

## APPROVED DRMT Meeting Notes, January 10, 2018

Prepared by Chad Theismann, Clallam County

**DRMT Members Present:** Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Shawn Hines/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (alt), Ben Smith/Water Users Association, Robert Phreaner/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Pete Walker/ Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Robert Brown/Dungeness Beach Association, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Matt Heins/Riverside Property Owners-Estuary Tidelands, Lorenz Sollman/Dungeness Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Joe Holtrop/Clallam Conservation District, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners.

**Others Present:** Cheryl Baumann (N. Olympic Lead Entity Coordinator), Carrol Hull (Clallam County League of Women Voters), Phil Martin (Resident), Jacob Melly (Clallam County Environmental Health), Rich Carlson (USFWS), Marguerite Grover (Sequim Association of Realtors), Aaron Brooks (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Hilton Turnbull (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Jim Karr (County Resident), Steve Gray (Clallam County DCD)

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

Hansi called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated. Ben moved to approve December notes as provided; Robert Brown seconded, and abstained. None opposed, motion carried.

#### *Public Comment:*

- Judy inquired about proposed changes to the Zoning Code. Steve Gray, Deputy Director of the Clallam County Dept. of Community Development, replied minor changes to definitions in the zoning code also some amendments to land division code to allow boundary line adjustments on platted property instead of short plat alteration.
- Robert Brown mentioned the "Community Emergency Response Team" (CERT) program for disaster preparedness may be a good future agenda item.

### II. Clallam County Updates, Steve Gray, Deputy Director Dept. of Community Development

- Purpose of presentation is to provide information on the status of Cooke Aquaculture proposal to move existing net-pen operation and to provide a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) amendment update.
- Cooke Aquaculture Proposal:
  - Icicle was the original applicant for existing Port Angeles facility. Cooke purchased from Icicle;
  - The location of the proposal is 3.8 miles east of Ediz Hook and 1.5 acres north of Green Point;
  - In the proposed location of the net-pens, water depth is 90 feet to 110 feet deep;
  - Applicant intends to raise Atlantic Salmon if proposal is approved;
  - Proposal is a due to Navy building a new pier off Ediz Hook;
  - If proposal is approved, they would move their existing net pens;
  - This type of permit is Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and requires a public hearing in front of the Hearing Examiner. The Hearing Examiner has the authority to approve or deny the application, request additional information, or issue any mitigation for the proposal;
  - Cooke asked to postpone Hearing so that they could address the Cypress Island net pen failure;
  - County has not heard from Cooke on how they want to proceed with their proposal;
  - How long is application vested? County is not entirely clear, however, either applicant or County can put a hold on permit processing;
  - Currently, there are 3 Bills submitted Legislature that address net pen issues in Washington State.
- Shoreline Master Program (SMP) status:
  - Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a Public Hearing on December 12, 2017 on the Planning Commissioners recommended SMP. The BOCC is still reviewing comments received;
  - Next date for the BOCC to publically review is January 29, 2018;
  - The BOCC will consider all related documents to the SMP update including Shoreline Inventory and Characterization, Shoreline Restoration Plan, and Cumulative Impact Analysis- No Net Loss Reports.

### III. Clallam Conservation District Long-Range Planning, Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District Executive Director

- Purpose of presentation is to provide an overview of the Conservation District's 2018 Long-Range Plan Update.
- Required to update Long-Range Plan every 5 years.

- Conservation District’s Mission Statement- To provide landowners/managers with information, technical assistance, and when necessary, financial assistance in order to wisely use and conserve the natural resources of Clallam County.
- Current Priorities:
  - Water Resources- increase stream flows, improve and protect water quality, manage stormwater;
  - Habitat Restoration- habitat associated with farmland habitat associated with forestland habitat associated with developed lands;
  - Working Lands Support- conserve working farm and forest land;
  - Information –Education- educate youth about natural resource conservation, educate general public about conservation.
- Proposed Priorities:
  - Abundant, Healthy Water Quality- reduce consumptive use of water, improve and protect water quality, reduce stormwater and flooding impacts;
  - Protected & Restored Habitat- enhance and restore fish and wildlife habitat;
  - Healthy Soil- conserve farm and forestland;
  - Outreach & Education- instill a conservation ethic, keep key decision-makers informed.
- Robert Brown mentioned some stormwater concerns are not being fully addressed by County.
- More details on the web- <http://clallamcd.org/district-business>.

