



November 12, 2014

APPROVED Meeting Notes

Dungeness River Management Team

Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, WA

2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Notes prepared by: Shawn Hines

Team Members/Alternates in Attendance:

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kevin LoPiccolo, Clallam County (alt)
Ben Smith, Water Users Association
Paul Haines, City of Sequim
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula's Future
Matt Heins, Estuary-Tidelands/Riverside Property Owners
Lorenz Sollman, USFW Dungeness Wildlife Refuge
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries

Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)

Others in Attendance:

Phil Martin, resident
Jennifer Bond, Clallam Conservation District
Jonathan Kohr, WDFW
Tobey Clarkin, URS Corporation
Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership
Ann Soule, City of Sequim

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

- Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Judy Larson moved and Ben Smith seconded the motion to approve the October meeting notes. Motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- Robert Brown requested that action items from previous meetings be posted at bottom of notes. Shawn will add items that may need follow-up at bottom of notes.
- Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), announced that PSP has been working on PSAR (Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration) list. It has been finalized and approved. There will be a final meeting in December. 21 Puget Sound projects are included, amounting to \$131 million. Will provide the list to Lead Entity soon. Any letters of support would be beneficial.
- Judy Larson noted that Clallam County is still accepting the MDNS (mitigated determination of non significance) regarding the Carlsborg UGA wastewater treatment plant. The document is 410 pages, and you can still provide comments. Judy thinks it's an inadequate determination. The project involves 8-10 inch diameter pipe along Hwy 101 Bridge, and very little information on risk analysis. Protect the Peninsula's Future is submitting comments.
- Jennifer Bond, Clallam Conservation District, provided an update presentation on the PIC (Pollution Identification and Correction) Plan project status. The Plan is now on Conservation District's website. Implementation grant to begin 2015 on a PIC Pilot Project Area. Pilot project work area was selected by PIC Task Force/Clean Water Work Group and will include:
 - Meadowbrook Ck drainage and slough (west boundary of project area)
 - Golden Sands
 - Cooper Creek (east boundary of project area)
- Jennifer handed out project area map. Joe clarified that segmented sampling (source identification phase) will start before end of winter. The grant period is 30-months, and half the time will be monitoring and half will be on fixes.
- Current funds for septic cost-share ends June, but hoping to renew.
- Robert Brown asked if the farms near Goldensands will be looked at separately. Joe responded that everything will be looked at – agriculture, septic, stormwater, pet waste – ideally to the parcel level.
- There will be a PIC public meeting to introduce the PIC Plan and introduce the PIC Pilot project area on December 11 at the Dungeness Schoolhouse. If you have comments on the Plan, contact Jennifer.

II. Relationship Between Critical Low Flows and Possible Impediments for Upstream Migration Adult Salmonids (*Jonathan Kohr, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife*)

