

Dungeness River Management Team

APPROVED June 8, 2016 Meeting Notes

Prepared by Sam Brend, Clallam County

Team Members/ Alternates in Attendance

Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County
Scott Chitwood, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt)
Don Hatler, Sports Fisheries
Peter Walker, Audubon Society (alt)
Ann Soule, City of Sequim
Judy Larson, Protecting the Peninsula's Future
Matt Heins, Estuary-tidelands/Riverside Prop. Owners
Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District (Advisory)
Marc McHenry, U.S Forest Service (Alt, Advisory)

Others in Attendance

Sam Brend, Clallam County
Alana Linderoth, Sequim Gazette
Joel Winborn, Clallam County
Anita Matthay, Olympic Climate Action
Genie Mixon, OCA
Bob Sextro, OCA
Scott Williams, WDFW
Katrina Simmons, WDFW
Carol Creasey, Clallam County, EH
Bob Simmons, WSU Extension
Shawn Stanley, WDFW

I. Introductions/ review agenda

Approval of April 13 (revised), May 11 and June 8 draft meeting notes postponed to July DRMT meeting due to lack of quorum (a quorum is defined in DRMT's Operating Procedures as nine voting member organizations).

Public Comment

Judy- Comment on Attorney General decision regarding Ordinary High Water Mark. Scott- Permit Denied- Attorney General provided opinion as to whether an HPA applies only to projects within the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), the opinion was that it didn't matter if the project was within or without the OHWM because if the project was going to affect the waters of the state it didn't matter if it was within or without.

Judy- Also through Streamkeepers- Through the 17th of June comment can be made on EPA USGS report that has to do with hydraulic effects of projects. Judy will forward to Shawn and Shawn will forward onward [Shawn forwarded Judy's e-mail on 6/14/16].

II. Initiative 732 – Carbon Tax, Michael Howe

- Michael Howe talked with the DRMT about Clallam County PUD's stance on Initiative 732 and how it would affect the PUD and its customers. They are not favoring the initiative because of their view of the impact on costs and delivery of service.
- Mike explained the initiative works to create a fund from the generation of electricity used by consumers in Washington State. This allows a 1 % reduction in state sales tax and elimination of the B&O tax.
- It went before the legislature during the last session, but they did not act, so it will go to the Nov. 16th ballot in its original form.
- If the initiative passes, starting in 2017, it would cost \$15 per ton of carbon, increase to \$25 in 2018 and increase at 3.5% per year until it gets to \$100 per ton of carbon in 2016 dollars. The tax would be imposed on the consumer of electricity (individual) and the county would collect and pay the tax to the state.
- Estimates on potential additional costs:
 - 2017- 500,000 to 1,800,000 extra cost; 2018- 900,000 to 3,000,000; 2025-2026- 1,200,000 to 4,100,000
- Judy- What percent of the PUD energy is carbon-generated? Michael: Over 98% clean, but pay more for tax than on that 2%. When not generating own hydroelectric power, get market purchases from the Bonneville Power Administration considered "unspecified resources," which would include wind, hydro, solar; it could be clean energy or carbon-based. The initiative assumes there is a certain level of carbon emissions from these unspecified resources regardless of what is actually in the mix, so the tax is applied accordingly. The PUD

receives 4-14% of power from BPA market purchases per year. This includes clean power (that is how they get the 2%, 98% mix) but the way the policy was written they would still pay the carbon tax on all of that percent (4-14%). The BPA fuel-mix is published every quarter so the PUD knows the actual percentage of carbon sources every quarter.

