



October 14, 2015

Dungeness River Management Team

APPROVED Meeting Notes

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)
Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula’s Future
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Robert Beebe, Riverside Property Owner
Pete Tjemsland, City of Sequim (alt)
Michele Canale, North Olympic Land Trust
Robert Phreaner, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Peter Walker, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt)
Matt Heins, Estuary –Tidelands/Riverside Property Owners

Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District (Advisory)
Tom Martin, Clallam PUD #1 (Advisory)
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries

Others in Attendance:

Bill Strehle, resident
Bob Lynette, resident
Bob Reandau, resident
Tim Ward, WDFW
Scott Williams, WDFW
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Society
Alana Linderoth, Sequim Gazette

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review & Approve September 9, 2015 DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Judy Larson moved and Robert Beebe seconded the motion to approve the September meeting notes. The notes were approved unanimously by the Team. The October agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comment:

Judy Larson commented that she would like to hear from the Tribe regarding plans for resort and related water use. She would also like to hear from Battelle on status and potential impact of their water right application. Scott Chitwood said that the Tribe could arrange for a presentation on the former. Shawn will try to contact a representative from Battelle.

Judy stated that the hearing examiner related to the Carlsborg Sewer Project on September 23rd, William Pain, decided that no additional conditions were needed for putting sewage in pipe over Dungeness River. She said Protect the Peninsula’s Future would appeal, since it is not clear that the steel pipe would provide the double containment necessary in order to protect against potential leakage. Judy thinks this should be of concern to DRMT, and she encouraged others to comment.

Matt Heins said the Commissioners approved the road vacation for the 3 Crabs area restoration project. Michele Canale noted that a recent email indicated the design bid that came through was \$1 million higher than anticipated, so the project will probably be delayed.

Robert Beebe noticed flow in an irrigation canal. He was surprised since irrigation season ended. Comments suggested that it was likely withdrawals for stock water; water users can withdrawal water for stock year-round.

II. Water Supplies / Drought Updates

Tom Martin, Clallam PUD #1

- Tom Martin handed out a packet of information on Water Systems in Dungeness River/East WRIA 18. Topics included a summary of PUD’s infrastructure and water projections, Morse Creek low flow mitigation, and well levels 2011-2015.
- PUD operates three water systems, Evergreen, Carlsborg and Fairview. In summary, no additional sources or water rights are required to meet 2030 demands on the Evergreen system. For Carlsborg, additional instantaneous and annual water rights would be required to meet the demands projected for the full UGA if PUD expanded service to the entire area. For Fairview, additional annual water rights, but no additional instantaneous water rights or sources, are required to meet 2030 demands.

- For Carlsborg, PUD and Clallam County had an agreement; County took over that project and would be responsible for procuring getting water rights. Judy asked about opportunities for recharge. Tom said that consultant looked at “pump and dump” as an option worth merit for augmenting flow.
- Robert Brown questioned the use of the water model outside Sequim area. He said it wasn’t as accurate further away from Sequim.
- Tom was asked how PUD knows how much is used (e.g., customer usage for Carlsborg says 17%). Tom responded that PUD has meters on all their customers. There was discussion about the fact that finding leaks can be very difficult in areas of hard soils. Pete Tjemsland noted that in some areas it could take 20 years for water to surface from a leak.
- Mary Ellen asked if water use is first come, first served. Tom said PUD is working with Washington Water Trust and Ecology to increase PUD water right via mitigation certificate. Judy Larson thought there was a rule where water rights can’t increase without proving no more than 10% loss. Pete said that Washington Department of Health manages that aspect.
- See handout for further details on each of the PUD water systems.
- Regarding Morse Creek, Tom noted that on July 17 PUD had to cease withdrawal because the creek’s flow went below 25cfs. They pumped 200gpm to Morse Creek, because used that much for the plant. Ecology says no diversions, no exceptions, so there were no diversions from Morse Creek during low flows, except the first two weeks; but, to mitigate, they put more in than was taken out. PUD was required to create (in four weeks) new pump stations.
- Scott Chitwood found the usage numbers interesting; suggests the number used in the rule (150) was underestimated.