- Jonathan Kohr gave two presentations to DRMT, the first regarding Dungeness Lease Acquisition Monitoring (2003-2005). Project entailed leasing water August 1st – September 15th for three irrigation seasons (2003-2005); \$733,635 total for ~11.0 cfs each season; about 1400 acres of land fallowed; monies had to be proportionally allotted among all users involved.
- Looked at Weighted Useable Area (WUA), the wetted area of a stream weighted by its suitability for use by aquatic organisms or recreational activity. WUA curves were derived from the “Fish Habitat Analysis for the Dungeness River Using the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology” – USFWS July 1991 report.
- Conclusions:
 - For increased passage, leased water most beneficial in low water year (2005);
 - Leased water likely helpful in all three years for available WUA, with highest increase(s) in low water year (2005);
 - WUA curves are not a “tell-all”; must also look at other factors (predation, competition, increased temp’s, disease) with lower flows;
 - Low water year late season leases will be beneficial to help sustain and recover salmonids in the Dungeness River;
 - Leased water best in low water “drought” years and/or end of season increases;
 - Still recommend longer term purchases, donations, and/or on-farm projects, as well;
 - Continued quantitative data collection with annual redd counts for post-project effectiveness (monitoring).
- Don Hatler noticed there were no redds above 101 bridge; is there a fish passage problem above there? Jonathan responded that he didn’t find anything; Chinook tend to like upwelling.
- Ben Smith asked if that area is a gaining reach. Scott Chitwood said that reach has been both a gaining and losing reach. From Kincade to 101 it is pretty good for fish passage, but not for spawning (high gradient).
- Judy Larson asked if temperature could be a significant factor. Does more monitoring need to be done to see if temperature is contributing factor? Jonathan said temps. Are taken at riffles.
- Jonathan next presented on, “Planning for Salmon Recovery in the Dungeness, Potential for Pulse Flow?”
- Jonathan described the “pulse flow” in 2005. On Sept. 9, 2005, the headgates were turned off. This resulted in a 5.8 cfs (8%) increase in flow, from 74.4 to 80.2 cfs at river mile 0.75. He also showed a scenario for two hypothetical pulse flow dates in 2005, and the potential effects.
- Conclusions:
 - 2005 looks like there was an opportunity earlier to conduct pulse flow for earlier migration;
 - 2005 was an “ugly” water year, and even the small pulse appeared to help;
 - Monitoring the two gages (great correlations) can give us an idea of low flow and impeded passage in the lower reach;
 - Monitoring these low flows could trigger the need for a possible pulse or should we invest in a crystal ball?
 - Late season leases will likely be beneficial to passage and increased WUA.
- Scott wondered if doing measurements at other times of the year should be considered, as well.
- Phil Martin noted that the Ecology gauge wasn’t around until 2001. Jonathan said that WDFW wanted to focus on Old Olympic location, since that’s the pinch-point for fish passage.

III. Streamkeepers Watershed Plan Implementation Grant (*Ed Chadd, Streamkeepers*)

- Ed introduced Michelle McConnell, Regional Shoreline Planner, WA Department of Ecology. She is the project officer for this grant. She noted that she used to work for Jefferson County, so she is familiar with the area.
- Ed Chadd reminded the group that the last time he updated on this topic was two years ago. In June 2012, DRMT prioritized Streamkeepers as #1 for WRIA 18 implementation funding. In July 2012, Ed had come to DRMT with a write-up of the proposal and it was suggested to add more into it the proposal. Wound up with \$130,000 for first two years, fiscal years 14/15. The original project was to include continued monitoring, revising monitoring plan, updating the water resources database, collating historical data, evaluating trends, etc.
- Between 2012-2014 there were many iterations of the proposal, and it was finally signed. However, the resulting proposal now only includes \$30,000 for one fiscal year, to pay for revising the Streamkeepers monitoring program. This includes \$12,000 **[Ed corrected this to \$10K after the meeting]** to go toward new equipment, and the balance to pay for process for figuring out a revised program and retraining the volunteers. Revision process to be done by June.
- Will look at opportunities for revising program in ways that would benefit projects already underway.
- Contract signed in Oct., first advisory meeting was 11/3. Greatest need stated was better equipment to get data more efficiently/reliably.
- Ed noted that \$12K **[Ed corrected this to \$10K after the meeting]** won't go far, since there are multiple teams. Need at least two field kits, at \$6K per kit **[Ed corrected this to \$5K per kit after the meeting]**, probably not enough. May need more \$ for equipment. Currently 3 kits **[Ed corrected this to 4 kits after the meeting]**. If more efficient water quality monitoring equipment were acquired, the WQ teams would be much more efficient if they don't have to do wade across flow measurements at the same time (as they do now). Therefore, they are looking into modeling flows (with calibrated staff gauges) instead of monitoring manually each time.
- Streamkeepers have no operating funding; have been scrounging since 2012.
- Comment about database being out of sync with the way data is presented. Will you change the way the data will be presented, so people can view it? Ed said data reports can be tailored to clients' needs.
- Matt Heins said the speed at which the PIC data becomes available will be critical to success of PIC. Ed pointed out the distinction between PIC Trends data, which is more long-term, and PIC Project data, which tries to pinpoint pollution sources in a particular watershed. The Jamestown Tribe, on behalf of Clallam County Environmental Health, will be monitoring the latter as part of the PIC program.
- Ed said that Streamkeepers also has \$4,000 **[Ed corrected this to \$2K after the meeting]** from a different grant source to begin to tie the old and new databases together, but he doesn't have time to start on that yet.
- Paul Haines noted that City does similar testing (parameters) on a regular basis. E.g., fecal coliform, nitrate. Perhaps City's lab could be of use. Ed said the lab is not the issue.
- Joe Holtrop said Streamkeepers was hired to do a QAPP for the PIC, and to retrieve data from the last 15 samples. Streamkeepers considered that a "special project". Joe said, however, that the trends monitoring data collection will form the basis of the PIC program. This shouldn't be considered a "special project", but should become the template for all sampling. Ed said that from Streamkeepers' point of view, it's considered a "special project", that is, it is additional to what Streamkeepers' advisors see as the core (since Streamkeepers is countywide), and that the PIC project only focuses on one parameter: fecal coliform, whereas Streamkeepers' ambient monitoring program covers a suite of water-quality parameters. Joe suggests that the PIC monitoring should be the core monitoring, and anything else should be considered as adding on. Ed said would need advisory approval.

