be discussed later in this presentation).
- The pump station that will collect the sewage and transport to Sequim will be located at the intersection of the Discovery Trail and Carlsborg Road. The trail may have to be realigned. A public restroom may be added at the location. There will be a small above ground and below ground generator for emergency power.
- The plan is for the pipe to cross the river at the Highway 101 Bridge (it may hang from the bridge), directional drilling under the river is also being investigated.
- FCS Group is the consultant agency working on the financial estimates for the project: operating cost for the facility (monthly bill for user); connection cost; and connection policies (determine who, what, when, and how to connect). FCS is also assisting in working out the inter-governmental agreement between Sequim and the County to allow Carlsborg's use of Sequim's facility.
- Connection Policies: Board of Commissioners will decide. There will be a public hearing. Public comments will be taken as the policies will be adopted as ordinances. Preliminary assumptions once plan is in effect: No new septic systems will be approved for the area. One exception: if owner can prove the cost of connecting to sewer is 120% over what a septic system installation that removes 50% of nitrates would cost (Bob wasn't sure that was the %).
- The consultants helped calculate the economics of the cost to operate, any reserves that will be needed and costs to improve capital, etc. Initial cost to connect will be \$7,640 in 2016 (2016 is the year the service would begin). Policies to guide connecting will apply to all new development. Marguerite Glover said she thought that the project wasn't going to be completed all at once; there would be different waiting times. Bob said no one will be very far from a connection. The second connection policy will amortize an owner's cost to end using their well and connect to the large system. Early buy-in incentives will provide opportunities to reduce per customer base rate. For a 2-year period it will be only \$500 to connect to system. Customers are needed for financial and flow issues.
- Rates: The bulk user of Sequim system pays roughly 1 cent/gallon. Inter-local agreement will decide the Carlsborg rate. Of the monthly payment, \$30 will pay fixed costs. If you use less, you pay less on top of base rate (water conservation incentive).
- Ben Smith asked how many ERUs (Equivalent Residential Unit) there are now. Bob said those statistics will be available on the county website. The consultants revealed that in the area, 75% are commercial properties. Industrial areas allow for denser populations. Consuming 125 gallons/day is used for one ERU.
- Robert Brown asked if it would be possible to connect to sewage but draw water from one's existing well. Bob said there would be a flat fee, which has not been decided.
- Working with the consultants an average monthly rate that a user will pay has been estimated at \$68/month (which is a little higher than Sequim and Port Angeles users now pay.).
- Don Hatler asked again about the reclaimed water (from Carlsborg) issue. Bob said they have been working with another group of consultants (PGG) to work out the issues involved. How and where the reclaimed water gets used and the relationship to mitigation (if required) are some of the issues. PUD has water rights for the area at this time until 2055 for their service area plus the Carlsborg UGA. The annual flow within their current water rights should be adequate to get to 2055. For the ultimate build-out of Carlsborg an additional 436 acre feet/year will be needed (over and above what PUD currently has). PUD can buy existing water rights or drill a new well. Assuming they will be getting the needed water from a well the groundwater model water showed a 60% depletion of surface streams when water was pulled from the middle aquifer, the model showed a 25% depletion of streams if the water is pulled from the lower aquifer. The new water and the (currently) unused portion of existing water – all reclaimed discharge to surface and upper groundwater will completely mitigate all losses to the depleted streams. Certain streams will have losses, some will have gains, the river gains in any case. There will be mitigation requirements regardless of where the reclaimed water is discharged. The cost to transport the reclaimed water back to Carlsborg may be another \$2 million on top of the transportation cost of getting it to Sequim (\$3 million).
- Peter Schwartzman is presenting his report on March 18th to the Carlsborg Citizen's Advisory Committee. Three scenarios for discharge locations will be presented and the groundwater model will run 6 combinations.
- Discussion on the need to refine the groundwater model began. DOE will decide if it as an adequate regulatory tool for their purposes to lead to decisions. Robert Brown commented on the error rate of flows using the model may lead to false results, especially for the streams on the west.

