

APPROVED DRMT Meeting Notes, July 12, 2017

Prepared by Chad Theismann, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Robert Brown/Dungeness Beach Association, Robert Phreaner/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Peter Walker/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt), Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Matt Heins/Riverside Property Owners-Estuary Tidelands, Shawn Hines/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt), Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Scott Chitwood/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Ben Smith/Water Users Association, Mary Ellen Winborn/Clallam County DCD (alt), Don Hatler/Sports Fisheries, Mike Gallagher/WA Dep't of Ecology, Michelle Canale/North Olympic Land Trust, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Lorenz Sollman/Dungeness Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Jennifer Brown-Scott/ Dungeness Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (alt).

Others Present: Kurt Grinnell (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Ralph Riccio (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), , Michael L. Blanton (WDFW), Forest Koehler, Carrol Hull (League of Women Voters), Marguerite Grover (Sequim Realtors), Chad Theismann (Clallam County), Phil Martin, Ted Stadtmueller (Graysmarsh), Juliana Merluccio (USFS), Rich Carlson (USFS) Carol Huhh, Elizabeth Tobin, Lyn Muench, Kelly Toy

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

Scott Chitwood called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Judy moved to approve May notes as provided, Matt seconded. None opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Michelle announced NOLT has two new staff members- Gary Dougherty, Land Manager and Jennifer Calhoun, Finance Director.
- Judy announced that the County has received a proposal to move and enlarge the existing finfish aquaculture operation in the Port Angeles Harbor. The new net pen operation will be 3.8 miles east of Ediz Hook, approximately 1.8 miles north of Morse Creek, and about 1.5 miles north of Green Point. The Public Hearing on this proposal is on September 7. The SEPA determination of a "mitigated determination of non-significance" (MDNS) was issued on July 7. More information and links to submit comments can be found on Clallam.net.

II. Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Shellfish/Aquaculture Programs, Kurt Grinnell and Ralph Riccio

- Purpose of presentation is to provide an overview of "Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe" (JKST) shellfishing operations.
- JKST has been farming oysters in Dungeness Bay from 1980's to 2005. There have been closures in 1995, 1996, and 2005-2011.
- JKST has led efforts to clean pet waste, intensive fecal coliform monitoring, and piping irrigation ditches.
- Jimmycomelately Creek restoration has proved very successful for clam and oyster harvesting.
- 2009 started cultivating Jamestown Gold oysters.
- First issues was no or very limited oyster seed available from 2005-2009.
- One of the first challenges with oyster seed is that the water is more acidic which limits growth and increases failure rate. To control this, they purchased Point Whitney Hatchery in Hood Canal after WA State decommissioned and converted to shellfish production.
- Judy asked if there was something they could add to the water to control pH. Ralph stated not in the natural environment but they can in the hatchery.
- Food production is key at hatcheries. JKST extracts water from 2500 foot deep spot and adds nutrients.
- After initial larval phase they get transferred to another tank
- When the larvae reach 2 mm in size they transfer to Point Whitney.
- FLUPSY- Floating Upweller System is basically a floating nursery.
- JKST currently has 30 different customers for oyster seed.
- At ½, the oysters are placed on sand to grow
- For commercial sales, oyster sizes range from 2 to 7 inches
- DOH regraded 500 acres from prohibited to allowed.
- Jamestown/Port Gamble/Dabob Bay Farm ~66 acre DNR lease near Quilcene
- Bob asked if they grow triploids? Ralph answered they are very difficult to grow in Hatchery, but they keep attempting.
- JKST sells 400 dozen a week.
- Judy asked if there are any restoration efforts from John Wayne Marina? Ralph answered none that he is aware of. Also, has there been any connection between outfall and PSP occurrence? He is unsure, but they test weekly.

- Bob asked about bag fouling? Ralph answered mostly just barnacles.
- Selling seeds or oysters- which is more profitable? Hatchery doesn't make much money.
- Success rate= 0 to 80%, if they are in bags.

III. Oyster Restoration Projects, Lyn Muench and Helle Anderson, Clallam MRC

- Purpose of is to provide an overview of oyster restoration projects in Puget Sound.
- Olympia oysters are smaller than Pacific oysters
- Olympia oysters appear to be more resistant to acidification.
- 2012 MRC focused on 5 locations in Sequim Bay- Washington Harbor, Pitship Point, Paradise Cover, Dawley Road, and Jamestown tidelands.
- In Sequim Bay, near Blyn, there is 1.5 acres designated for Olympic oysters.
- Issues with the different areas:
 - Washington Harbor- evidence exists that historically has had Olympians at one time. Currently the property owners don't want to allow people access.
 - Pitship Point- suitable but closed because of potential contamination. No Survival, perhaps due to exposure.
 - Dawley Property- next steps are permits and establishment of test pits.
 - Dungeness Farms Property- site was deemed too exposed with limited settlement substrate for oyster larvae.
 - Paradise Cove- Bay appeared to be well protected and they are currently exploring options.
- Judy asked about the other impacts of the decline of the Olympian Oysters? Yes, they are down the food chain also they are filter feeders which help preserve eelgrass beds.

