



September 9, 2015

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
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (alt)
Cathy Lear, Clallam County
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula’s Future
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Robert Beebe, Riverside Property Owner
Marc McHenry, US Forest Service (Advisory)
David Garlington, City of Sequim
Michele Canale, North Olympic Land Trust
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries

Others in Attendance:

Ivan Stocker, Graysmarsh
Phil Martin, resident
Bill Strehl, resident
Eric Carlsen, NOPL for Salmon
Cheryl Baumann, NOPL for Salmon
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Society

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review & Approve August 12, 2015 DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Robert Brown commented during review of the August notes that he had commented during the August agenda item about climate change that an assessment was needed to look at costs of implementing versus not implementing or delaying climate change recommendations/actions. The notes were then approved unanimously by the Team, and the agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comment:

Judy Larson announced there will be a hearing 9/23/15, 1pm at County Courthouse about Carlsborg Sewer project. She noted Protect the Peninsula’s Future submitted comments stating the project doesn’t adequately address the risks related to earthquake damage and piping sewage across the river. Encourages people to comment and/or attend.

Robert Brown asked what the irrigators are doing to track flows, especially as they get close to 60cfs. Scott said he would discuss that during his presentation.

Judy said, as an example, that her irrigation district was told not to use water unless for stock water, and that gardens should be watered with well water, rather than surface water diversions.

Scott said the irrigators are using a spreadsheet to track flows; objective to leave at least 62.5 cfs in the river below the last outtake. They read the USGS gage, and use a calculation for each outtake, each morning. They are following their agreement with Ecology.

Michele Canale announced the Land Trust’s Harvest Dinner on Saturday; there are a few tickets left. Fundraiser for farmland conservation. Also, Michele tried the phone App that Shawn forwarded via email from Groundwater Foundation, and said she has been using it to track her water use and has found it very eye-opening/shocking. Encourages others to try it out.

II. Clallam County Culvert Inventory (Cheryl Baumann and Eric Carlsen, NOPL for Salmon)

- Eric Carlson has been leading this inventory of County Road culverts since August 2012 in Blyn, Dungeness, moving toward Elwha and WRIA 19; Elwha Tribe has already done Salt Creek. NOPL Workplan had this on the project list, but it came with a \$350,000; when we looked at the work and limited number of capital dollars; want those to do bigger restoration projects; culvert projects have a harder time competing. Decided it would be a great project for us to take on with Eric being on the team. Advances salmon recovery by doing field work, analysis, and coming up with

list of worst offenders to least, and providing to project sponsors. One of the quickest ways to see fish returns is to improve fish passage barriers. Also, State had been sued by Tribes for state culverts. If we have a problem with highway culverts, probably also have problems with county roads. Would like to get ahead of those problems. 2014 state legislature passed state fish passage barrier board. Have done first round of request for projects. All good timing. Might have additional funding similar to SRFB, but for culverts specifically.