- Another concern the PUD has with the initiative is the “pancaking” of legislation. There are 2 more policies in the works that concern carbon reduction- the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Air Rule. They could be complementary, could be in addition to, so the costs could keep rising.
- Judy- Any economic analysis done for these policies? Michael- No, they are in draft form, so can't do an economic analysis.
- Ann- What are the PUD's carbon reduction goals? Michael- Don't have any because they are already 98% clean energy. Nothing specifically set out. Work with the Washington Public Utility District, the State. Right now seems to be a shot gun approach.
- PUD heard a presentation about the policy and had a discussion, the commission had meetings regarding the issue and public comment was heard.
- Judy asked for a summary of the public comments. Michael said the Carbon Washington Group, Mike Massa, came to the meeting and spoke in favor of I-732; Olympic Climate Action came and talked in favor of it. Some senior citizens spoken in opposition to it. Mike Doherty was there.
- Judy asked if the PUD resolution was on the website, Michael didn't know, said he would get it on there.
- Scott wanted to know the average tonnage of carbon that the average homeowner generates per month or year. Nobody knew.
- Ann- The cost gets passed onto customers, so if they don't pay, it becomes the PUD liability. What if they can't pay? Michael- We've had to raise rates previously, the public doesn't get mad at the state they get mad at commissioners for raising the rates. Heard from the customers that they want rates low, even though we have some of the lowest in the country.
- Judy- What would the new rate have to be? Michael estimated a 4 to 6 percent rate increase off the top of his head.
- Ann- If the initiative were different in any way would the PUD be willing to work with the carbon tax? Michael did not have a sense for that.

III. Hurd Creek Flood Protection Measures, Shawn Stanley, WDFW

- The location of Hurd Creek fish hatchery is off of Woodcock & Ward Roads. Shawn Stanley showed aerials of the area in 1914, '42, '65, '85, '05, '13, and channel migration zones, avulsion zones. Migration of the river is headed toward avulsion. Chinook, steelhead and chum spawn in the river. Hurd Creek is spring fed, so fish will move into it when the main stem conditions are unfavorable. The hatchery was initially privately owned then the state took over at some point in the 70s. The whole area is in the depositional fan of the river, which would have traditionally moved back and forth.
- WDFW's goal is to try to balance infrastructure and habitat. The hatchery has 2 wells that supply 1/3 of their water. The November 2015 flooding overflowed into their ponds and facility and they lost some fish. The Dungeness levee restoration will not alleviate their problem, shows a study done by an engineer. Their plan is to place large woody debris jams and floodplain fencing (driven down 6 to 10 ft) in the river to stop it from further erosion. May also use roughened toe and bank reshaping. General opinion is that there is low recreational use on this stretch of the river.
- Timeline looks like (varies by funding competition between projects, flooding events, etc.):
 - 2016, request funding
 - 17-19 scoping, pre-design, permits
 - 19-21 final design, more permitting
 - 21-23 construction

- 23-25 buffer time
- Long term looking potentially at moving the facility. Bank stabilization would protect for approx 5-7 years.
- Having a meeting with agencies next week which will dictate if it's done this or next year.
- The private well is capped. Have a letter from Dept of Ecology that it needs to come out.
- Use spring water and well water. Placed facility where it is because of spring water. Don't have to pump water in. If lose electricity still get water.

IV. Clallam County LID/ Rain Gardens Projects, Bob Simmons, WSU Extension and Carol Creasy, Joel Winborn, Clallam County

- Bob Simmons from the WSU Extension talked about stormwater pollution in Puget Sound and how rain gardens work to manage quantity of runoff and filter pollutants out. Talked about different studies showing the effectiveness of rain gardens and studies of pollution in general.
- You develop a rain garden by excavating around 2 feet deep, putting in a bioretention mix of about 60% soil, 40% compost, then add a mulch layer 3-4 inches thick, and you end up with 6 inches of ponding depth which will infiltrate within 48 hours. Without heavy machinery a whole rain garden could cost around \$400 to \$600.
- Judy- Do you use charcoal for improvement of soil? Bob- Yes, looking at using biochar.
- Carol Creasey talked about the historical perspective of the County LID retrofit project. In late 2000's stormwater management was a part of the Clallam DCD work plan. DCD had received several Ecology stormwater grants and EPA West Coast Estuaries grant and with those grants they worked on convening a stormwater work group, developing a draft stormwater comprehensive plan, developed a stormwater drainage manual and conducted stormwater outreach and education. Wanted a demonstration site. In 2009 applied for the Ecology Stormwater Retrofit Centennial Grant. Got it in 2010. The courthouse was picked for the site because it had 70% impervious surface, was a highly visible county facility, had direct discharge into Peabody Creek and therefore PA Harbor and the Straits, and it helped the City of Port Angeles with NPDES Phase II Compliance.
- Joel Winborn discussed the specifics of the LID retrofit project including design and costs. In August 2015 there was a call for bids, on October 12, 2015 they began construction, and completed on Dec 11, 2015. The County paid \$122,638 and DOE paid \$343,962.
- There will be a few big signs (3 x 2 ft) in a few key areas.
- Bioretention is different than rain gardens because it is designed to handle specific volume and treatment for the requirements of the site. The project included porous asphalt, ADA parking, and two porous asphalt lines (crosswalks) down parking lot. It still had to meet the same design load capacity as conventional paving.
- AHBL was the consultant on the project. They were responsible for the design of the landscaping improvements, as well as the bio-retention cells and the porous asphalt and drainage system (approximately 12,000 sq ft of planting and 6,800 sq ft of asphalt). Landscaping costs were around \$60,000, the vendor of the plants was not on the peninsula.
- Shawn Stanley asked if it drained in the winter rains, and Joel showed video of the porous asphalt draining.
- Judy suggested that Streamkeepers retake water samples from Peabody now that project is done, and Joel commented they constantly do testing.
- The raingarden manual is online at raingarden.wsu.edu
- Judy asked about the County's stormwater management plan. Mary Ellen Winborn commented that they plan to start this fall; they have to do it because Ecology is enforcing it. Sam is interested in working on the project.