IV. Other Shellfish Updates

- Green Crab Update- Lorenz Sollman, National Wildlife Refuge
 - Purpose is to provide an update on the Green Crab trapping efforts.
 - Identification is easy by counting the number of points on the carapaces; Green Crabs have 5.
 - They are small- approximately 3-4" across.
 - Green Crabs eat anything, they are very tolerant to water temperature and salinity
 - 1000 field hours trapping, 20+ volunteers,
 - As of July 11, they had caught 87 Green Crab. Most of by-catch was native Hairy Crab.
 - Scott asked how do limit by-catch? Lorenz said by enlarging hole from 2" to 1".
 - Very prolific reproduction- 1 female produces 250,000 eggs and can breed 3 times in one year. Current trapping efforts have caught 36 females.
 - Started 2017 trapping efforts in April.
- Shellfishing Potential at Dungeness Farms, Matt Heins
 - Purpose of presentation is to provide an update on potential geoduck and oyster farming .
 - Concerns over freshwater mixing from Dungeness River following the Army Corp dike project; geoduck have a narrow salinity preference.
 - Dungeness Farms main intent is to improve habitat (primarily eelgrass) for waterfowl.

V. Dungeness Exchange and Other WA Department of Ecology and Water Trust Updates, Michael Gallagher, WA Dept. of Ecology

- Mike Gallagher, WA Dep't of Ecology, presented an overview and update to Whatcom County v. Hirst (and Futurewise), Oct. 6, 2016.
- This case ruled that counties have an obligation to ensure new wells do not impair instream flows and they must make a legal determination of water availability.
- In the Whatcom v. Hirst, Futurewise, et al. , the Supreme Court found that Whatcom County comprehensive plan zoning fail to comply with the GMA for protecting water resources.

- GMA background- The rural element in the comprehensive plan states counties must protect surface and groundwater resources (RCW 36.70A070(5)(c)), counties must determine there is adequate water supply before issuing a building permit (RCW 19.27.09), and counties must determine there is adequate water supply before approving a subdivision (RCW 58.17.110).
- There are 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA's) in the State, 27 have instream flow rules set by rule.
- How are jurisdictions interpreting these Court decisions?
 - Whatcom, Spokane, and Pierce- Interim moratorium/ordinances preventing new buildings that could impair instream flows.
 - King, Snohomish- Processing building permits, but property owners have the responsibility to determine if they have a legal source of water.
 - Mason- Processing building permits, but with a disclaimer that court rulings could be affected by court rulings.
 - Thurston- Continues to issue permits assuming water is available until there is information that says it isn't.
 - Okanagan- The Planning Director decides on water availability based on site specific evidence from the applicant
- Dep't of Ecology's role- supporting the Governor's Office by providing technical assistance in tandem with other agencies, providing expertise and technical assistance to legislators, working with other stakeholders on finding common-ground solutions, facilitating discussion between key Senate and House members.
- The challenge is to fit the wide variation in precipitation/recharge, surficial water supply and complex hydrogeological condition with legal and Court directed statutes/decisions.

VI. Other Business/Announcements/Follow-ups

- ACOE levee setback design, Cathy Lear, Clallam County
 - In the process of submitting the 65% design, which is the biggest packet of material that gets submitted to Corps.
 - Hoping to submit to Corps in late August.
 - Hoping to hold public open house in September at the Dungeness Schoolhouse.
 - Cathy noted that there are some stakes labeled with "CL". This is the centerline of the road.
 - WCC Vegetation crews out last week removing poison hemlock, some blackberry, and ivy.
 - JKST crews working on mowing and trimming.
 - Working with Cathy Lucero, Noxious Weeds Board Coordinator, and representatives from Battelle to develop a plan for managing noxious weeds.
- Shoreline Master Program update, Mary Ellen Winborn, Clallam County
 - The Planning Commission is reviewing draft (available on website), when they get through the draft there will be regional workshops prior to forwarding recommendation to Board of County Commissioners.
- DRMT summer field trip, Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Field trip on for August 9. Please RSVP so cars can be arranged. The plan is to visit a logjam and a Forest Service Roads project site. Details and itinerary will be sent via email.
- Ann would like to know from Ed Chadd or Jim Carr any ideas about potential funding for additional B-IBI stream monitoring. Ed stated he believes many other justifications fund stream monitoring through their general fund. Matt mentioned that he believes King County does through a special taxing assessment and with some political will perhaps that would work in the Dungeness Watershed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert B. motioned to adjourn the meeting, Judy seconded, none opposed, meeting adjourned 5:16.

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