



November 17, 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)
Judy Larson, Protect the Peninsula’s Future
Michael Gallagher, WA Department of Ecology
Matt Heins, Estuary –Tidelands/Riverside Property Owners
Robert Beebe, Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25)
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District (Advisory)
David Garlington, City of Sequim (alt)
James Beebe, Riverside Property Owners (RM 0-3.25) (alt)

Others in Attendance:

Phil Martin, resident
Sam Brend, Clallam County
Andy Brastad, Clallam County Environmental Health
Bill Strehle, resident
Rebecca Benjamin, North Olympic Salmon Coalition
Ivan Stoker, Graysmarsh
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Society

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review & Approve October 14, 2015 DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Approval of October 14 meeting notes were postponed due to lack of quorum. The November agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comment:

Scott Chitwood mentioned the upcoming celebration of the recent Dungeness Bay upgrades. Celebration will be Sequim Transit Center, 11/20, 1pm. All are invited.

Judy Larson announced a public hearing for 11/25 at 2pm, Clallam County Courthouse regarding the application for the Clallam Sewer project to be in right of way of trail.

II. Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Project Update

Andy Brastad, Clallam County

- Andy Brastad described the County’s PIC plan as being modeled after the 2011 Kitsap PIC Plan, which was the first of its kind.
- Clallam Conservation District got funding to develop the Plan; County partnered and is charged with implementation (identifying and correcting water pollution, including from pet waste, wildlife, livestock, septic/human).
- Working with landowners and community. Two workshops held with 3 Crabs community. That community’s main message: Keep us informed. Community members want to know when the monitoring is happening and the what/where and why. This monitoring just started a few months ago.
- Judy Larson asked if any of the pollution also comes from stormwater. Andy replied that the scope of this program focuses on bacterial pollutions. It is not a stormwater program. Judy commented that in Port Angeles, there are issues with combined sewer/stormwater causing pollution. Why isn’t that being looked at with PIC? Andy said that with this pilot project, stormwater monitoring is beyond the scope.
- WA Department of Health (DOH) awarded Clallam County Environmental Health \$279,444 for project implementation, January 2015 through June 2017.
- Partners include: Streamkeepers, Clallam County, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (for targeted monitoring), Clallam Conservation District (for outreach).
- In October 2014, Clean Water Work Group reviewed all existing data to come up with initial project areas, which was narrowed down to Meadowbrook Creek and Goldensands.
- Goldensands: County got involved in 1998, when water quality samples turned out very high for fecal coliform levels.
- In 2000, DOH closed areas of the Bay to shellfishing. The County created a shellfish district, Ecology conducted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Goldensands has been a problem since the beginning. Decided to focus on that because it has a history, but also because they have been getting calls from residents saying it smells like sewage. Did

further monitoring and found the area to be loaded with fecal coliform. Have sent notification letters out, planned a dye test study.

- Judy Larson asked what kind of septic systems are down there. Andy responded that the ones that have been repaired are the best you can have. There are a lot of conventional systems down there. Four or five with holding tanks, which were put in in the 1970s/early 1980s.
- The background dye/charcoal study showed interference, so dye test proved inconclusive. The next step was to get approval from landowners, which they did, to test from the mouth up. All numbers were high on November 4th sampling date. Also observed birds everywhere, though birds don't normally create plumes such as what they found. The problem seems to be more of an issue of dumping, but birds are interfering.
- Andy next showed a video of "Sable the Sewage Sniffing Dog", as an example of a tool that Skagit and King counties are using. A benefit is that you don't have to bring the dogs to the site; can send samples to them. They only sniff out human waste. This could be another tool for us to use. County is also talking to prosecutor about what to do about those homeowners who are not so forthcoming. Currently working on developing an investigation plan.
- Judy thought that inspections were required every three years. Is there nothing about repercussions in that rule? Andy said only for the most egregious ones (due to staffing capacity). There are 12,000 septic systems; there is 25% compliance with inspections. Ten years ago, there were only a handful. Enforcement has always been difficult in Environmental Health. Most recently had a resident who wouldn't fix their system. Prosecutors filed motion in Court. That's the first time the County has taken anyone to Court.
- James Beebe commented that it sounds like you're having more problems with prosecutors enforcing. Andy reiterated that it is a staffing capacity issue. Having evidence would also help.
- Mike Gallagher asked who is responsible for pumping? How does the proof get to the County? Andy said it's up to the property owner. Judy suggested that there should be an amendment to the ordinance so that pumpers are the ones who have to submit proof to County.
- What's next? Improvements are starting to show. Andy showed a comparison map. 750 acres of Dungeness Bay were upgraded in October this year, due to a combination of efforts/team work. 500 failing septic systems have been fixed in the MRA in the last ten years, 180 of them in the Lower Dungeness area.
- Matt Heins mentioned that Dungeness Farms has asked DOH to sample a little closer to the shoreline, so that potentially more acreage could be upgraded.
- Mike Gallagher mentioned that dental offices on septic systems also need to be looked at, with regards to mercury contamination, which can be a problem. Andy said there are none here.