- Judy asked about the proposed location of the new well for serving all Carlsborg UGA. Bob said that will be in Peter's report, he said it will be somewhere around existing PUD wells. Peter's report will address options and impacts and the different mitigation alternatives.
- Cynthia Nelson said the latest version of the groundwater model found the deeper you go the impact is more extended but of less magnitude.
- Robert Brown asked about the location of the pumping station. Bob said originally the treatment plant was to be at the PUD's Operation Center at Idea Place, they would need to find a new location (additional property costs - initially was to be PUD facility on PUD property) if that alternative is chosen. The pumping station will be located on the west side of Carlsborg Road at the Discovery Trail.
- Cost will be higher (\$19 million vs. \$14 million) if building the treatment plant in Carlsborg and will take longer than the plan to transport waste to Sequim and have it treated there.
- Tom Martin recalled that neighbors of the former proposed reclaimed water recharge site on Idea Place raised concerns about potential contamination of their well water. The County has proposed and studied new reclaimed water recharge sites that are close to the PUD's Loma Vista Wellfield near E. Silberhorn Road. Similar to Idea Place neighbors, Tom Martin expects that PUD water customers using water supplied by the Loma Vista wellfield will have the same concerns. Per State of Washington Department of Health (DOH) regulations, the PUD has a Wellhead Protection Program to protect existing groundwater supplied from potential sources of contamination. Because of PUD customer concerns and DOH regulations, Tom Martin asked the County to locate their proposed reclaimed recharge sites outside of PUD wellhead protection areas.

III. **Sequim 120 Comprehensive Plan Update / Overview and Workshop** *Chris Hugo, City of Sequim Community Development Director, Charisse Deschenes, AICP Planning Consultant*

- Chris Hugo began three years ago as the Community Development Director of Sequim. He looked at the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and couldn't see a plan for Sequim's future. He felt the Comprehensive Plan was not adequately directive and thus not effective in addressing the need to accommodate about 3,000 new people. The City Council had the same idea.
- Map (with school district boundaries) was shown to illustrate the differences in density and uses in area. More predictability is needed in the growth strategy.
- In late 2012 the vision statement was completed. Vision high value statements: Activity center of the Sequim-Dungeness Valley; "Small town"; "Friendly"; Compact form > affordability > save "rural"; Most multi-family directed to Downtown; Diversify economy; All age groups and family types; Better connectivity; Walking.
- A visual preference survey was distributed to DRMT and attendees reacted to 28 slides of dense housing/neighborhood options. Discussion/comments during presentation:
 - Raising housing height limits.
 - Alleys for garbage pickup, parking and garage entrances.
 - Very narrow streets. Paul Haines said sometimes it is easier and more economical to purchase emergency vehicles for this type of development option.
 - Traffic and backups.
 - Want to attract broader age range and demographics of population to Sequim. Viable for mixed community.
 - More parks. Development around park space to attract families.
 - Low property maintenance. Small (4,000 square foot) lots for family homes.
- Robert Brown commented that Sequim may be people-friendly but doesn't seem business-friendly – feeling of anti-business attitude in Sequim. Should dissuade food trucks where they interfere with brick and mortar businesses. Sequim seems to roll up streets in the evening, with no places to congregate.
- Judy Larson commented that planning for population density should include preserving natural spaces. Locate cluster housing close to amenities to reduce auto traffic. Create sufficiently wide sidewalks.
- Good management plans today for high quality future. Thinking of legacy for future generations.
- Don Hatler was raised in a place that had a town square with merchants all around, people walked from one place to another. Big box stores moved in and today 80% of the businesses are gone. Sees the beginnings of that happening here, with a failing center in east Sequim and shift in traffic west. Need to find ways to create a livable, walk-able downtown with unique small stores.
- Chris thought Internet buying has more effect on the local stores than the big box stores.