V. Puget Sound Coastal Program, Rich Carlson

- Rich Carlson came to introduce himself and tell us about the Puget Sound Coastal Program with US Fish and Wildlife Service. Taking over for Ginger Phalen. Rich will be the State coordinator. He is not new to the program, been working in it since 2003, but have been working in Hood Canal and Washington Harbor.

Expanded the focus area to Elwha- down to hood canal, based out of Lacey. Has been doing restoration since 1994. The Coastal Program works to restore, sustain and form naturally occurring habitats (rain gardens are a little more engineered).

- Judy- Washington harbor project, could eelgrass restoration be added on to the project? Rich- That is something that could happen. Did fund an eelgrass project last year.
- Scott- How do your functions intersect with regulations? Rich- Finally signed programmatic biological opinion, wrote biological assessment. Took two years to write it, 1 year to review. That covered habitat restoration projects. Have 21 restoration actions.

VI. Other Business

- Scott gave a salmon management update. Have reached a deal, but don't have a permit for a 2016 co-management harvest plan. Until now each has pursued their own permit. Tribe has a permit, adopting and implementing plan July 2016. But it shouldn't take too long to get.
- Don- Does the tribe get to take coho from the Straits? Scott- Yes, in Dungeness Bay, both tribe and non-treaty.
- Hood Canal isn't in the critical category, Puyallup at an impasse. The 2nd lowest record on catches in 10 to 11 years of recording of the main stem Dungeness. Low fresh water productivity is basically caused by poor habitat.
- Port of Port Angeles is now looking for mitigation points and is now rethinking their Dungeness derelict facility. Maybe removing those piles. Matt Heins suggests maybe having them come and talk about their ideas.
- Don- Does tribe have a long range plan on the Dungeness? Scott- Just entered into a General Investigation (GI) study agreement with the Corps of Engineers. The GI may eventually fold into a Plan. Focus of study is on lower 12 miles, where most of development is.

Public Comment

- Bob Sextro from Olympic Climate Action talked about how that group is in favor of I-732 and explained that it is a cost neutral policy, it is modeled after British Columbia's tax policy instituted in 2010. Since then they've seen the economy grow, with more green jobs.
- How does it affect rates? 2/10th of a penny per kilowatt hour. Estimated that a family with a \$60,000 median income will save \$230 in sales tax and will pay an extra \$40 to \$50 in carbon tax rate hikes, so will come out ahead.
- They also think the "pancaking" of the legislation according to the PUD is a red herring.
- Judy commented that the commissioners should address this and come up with real number estimates.
- Peter Walker commented that Audubon society has written a letter of support for the initiative.
- Robert Knapp- if different energy sources are being mixed, this would make them accountable to report where energy is coming from, and would be nice if percentages showed up on energy bills showing the mix of energies used.
- Bob Sextro said there was a UW Carbon Tax Swap calculator that will show you your estimated savings.