III. Washington Department of Ecology Updates

Michael Gallagher, WA Department of Ecology

Drought Update

- Michael Gallagher handed out and showed slides created by Jeff Marti, Ecology's Water Resources Program State Drought Coordinator. There are two committees paying close attention to drought situation: The Water Supply Availability Committee (which evaluates current and forecasted water supply conditions and considers whether drought conditions are likely to be in effect at specific future times) and the State Executive Water Emergency Committee (which looks at economic hardships related to water availability/drought). A drought is triggered if less than 75% of normal water supply expected along with related economic hardship.
- Michael explained the three phases in which the 2015 drought was declared. He noted that while rainfall was normal (August 2015 was the wettest on record), the snowpack was very low. Ecology's drought response included:
 - Leasing of water rights in Yakima and Dungeness Basins to boost stream flows
 - Funding emergency fish passage and hatchery projects
 - Authorization of emergency wells in Yakima Basin
 - Approving emergency water right transfers (e.g. Skagit Basin, Yakima Basin)
 - Emergency drought funding (grant and non-grant) to irrigation districts, cities and Tribes (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe received funding for fish passage and City of Sequim received funding for water supplies)
 - Curtailment Orders issued for almost 900 water rights statewide to protect senior water rights.
- There is still funding available, and if drought continues next year there may be more available.
- Challenges:
 - Getting good at drought (we get one about every 10 years; not enough that we are good at it, although we feel we did pretty good this year)
 - Predicting the future...before it happens (this drought was most significant; more impacts on west side and early; earlier than ever before; we were seeing September conditions in July)

- Legislative Calendar not tally in sync with Water Year
- Telling the difference between a hardship and an impact
- Grant Application Review: emergency room verses preventive care
- Michael showed slides depicting drought impacts for agriculture, fisheries, Dungeness and public water systems
- Ag. impacts included earlier and larger harvests in some cases (cherries, apples, pears, hops, grapes....)
- Fisheries impacts included reports of fish stranding, passage restrictions, high water temps. in both rivers and hatcheries, diseased and dead sockeye and sturgeon in the Columbia River, widespread fishing closures, different tools for rivers with and without storage.
- A slide was shown of crews in the Dungeness building rock structures to concentrate flows in deep enough channels for fish migrating upstream. When rock structures weren't enough, portable diversion dams were installed.
- Public water systems impacts: Forks, Port Townsend and Port Angeles implemented watering restrictions, large Westside municipalities at Stage 2 Conservation, wells ran dry for Startup, Moxee and Riverside (N. of Spokane), Reports of individual well users with wells running dry sporadically around state.
- Planning for next year:
 - Consider extending drought declaration
 - Synthesize impacts (Ag, groundwater, fisheries)
 - Convene Drought Plan Task Force
 - Initiate leasing, assistance sooner
 - Promote conservation more actively
- Learned a lot of lessons about how weak and resilient our water systems are. Tacoma came close to needing a water right. Learned that we need to be more proactive. Challenging in that if you talk too early, landscape industry affected.

