



September 10, 2014

**APPROVED Meeting Notes**

**Dungeness River Management Team**

Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, WA

**2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

*Notes prepared by: Hansi Hals*

**Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:**

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Tom Martin, PUD  
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)  
Sheila Roark Miller, Clallam County- Community Development  
Ben Smith, Water Users Association  
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District  
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries  
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future  
Paul Haines, City of Sequim

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Thom Johnson, Point No Point Treaty Council  
Deborah Kucipeck, Clallam County  
Ivan Stocker, Graysmarsh  
Phil Martin, resident

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

- Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Scott reminded the group that we no longer have a note-taker. Melissa Coughlin had to step down due to family responsibilities; she will be missed! In reviewing July notes, Robert Brown reiterated his questions about water meters. Scott responded to say that Mike Gallagher will replace Cynthia Nelson as the representative for Ecology on the DRMT. However, he isn't able to attend every meeting. We will have him address Robert's question at the next meeting he is able to attend. Ben Smith moved to accept the July meeting notes; Judy Larson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

- Robert Brown noticed the river flow (cfs) is low. Ben Smith will discuss later in agenda.
- Robert Brown wondered the status of mitigation for the River. Will there be water put in river as a result of mitigation? Has a trigger been reached for restrictions? Ben Smith responded that he doesn't believe any restrictions are happening for new water users.
- Judy Larson requested that a PowerPoint be presented to DRMT by Dennis Lefevre regarding Carlsborg growth and increased density proposal. Is this a Comp. Plan amendment? Kevin LoPiccolo said discussions have been going on since 2011. There was a discussion last night about the recommendations from the Carlsborg Community Advisory Council (CCAC). **Kevin is happy to ask County staff to provide and update to DRMT [on October agenda].**
- Judy clarified her issue is that this is a matter that requires Public Notice if changing densities in Comp. Plan.
- Don Hatler asked if this is a rezone proposal. Judy believes so. Kevin responded that the recommendation is from CCAC and that is not final.
- Robert Brown asked what implications this would have on water. Scott Chitwood said that is a question for the utilities. There has been speculation about the use of the Sequim Treatment Plant and sending back for recharge. Tom Martin said the County submitted the sewer facilities plan to WA Department of Ecology, and anyone can read it. Plan is to recharge reclaimed water under the Sequim street network, and not in Carlsborg. Ecology has yet to approve this plan. The PUD has a middle aquifer well. Currently, their water right is not fully used. There are water rights available for a lot of growth, but not for the full buildout of the UGA. It is uncertain when growth will occur and when they will run out of water rights.

## II. Summer Chum Update Presentation (Thom Johnson)

- 1999, Hood Canal Summer Chum was listed as threatened under ESA.
- 2000, the Harvest and Hatchery Plan was developed.
- 2005, Recovery Plan was developed.
- 2007, Recovery Plan adopted.
- There are 2 populations: Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca
- Strait population: Since 2002, there has been a marked increase in Strait population; are achieving interim goals; are achieving (mostly) viability goals.
- Hood Canal population: improving, but not achieving all goals.
- Abundance, spatial distribution and diversity are all increasing.
- Need to keep monitoring and evaluating.
- There is no summer chum fishery.
- JCL broodstock program is finished. Have to have the habitat ready when broodstock program ends.
- 2013: Over 8,000 chum in JCL. Over 5,000 were of natural origin, about 3,000 broodstock (from hatchery).
- Summer Chum Salmon Conservation Initiative (SCSI) reports are available on WDFW website. Search summer chum.
- Habitat: how much is enough? Redid the Puget Sound TRT Viability Analysis. This time considered climate patterns. Performed EDT model analysis. Pacific Decadal Oscillation – cooler cycles better for fish.
- Don Hatler asked if the WA Harbor project was helpful. Thom responded YES. Marine water habitat is critical, and the WA Harbor project restored a lot of habitat.
- Ben Smith asked when we are past recovery?

## III. Water Users Association River Flow/Water Use Report Summary (*Ben Smith, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association*)

- Ben Smith said withdrawals by the Water Users Association peaked in the third week of July, at 54cfs.
- When the River hit 140cfs, they began internal communications regarding tightening (reducing) water use.
- The next trigger, at 120cfs, is a memo to publish broader announcement (in newspaper) to let everyone else know or help. Ben said this wasn't actually needed this season, but they thought it might be. The River is at 123cfs, and curtailing won't be needed. Today, the water users are withdrawing 38cfs.
- One of the items in the WUA/DOE agreement is that irrigators will always leave 62.5cfs in the River. That is, the flow read at the upper gauge (USGS) minus total withdrawals must be at least 62.5cfs.
- Another part to the agreement states that the water users will never take more than 50% of the flow (read at the upper gauge).
- Scott Chitwood acknowledging technology is impressive; gives you a picture in matter of minutes from your desk.
- Scott Chitwood mentioned the Sequim Prairie gauge data is conditional; might be inaccurate. Joe Holtrop thinks that is a relic of when it was installed, and there were surges that the meter couldn't measure. He thinks the data issue is resolved.
- Ben Smith says the irrigators are out twice per week. They read a staff gauge to reconcile the telemetry data.
- Ivan Stocker also goes out one per month to confirm readings at Sequim Prairie.
- **After more discussion, it was suggested that the group hear from biologists about flows and the river. Scott Chitwood mentioned that Jonathon Kohr (WDFW) would be good to hear from, as he's done a lot of work analyzing flows in the river [scheduled for November DRMT agenda].**

- Ben Smith reminded everyone about the low flow year 2005. The WUA had to shut everything down, to allow a surge of water back into the system, before revamping back up. Asked if this was useful. Scott Chitwood said his impression was Yes.
- There was a question about efficiency of the irrigation infrastructure used by Nash. Nash participated in cost-share program available through Clallam Conservation District. Low pressure traveling boom sprinkler is very efficient. Would like to do another one or two, but very expensive.

**Adjourn.** Depart for site visit to Three Crabs.