- Submitted a list of projects as a priority watershed. Helping NOPLA evolve as an organization. Helping local governments, save money on litigation, teeing up money for project sponsors.
- Very significant undertaking for amount of field work involved. Also a lot of technical analyses. Includes every pipe on County right of way. They are all being looked at, measured, and added into the database. Judgement call on whether a driveway culvert is included. No private roads.
- Partners include Clallam County Road Dept., Streamkeepers, Puget Sound Partnership, PSAR, Tribes, retired fish biologist, Jim McCulloch, several other volunteers.
- Protocols: training from WDFW; WDFW Fish Passage Barrier and Surface Water Diversion Screening Assessment/Priority Manual; use metric system. Level A and Level B assessments. Most are Level As, have only done a couple of the Level Bs, which take a lot longer, two hours per site.
- Don Hatler asked if fish barriers on private land are ever looked at. Eric responded that scope only includes County right of ways. There is funding for that type of work, but not part of this project's scope. WDFW has done some of that.
- Eric showed a sample map and form showing how "percent passable" determination is made.
- In WRIA 17, have completed 265 and in WRIA 18, have completed 950 bridges/pipes/driveways for the inventory. Every culvert has been looked at, regardless of whether they are impacting habitat. That will happen later. Expect to fully complete inventory by end of 2017.
- Cathy Lear asked if it would be practical to use "survey crew working" signs; Eric thought not since they are moving around a lot.
- Judy Larson asked if using LIDAR could help find hidden ones. Eric said they find more by walking. If they drive, they are apt to miss some.
- Dave Garlington asked when they prioritize, how they are taking in to account downstream culverts that aren't on County right of way. Cheryl said the Board wants them to start downstream, in close proximity to ones that are already fixed. Eric said sometimes (e.g., with DNR or Timber companies prioritizing), it's the easiest ones that get fixed first.
- Cheryl talked about the Fish Barrier Removal Program. There was a call for projects in late July. Lead Entity decided WRIA 19 is a priority watershed. She handed out descriptions of all the projects that were submitted.
- Joe Holtrop noted that a lot of them were in Sunland, which would be draining to culverts.
- Marc asked about scale. Cheryl said Elwha/Dungeness is where the most are because there is the most development here. Then it becomes what funders want. If folks are aware of high priority projects, need to be ranked and put on the workplan.
- Judy asked if the Bell Creek projects are City projects. Eric said yes, and they are also in WDFW's database. Judy asked about NPDES approval for augmenting Bell Creek with reclaimed water; she mentioned a newspaper article. Dave said yes, they are putting reclaimed water in down at the mouth. They are augmenting at three spots on Bell Creek.
- Cheryl said that one of the benefits of this work is that the fish people are interfacing with the road people, keeping that communication open.
- Cheryl provided a NOPLA update next. The grant round concluded with more projects than they had funding. Dawley ranked second on both lists (Hood Canal and NOPLA), and HC decided to fund that project in its entirety, which freed up some funding. HC asked if NOPLA wanted a Loan because they had extra.
- Need to start teeing up projects earlier. Will issue a call for updates to the Workplan which starts the grant round. Projects have to be on Workplan.
- Floodplains by Design - \$7.8 million in grants. Dungeness Levee Design, 3 Crabs, and Construction of Levee setback.

III. Dungeness River and Bridge Updates (*Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*)

- Scott Chitwood showed a map of potential chokepoints that Tribal technicians documented, counted 39 total. Showed latest flows for Dungeness. August 27th was the lowpoint of the summer flows. DOE gage read 62 cfs, irrigators were withdrawing 19 cfs. Difference between the two gages was about the sum of all the outtakes. One more week of irrigation.

- Will continue to see a downhill slide through September/October. Scott showed a closer look of the daily mean flows for 2005, 2009 and 2015, all low flow years.
- Scott noted the NOAA website provides status updates on ENSO, El Nino Souther Oscillation. A pdf summary is updated every Monday morning:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.shtml
- Scott showed some photos of the Canyon Creek construction work, and notes the creek is running at about 2 cfs. He also showed some photos of Grey Wolf River, which were taken by Roger Mosley. Mouth of Gold Creek including falls, lower end of Canyon Creek.
- Regarding pink returns, no longer expecting 1.3 million. The marine survival estimate was an overestimate. More like 300-400,000 expected.
- The diversion dams that had been placed at some of the chokepoints were removed just prior to the rains.
- Judy asked about fish use of olfactory in returns. Scott said it depends; topic of a lot of research; one of those Animal Kingdom secrets we don't quite understand. Magnetic field and other variables also play into it.
- Powell Jones gave an update on the new trestle. He reminded group about the November 2014 flood which started things moving, followed by the February flood which was what shut down the bridge when it lost some bents downriver. OTAC Engineering was hired to develop new design. Early work in August removed four bents that were directly in contact with the River. Awarded Nordland Construction the bid to do construction. From late August to present, removed bridge decking with small excavator. Trestle came out in four days. Bents range from 4-12 feet deep. Creosote has to be disposed of; construction company has rights to all the rest. Yesterday they drilled test holes. Today removing 100 feet fill on fare end, prepping road for heavy equipment.
- Powell reminded everyone that the River Festival is celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the bridge. Friday, children will be bussed from Greywolf and Helen Haller. 800-900 kids expected on Friday.
- Don Hatler asked how the new bridge will be placed. Powell said a crane will be used, and the bridge sections are prefabricated. They anticipate construction will be done end of year.

IV. Other Business / Announcements

- Team reviewed application for new membership from Robert Phraener, representing Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society/Conservation Committee, with Peter Walker as alternate. Judy moved and Robert Brown seconded the motion to approve this new membership to DRMT. Welcome Robert and Peter!

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

V. Adjourn

Action Items or Items Needing Follow-up	Date Requested	Date Completed
Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project Update	4/08/15	Provided at 6/10/15 meeting.
Update on April climate change workshops	4/08/15	Provided at 8/12/15 meeting.
Update on drought-leasing program bids	4/08/15	