#### **IV. 2017 Dungeness Smolt and Salmon Escapement , Aaron Brooks, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe**

- Purpose of the presentation is to provide an overview of 2017 Salmonid escapements and smolt outmigration.
- Spawning ground surveys are a joint effort involving Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and WDFW.
- The survey is performed by walking the river in pre-determined index sections at 7-10 day intervals and flagging the redds, adding the location to GPS, and live /dead fish are counted.
- The reason for spawning ground surveys and monitoring smolt outmigration is to estimate how many fish returned to the river to spawn (i.e. escapement), estimate egg to smolt survival, and useful for harvest management and habitat management purposes/goals.
- Dungeness River Pink Salmon escapement was quite low for 2016- 17,754 as compared to 337,616 in 2015.
- Dungeness River Chinook escapement went from 523 in 2016 to 708 in 2017. Highest year was 2006 with 1,543. Lowest year was 1993 with 43.
- Dungeness Hatchery Coho escapement was 3,610 in 2017, up from 2016 count of 2,832.
- Dungeness Wild Coho escapement has been on declining trend since 2011.
- Dungeness Steelhead escapement 615 in 2015.
- Dungeness Fall Chum Salmon escapement was 504 for 2016. Highest year was 1988 with 1,726 and lowest year was 20 in 1974.
- Smolt trapping- goal is to capture out-migrating smolts to assess freshwater production.
- The smolt traps are checked daily and each species is counted, length/weight recorded, and DNA fin clips.
- The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe traps out-migrating smolts in Siebert Creek, McDonald Creek, Matriotti Creek, Bell Creek, and Jimmycomelately Creek.
- 2017 smolt summary- presented a table with all species caught and a count of species in McDonald, Jimmycomelately, Siebert, Matriotti, and Bell Creeks.
- Presented table with Coho smolt production estimates back to approximately year 2000 for McDonald, Jimmycomelately, Siebert, Matriotti, and Bell Creeks. The numbers show very low counts for 2017.
- Presented table with steelhead smolt production estimates back to approximately year 2000 for McDonald, Jimmycomelately, Siebert, Matriotti, and Bell Creeks. The numbers show increases in 2017 in Jimmycomelately, Siebert, Bell, and Matriotti. Decreases in McDonald Creek. Highest ever in Siebert Creek at 1,677 smolts.
- Presented table with Cutthroat juvenile cutthroat production estimates. The table showed increases in Jimmycomelately, Siebert, Bell, and Matriotti Creeks. Decreases in McDonald Creek.
- Presented tables with Coho survival in Jimmycomelately Creek and McDonald Creek.

- Presented tables with Smolt survival and flow. This table shows a correlation between high flow and decreased egg survival. Hansi pointed out floodplain improvements help flatten out flow variations which in turn help improve egg survival.
- Presented smolt outmigration numbers for Coho, Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, and Pink in 2016 and 2017. Showed the Coho numbers decreased, but all the other species showed improvement between 2016 and 2017.

**V. Other Business/Announcements/Follow-ups**

- DRMT 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning update- Executive Committee is still brainstorming, but one idea that has gained some support is coordinating with the Dungeness River Festival for DRMT celebration press releases and other outreach. Robert had some concerns that timing may be difficult in September. Judy suggested some outreach activities, such as booth or float, in the Sequim Irrigation Festival.
- USFWS grant opportunities- Rich Carlson, USFWS.
- Comments on changes to Forest Service- Yewah said there's an opportunity for public comment on NEPA procedures to streamline process to improve efficiency due to budget declines.
- Carol announced a meeting at Sequim Transit Center with Representative Mike Chapman and Senator Kevin Van De Wege on Atlantic Salmon net-pens January 19 from 4-5.

Meeting adjourned 5:00.

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