- Growth projection (from the State) for the county is a range after 2035: top 90,000 to bottom 66,000. In Sequim they are using 2% annual growth rate.
- Rock Plaza in Sequim would have been great for a neighborhood retail area if it had been done correctly. Books, music, clothing, etc. are all being purchased on-line. Services offered should be those you can't get on-line.
- Robert Brown commented that a community center presence was lacking on most of the slides. Provide common place for small house footprints. We've seen a decrease in public transportation that needs to be fixed if you want people to get to town easily.
- Judy asked about pending developments without PUD requirements, how many applications are still active but not developed, and how did water, sewer, etc. extend to developments. How much was spent to make that available to development. Chris said at Cedar Ridge (partially developed) the developer paid. Paul Haines commented that most everything that has been built in Sequim was done by developers, not by the county or city.
- Ivan Stockes asked about availability of high-speed Internet connections. This is an important issue for bringing businesses to Sequim. Chris said that was part of the economic development puzzle.
- Need to pull all housing, utilities, transportation, social needs, and other issues into the plan.

IV. WA Department of Ecology Updates *Cynthia Nelson, WA DOE*

Notice of petition to amend Dungeness Rule

- Dungeness Water Rule went into effect January 2013. The Olympic Resource Protection Council petition to amend the Dungeness rule gives the WDOE until March 30, 2014 to respond. The Washington Department of Ecology can either deny petition or re-do items.
- Olympic Resource Protection Council wrote a petition (with many comments which had been heard before and had been addressed) to re-do Dungeness rule. New precedent with October Skagit decision. In 2000-2001 Skagit rule was in place. Amended the rule in 2006 to address setting aside some drinking water with reserves. This went against instream flows, as the water would be taken from that. Originally was a short-term, unusual type of situation. Changed to year round on-going basis. Difference with the Dungeness rule is that the Dungeness rule included the reserves within it, and was adopted at the same time the instream flows were set. What happens will most likely deal with rural areas and reservations.
- Judy asked why ORPC comments were considered after the open period of time set aside for public comments. Cynthia said there are sections of the statute to allow for the rule to be amended or vacated. Judy asked if there were time limits. Cynthia said that there are instances of petitions many years after a rule is adopted.
- Don Hatler recommended contacting an ORPC representative to present at an upcoming DRMT meeting.

Terry Husseman Account Grant Opportunity

- This grant money (over \$100,000 for our region) comes from penalties collected in accounts for each regional office. DOE is soliciting projects from PUD, government entities and others for habitat restoration projects, (although there have been broad interpretations). Maximum ask of \$50,000. Previously submitted the Morse Creek project for \$50,000. Hoping to have more, smaller asks for projects. Requests must be for ready-to-go projects. Clallam Conservation District used a prior Husseman Account Grant for agricultural BMPs (best management practices). Deadline for submissions: 2/28 to the SWRO: South West Regional Office (for Dungeness watershed).

State Drought Response Committee

- DOE has the authority to convene a State Drought Response Committee:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/images/pdf/marti.pdf>
- DOE has asked legislature for money, waiting for response. Time and money may be needed during drought (for drilling alternate wells, WDFW studies of Chinook passage requirements, etc.)
- The governor doesn't have to declare drought state-wide, can declare drought within a region.

V. Other Business / Announcements: no time

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

OPEN ACTIONS/TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-UP:

OLYMPIC RESOURCE PROTECTION COUNCIL REP TO PRESENT COMMENTS ON DUNGENESS WATER RULE – SUGGESTED 2/12/14 MEETING BY D. HATLER
UPDATE ON DELTA FARMS – (FROM 4/10/13 MEETING REQUEST)
CANYON CREEK FISH LADDER STATUS FROM WDFW (TOPIC SUGGESTED AT 10/13 DRMT MEETING.)
UPDATE ON SURVEY WORK FROM CORPS OF ENGINEERS --- WHEN IT PROGRESSES FROM PLANNING STAGE). (TOPIC SUGGESTED AT 10/13 DRMT MEETING.)