Pete Tjemsland, City of Sequim

- Pete Tjemsland gave an update on City water use. Pete said that the City asked customers to conserve during the drought. They weren’t sure how that would work (voluntary conservation), but in August/September usage dropped by 10 percent. He said this was partly due to conservation and partly due to replacing leaky pipes.
- City contacted WDFW, Ecology, WDOH and irrigators about Bell Creek. Agreed to send 220 gpm extra water to Bell. Judy asked about NPDES permits for that. Pete said no; it was temporary only during drought; no permit necessary.
- Started decreasing out of the Rainey well; decreased to 300 gpm. By mid-August, down to 200 gpm, then relied on Silberhorn and Pt. Williams well.
- The plan has been to use Rainey well when the River is higher and other well fields during low flows. Sequim’s water right for Rainey is less than 2cfs. Now using 200 gpm, around 0.5 cfs.

Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

- Scott Chitwood displayed a flow chart for the Dungeness for the summer. The spring/summer snow melt that normally forms the mean daily flow curve (in 85 years of record) did not happen this year. Daily flows fell below minimum on May 31, and set new daily minimum flow record each day following until August 29. The chart is very telling, showing that for three solid months, the Dungeness was breaking minimum daily flow records every day. With the exception of three days (Aug. 30, Oct. 10, Oct. 11), Dungeness hasn’t been above mean daily flow since April 5th.
- The chart revealed that groundwater is really driving the system; Coastal systems don’t depend on groundwater as much as Dungeness, for example.
- Referring to the expected large pink run, the pinks returned at a fraction of their forecast. Probably close to level from 2013, maybe less, maybe closer to 300,000. Should have enormous fry production in January-March, assuming no scouring. Coho not in yet.
- Referring to the fish-passage project, Scott noted that the pinks made it as far as they could go. Still no estimate on how many escaped to spawn. Probably still spawning in lower river. Close to final numbers for Chinook = ~400 that made it back to the River. Hatchery crew manned the weir down adjacent to the Game Farm. 112 adults were collected, including three jacks = `115. That number produced 281,000 eggs to collect for broodstock. Also manually passed fish.
- Alana Linderoth asked what is being done to prepare for another low snowpack year. Scott responded that we are definitely better equipped now. Can’t really compare. Expect maybe 30% less snow pack than normal.
- Joe Holtrop asked if this was the first no snowpack year. Scott said he noticed that a lot of the records that were broken in Dungeness were from the 20s.

III. Canyon Creek Project Update (Tim Ward, WDFW)

- Tim Ward presented photos of the construction going on for Canyon Creek fish ladder project. They are in the middle of construction right now, and concrete has been poured for sections of the ladder. A field trip to the project site will be scheduled for the near future. When complete, the project will allow about two miles of habitat to be accessed by migrating salmon.

IV. Railroad Bridge Trestle Project Update (Randy Johnson, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe)

- Randy Johnson updated the Team on the project to replace and upgrade the damaged railroad bridge trestle. The project came about after the February 2015 flood, which knocked out some of the old pilings, making the bridge impassible. The consensus was to replace the trestle with a river worthy, salmon friendly trestle.
- The in-river work had to be completed by August 15th. By August 1st, fish were migrating, but weren’t due to spawn for another month. Removed the old pilings from the river. The main construction tasks would not happen in-river.
- NOrdland Construction was hired. The last Friday in August the deck was stripped of the trestle, and they began moving piling bents. The new peer replaces 115 creosoted pilings. The old trestle was 580 feet long; the new is 750 feet long. Each span is around 180 feet, and will have three pieces. So far, have received five of the 12 pieces needed.

V. 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.

VI. Adjourn

Action Items or Items Needing Follow-up	Date Requested	Date Completed
Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project - Fieldtrip	10/14/15	Scheduled for December.
Presentation on Tribe’s resort and related water use	10/14/15	
Update on Battelle’s water right application	10/14/15	