

APPROVED DRMT Meeting Notes, April 12, 2017

Prepared by Chad Theismann, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Robert Brown/Dungeness Beach Association, Robert Phreaner/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society Conservation Committee, Yewah Lau/USFS, Marc McHenry/USFS (alt), Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Matt Heins/Riverside Property Owners-Estuary Tidelands, Shawn Hines/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt), Don Hatler/Sports Fisheries, , Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Joe Holtrop/Clallam Conservation District

Others Present: Jacob Carleson (Huxley College student), Ted Stadtmueller (Graysmarsh), Bill Strehle (County Resident), Phil Martin (County Resident), Jacob Melly (Clallam County Environmental Health).

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review and Approve DRMT Draft Meeting Notes

Robert Brown called meeting to order, as Vice Chair. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Judy moved to adopt the Agenda, Joe seconded. None opposed, motion carried. Judy moved to approve March 8 notes as provided, Robert B. seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Ann announced April 22 Celebration of Science at the Port Angeles Pier and Feiro Marine Life Center from 10:00-3:30 at the Landing Mall 2nd Floor Conference Room and 12:00-4:00 at the City Pier and Feiro Marine Life Center. Keynote speaker Dr. Charles Brandt, Director, Battelle Pacific Northwest National Lab. Activities include scientists speaking on locally-relevant topics, explore the Olympic Coast Natl. Marine Sanctuary Discovery Center, activities for children, booths and displays on the science behind local businesses and organizations.
- Robert B. would like to see some information on Impacts from reductions in grant funding from EPA and to see if there are any impacts to local projects, including Dungeness Dike setback.

II. Update on piping and aquifer recharge projects, Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District.

- Purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview and update of the irrigation piping and aquifer recharge projects.
- Joe spoke from a map that showed Irrigation Company boundaries and status of ditch conveyance (e.g. pipe, ditch, proposed pipe, etc.) Map available at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52a1fa6fe4b0b2685d1ec5f9/t/5654c153e4b011426eaf8866/1457457231374/2015-Irrigation-Map.pdf>
- Robert B. inquired about replanting of some of the small hills along Towne Road; he was concerned about possible erosion and wondered if something more than grass should be planted in those spots. Joe reported the area will be replanted with a pasture mix and covered with straw.
- Judy inquired about the pressure rating for new pipe. Joe reported that the 18 inch pipe has 125 psi.
- Many of the pumping stations will disappear following project completion, but there will be some pressure reducing stations.
- Joe noted one farmer operated his pump on diesel, now that system is pressurized, there is no need for the diesel pumping engine.
- Joe reported over 60 miles of pipe has gone in since 2000 that results in a water savings of 25 cfs of water.
- Project also has a component of improving water infiltration and aquifer recharge. Joe outlined some areas where perforated pipe has been installed and reviewed the quantity of water that can infiltrate.
- Aquifer Recharge project is being completed primarily as mitigation for the Dungeness Water Rule.
- Aquifer recharge project requires a source of water, location needs to be as high in watershed as possible to maximize benefits, need the right soils that allow for infiltration, and land owner permission
- Feasibility study for aquifer recharge was completed that looked at soils, location in watershed, but land owner permission turned out to be the limiting factor.
- Dungeness Water Rule set up reserves for each subwatershed. Then each mitigation or water right would take from this reserve. Amanda Cronin and Dept of Ecology presented some preliminary data on amount of reserves that are used- for example- 80% of reserve is used up in Cassalry Creek subwatershed, McDonald Creek subwatershed 37% of reserves used up. The calculations that were presented were preliminary, draft, and may need to be recalculated. These numbers could have huge ramifications on water availability.

III. USFS Dungeness Roads Project, Marc McHenry, USFS

- Purpose of the presentation is to provide an overview of proposed road treatments that would improve watershed resiliency and health, protect fish spawning and rearing habitat, improve water quality, and result in a more sustainable road system.

- Project encompasses analyzing 33 roads (approximately 95 miles of roads open to public use) in the Upper Dungeness Watershed and proposing the following actions:
 - Decommission 16.12 miles of roads that either have a high risk of delivering sediment to streams or roads are simply unneeded;
 - Close 13.89 miles of roads to public use but retain for administrative use (storage) or future management needs;
 - Relocate 2 trailheads and improve parking at Silver Lake and Gold Creek Trails;
 - Convert 1.41 miles of road to trail;
 - Protect 1 roadway habitat area for Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly.
- This project is necessitated partially by declining or plateauing of funds allocated to roads while the amount of people using the Forest roads is increasing, and increase in the severity of road damaging storms
- In 2011, the Forest Service in their watershed action plan identified priority watersheds.
- Other resource concerns in Upper Dungeness watershed- timber theft and roads they create to remove the timber.
- Current status of Taylors Checkerspot Butterfly is threatened.
- Physical road decommissioning process- remove culverts, remove any fill surrounding the culvert, scarify in order to retain natural hillside functions and minimize water to unstable slopes thereby reducing erosion potential.
- Scoping period ends April 17, 2017.
- USFS hopes to have Env. Assessment complete late summer 2017 and project proposal approved in fall 2017.
- Map handout and further project information available at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49643
- Project Lead- Dana Butler, danabutler@fs.fed.us
- New Hood Canal District Ranger- Yewah Lau, ylau@fs.fed.us

IV. Other Business/Announcements/Follow-ups

- Field Trip ideas:
 - PIC sites, specifically Golden Sands or Meadowbrook Slough;
 - Carlsborg Sewer Project and infrastructure required to transport sewage to Sequim Waste Water Treatment Facility;
 - Visit log jams in Upper Dungeness River and Graywolf River;
 - Combination trip to visit sites being restored or modified through the Dungeness Roads Management Project and visit log jams on Graywolf River/Dungeness River.
- Marc announced an award from USFS to Tribe on their LWD project.
- Future presentation idea- declining fishing seasons- the drastic reductions in open fishing seasons in causing sport fishing to a crisis in the Strait of Juan de Fuca- discussion was had regarding relevancy to the DRMT.
- Future presentation idea- Shell fishing in Dungeness Bay
- Future presentation idea- Status of Eelgrass in Dungeness Bay

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jacob Carleson, Huxley College of the Environment Environmental Policy and Science student, presented his initial research ideas. His initial project scope is intended to document the changes that result from the restoration of floodplain on the Lower Dungeness River. The goal is to document the change of river channel morphology and auxiliary flood channel changes due to dike setback. The project proposes to incorporate aerial and ground photo documentatoni, GIS data of changing river and flood channels, as well as potentially monitoring large Black Cottonwood trees. His contact information: Jacob Carleson, 21 Marian Way, Sequim, WA 98382, jacob_carlson@hotmail.com.

Bobert B. motioned to adjourn the meeting, Judy seconded, none opposed, meeting adjourned 3:50.

Note: Per Shawn's 3/31/17 "March Follow-up" e-mail to DRMT, the two letters of concern (about water quality impairments at Golden Sands, and lack of pet waste stations), and the letter of support for funding of PSAR and FbD, were all approved, mailed out, and posted to the DRMT website.

DRMT Website: <http://tinyurl.com/DRMTweb>