



December 9, 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
Matt Heins, Estuary –Tidelands/Riverside Property Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District (Advisory)
David Garlington, City of Sequim (alt)
Ben Smith, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association
Cathy Lear, Clallam County (alt)
Robert Brown, Dungeness Beach Association
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries

Robert Phreaner, OPAS/Conservation Committee
Peter Walker, OPAS/Conservation Committee (alt)
Lorenz Sollman, USFW (Advisory)

Others in Attendance:

Sam Brend, Clallam County
Bill Strehle, resident
Ivan Stoker, Graysmarsh
Powell Jones, Dungeness River Audubon Society
Chris/Mike Barton, residents
Dave Shreffler, Shreffler Environmental

I. Introductions for Field Trip / Tour of Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project Site

The DRMT met at the Fish Hatchery for introductions and carpooling to project site. Tim Ward, WDFW, gave an overview of the project.

II. Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project

Tim Ward took the Team to the bridge overlooking the new fish ladder. Construction is almost complete. Q/A and photo opportunities.

III. Travel to River Center / IV. Review Remaining Agenda and Approve October 14 and November 11 Meeting Notes

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Ben Smith moved and Matt Heins seconded the motion to approve both October and November meeting notes, including small spelling correction to October notes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

Robert Brown noted the standing water on River’s End Road; Scott Chitwood noted that Matriotti Creek is adding a lot of flow, which is apparent when comparing the difference in flow measurements recorded between the upper USGS gage and the lower Ecology gage. Robert wondered the limitations of the gages. Scott said the highest recorded so far is 7,200 cfs at the USGS gage (January 2002).

V. Summer Chum and Jimmycomelately Creek and Estuary Restoration

Dave Shreffler, Shreffler Environmental

- Dave Shreffler showed a slide presentation on behalf of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and all the other partners, on the coordinated efforts to restore Jimmycomelately (JCL) Creek and Estuary, and Summer Chum salmon in Jimmycomelately.
- There was zero harvest in 1993. Summer Chum were listed in 1999 (when only seven Chum were recorded in JCL) at the same time there were flooding issues in Blyn (due to aggradation caused by a straightened channel). The restoration project was an opportunity to address both issues (declining Chum in Jimmycomelately and flooding in Blyn). Chum have gradually been increasing since a broodstock program was began in 1999.
- The project involved four phases:
 - I. Re-align channel (1.5 miles of the lower portion of creek). This included digging a channel and a floodplain (a low flow floodplain to help dissipate sediments/flow).
 - II. Estuary restoration (remove log yard, remove road and other structures, remove fill)

III. Bridge construction on Hwy 101. Previously the Creek went through undersized, double-banded culverts. The fact that salmon funding was used toward bridge construction was landmark.

IV. Diversion of creek flow into new channel.

- History: Between 1924-1929, the creek was moved by humans (straightened and hardened) for agricultural purposes. A log yard in the estuary was in operation during the same timeframe. The vision for restoration was a vision of “UN-development” – remove human impacts and allow the Creek and Estuary to function as it historically did.
- Factoids:
 - 7 chum returned in 1999; in 2015, 6,529 chum returned); 2013 was the largest return: 8,341; since annual broodstock program began, annual return averages 2,264/year; 2015 was the first year of *wild* Summer Chum returns only (no broodstock fish); 2010 was the last broodyear that milt was taken
 - Restoration took 7 years and \$7 million
 - 27 partners
 - Won local, state, national awards
 - 2015 was the first
 - Salmon Creek had the biggest Chum returns on record this year: 6,529; Snow also had their biggest returns: 971
- Ben Smith asked what the carrying capacity of JCL is; how many Chum can it handle? Dave said that they previously had thought the carrying capacity was 5,000, but the Creek has gone past that.
- Robert Brown asked about the large woody debris problems that arose during project. Dave said that large wood was installed after the re-alignment, but due to a very large water year in 2006 – a lot of the installed wood blew out, including spawning gravel. Learned that that particular location in the Creek needed even more wood than previously thought to make sure jams functioned.
- Don Hatler wondered about Chum use at Washington Harbor; Scott Chitwood said that Chum do use it, but there is no way of assessing.
- Judy Larson noted that eel grass is needed, too.
- Robert Brown asked if there was a correlation with the declining orca population leading to higher Chum returns. Matt Heins added – or, could it be that the orca populations declined due to declining fish numbers? Dave said that Orcas primarily feed on Chinook, so other fish numbers probably don’t directly correlate.

VI. Other Business / Announcements

- **February DRMT Meeting rescheduled to: Thursday, February 11**
- Powell Jones announced an upcoming Railroad Bridge opening ceremony, and said the bridge itself will be open prior to the celebration; there will be another [brief] closure in February so that they can pour the new decking on the old bridge to match to the decking on the new portion. The viewing platform is now being constructed and will be installed next week. There have been more high water events in the last four weeks. The River has avulsed 70-80 feet west. The thalweg is hitting the first new pier. [NOTE: The celebration announced at the meeting was rescheduled to 12/30 per email invitation sent to Team on 12/18].
- 2016 DRMT Elections: Scott Chitwood was reelected as Chair. Ben Smith, Judy Larson and Michele Canale were reelected to the Executive Committee (along with the automatic appointment of Clallam County and Tribe).

Public Comment:

- No public comment.

VII. Adjourn

Action Items or Items Needing Follow-up	Date Requested	Scheduled Update
Canyon Creek Fish Ladder Project - Fieldtrip	10/14/15	Completed December 9 th .
Presentation on Tribe’s resort and related water use	10/14/15	TBD
Update on Battelle’s water right application	10/14/15	TBD
Update on SMP	10/14/15	Scheduled for March 9 th .
LID	10/14/15	TBD
Eel grass	10/14/15	Scheduled for January 13 th .
Dike setback	10/14/15	Next update scheduled for January 13 th .
Drift cells	10/14/15	To be scheduled in spring 2016.
Oil spill response	10/14/15	TBD
Bassett vs. Ecology	1/11/16	TBD