Foster vs. Yelm Update

- Michael handed out slides on the Background and preliminary conclusions of the recent (10/8/15) Supreme Court decision in Foster v. Yelm [please see handout for details], which overturned Yelm's water right permit authorization.
- The Court rendered its opinion and voted 6-3 in favor of Foster, and vacated Yelm's water right permit of Qa=942 AFY and Qi=2,100 GPM.
- Yelm and Ecology seek reconsideration of Foster vs. Ecology decision. Mike said it's worth reading the opinion – it's 12 pages.
- Judy Larson asked for clarification about Ranney wells. Mike said that Ranney wells are constructed near rivers, but still considered groundwater. Judy said that Dave Nazy has remarked that the Ranney well near Dungeness is considered to be taking directly from the Dungeness river. Is Cryptosporidium a concern? Mike said no, it's still groundwater. Judy replied that in the 1950s, Ecology changed water right for City from River to Ranney on condition that less water would be taken. Mike said certificates are public information.
- When asked what Ecology will use if OCPI is no longer a tool, Mike responded that mitigation has to be water for water in time and place. Makes it difficult for small water suppliers. Opens up a lot more questions that we have answers for.

IV. Action Agenda/NTA Update (John Cambalik, WDFW)

- Nine local integrating organizations (LIOs) working to update Action Agenda. Ours is Strati Action Area. This update will be more substantial than any other. Formed technical task force of eight individuals, and a steering group of seven. Full membership made up of 35 voting members.
- Working under new funding model within National Estuary Program... a new way of administering the Action Agenda, moving money thru 3 different pathways: traditional, "directed", capacity
- Details still being developed.
- To respond to new funding model, each LIO has to create 2-year implementation plan (workplan), and 5-year ecosystem recovery plan (strategy), very similar to way salmon recovery has worked with 4 year workplans and develop and submit projects thru annual SRFB/PSAR. In process of developing strategy first. Going at warp speed.
- 3 Strategic initiative teams (habitat, stormwater, shellfish priority actions) – the 3 main will evaluate all near term actions, regional and local, to see if they meet the technical bar for receiving direct funding pathway. These 3 teams will sunset in February. Permanent teams will then be established.
- Challenges: extremely rapid timeline, deadlines are coming rapid fire.
- Greatest uncertainties: catastrophic oil spills, climate change, 2015 fish barrier survey, funding model still uncertain.
- We're all working toward this new funding model, but we still don't exactly know what it will look like it.

- December 31: date that near term actions are due.
- Honed down and identified the highest priority pressures, narrowed down to top 6.
- Just finished the early elements, all the upfront work. We are the only LIO that has an individual on each of the transitioning teams for reviewing, ranking the NTA across Puget Sound (they will recuse themselves from our area rankings).
- In middle of developing, drafting the NTAs for Strait. 21 have been submitted in draft form. Discussion ensued about the draft list.
- Technical task force will be helping to improve applications for those 21 projects.
- Another set have been adopted for inclusion in Action Agenda, adopted by reference, already gone through SRFB process.
- Reservoir is included on list.

V. Railroad Bridge Trestle Project Update (*Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Center*)

- Powell provided some photos of latest bridge repair progress, and the bridge spans. The spans are massive, built in Wisconsin, hauled by truck. Installed by crane. Showed video of spans being placed.
- Recently corrected seismic bearings. Construction company has been great to work with, preventing potential catastrophes, for example, such as removing the temporary bridge before the flood took it away.
- Showed picture of before repair versus now. Salmon friendly, water quality friendly (no more creosote), flow friendly bridge. The bridge has been having good opportunities to test its function during flood, and it is proving to be functioning very well. Two trees have fallen on bridge so far, without any issues. A temporary bridge would not have lasted these floods.

VI. Other Business / Announcements

- None.

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

VII. Adjourn

Action Items or Items Needing Follow-up	Date Requested	Date Completed
Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project - Fieldtrip	10/14/15	Scheduled for December 9 th .
Presentation on Tribe's resort and related water use	10/14/15	
Update on Battelle's water right application	10/14/15	