- It was noted that this topic is also scheduled for an upcoming Clean Water Work Group meeting on 11/20.

IV. City of Sequim Stormwater Needs Assessment (*Ann Soule, City of Sequim*)

- Ann gave an update presentation and several handouts related to the City’s Stormwater Needs Assessment. The draft document is online: <http://www.sequimwa.gov/index.aspx?NID=560>
- Ann handed out a flyer about the Stormwater Stewardship project, indicating project goals: create a stormwater master plan that prepares City for long-term management of stormwater to avoid flooding and water quality problems as the City grows; collect and present water quality and storm flow data to facilitate coordination with neighboring managers such as Clallam County and irrigation ditch managers; engage residents in educational and stewardship opportunities; propose strategies for funding the work that needs to be done.
- Timeline for various phases:
 - 2014 Needs Assessment (see web address above)
 - 2015 Stormwater Master Plan/Program development
 - 2016 Implementation and funding strategies
- Robert Brown asked what the project boundaries were. Ann said City only has jurisdiction within City boundary but Plan would address issues affecting/affected by adjacent areas.
- Jonathan Kohr said he has fish information that might be useful. Searun cutthroat at mouth of Bell; culvert under Schmuck Road, for example.
- Robert Brown asked if City is interested in improving flows outside City limits (soils and drainage boundaries shown in Figure 2)? Ann said the Master Plan will address existing conditions within boundaries, but if there are issues outside City boundaries, will attempt to address during planning process.
- Ann noted that she had hoped the County would be present today to participate in the discussion. [Kevin LoPiccolo had to leave the meeting early].
- Next summer the Plan will be on City Council agenda.

V. Other Business

- 2015 DRMT Chairperson and Executive Committee Open Nominations: The DRMT Executive Committee met earlier today to discuss process, and recommended a motion, presented by Ben Smith, that nominations for Chair and Exec. Committee are open now and will remain open until the December meeting. The DRMT Executive Committee consists of the Tribe and County (no need to nominate), plus three elected members. DRMT members (one per organization) can nominate the Chair and Executive Committee by email to Shawn, or bring to December meeting. Per a recommendation last year, Shawn will notify nominees that are emailed to her ahead of time to let them know.
- Scott Chitwood announced that the Railroad Bridge is celebrating its 100th anniversary at River Festival next September. Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge is also celebrating its 100th, in January.
- Paul Haines announced there will be a joint meeting between City and Clallam County Community Development to sign a long-term agreement for waste water treatment at City of Sequim.
- It was also announced that today is Paul Haines’ last DRMT meeting, as Paul will be leaving his position at the City. The Team thanks Paul for his contributions and participation on the DRMT.

VI. Adjourn

Action Items	Date Recommended	Date Completed to be Completed
Request to add action items at bottom of notes.	November 12, 2014	December 1, 2014