

APPROVED DRMT Meeting Notes, March 14, 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), Pete Walker/ Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt), Robert Brown/Dungeness Beach Association, Lorenz Sollman/Dungeness Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Mike Gallagher/Washington Dept. of Ecology, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future.

Others Present: Marguerite Grover (Sequim Association of Realtors), Emily Dick (Washington Water Trust), Andy Perham + Jacob Melly (Clallam County Environmental Health), Powell Jones (Dungeness river Audubon Center), Ted Stadtmueller (Graysmarsh)

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Review

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

- February notes- Cathy made a motion to accept the February notes, Judy abstained due to she was not present.
- Discussion of the Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC) DRMT Membership Application moved from Other Business to Introduction section of meeting.
 - Judy moved to accept Dungeness River Audubon Center's Director Powell Jones application to DRMT. Ben seconded. None opposed. Motion carried.
 - Ben stated some concerns over similar representation- for example, the Audubon Society is already a member and adding the DRAC could be misconstrued as over-representation and also leave the door open for an Irrigation Company/District to apply and use the DRAC membership as precedent.
 - Joe pointed out the DRMT is lacking in education and Powell would bring that.
 - Robert Brown asked if they could be a non-voting member. Discussion was had regarding what constitutes a voting vs. non-voting member.
 - Powell distinguished that the DRAC is not just Audubon, they represent fish, farms, education, and outreach. Powell stated he would like to be a voice for DRMT when providing outreach and education at DRAC.
- Joe reported Scott Chitwood was elected to the Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors in the March 13 election. Scott will fill the seat vacated by Don Hatler. Don Hatler is retiring after 12 years serving The Board of Supervisors as District Treasurer.

Public Comment:

- none

II. County Water Quality Update, Jacob Melly, Clallam County Environmental Health

- Purpose of presentation is to provide information provide information on the On-Site Sewage (OSS) Program and the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program.
- Displayed maps showing OSS status in 2010 and 2017. Displayed continued improvement in septic systems meeting current regulations.
- ~16,000 households were mailed a postcard in 2017 that notified OSS owners that they needed to stay current on septic inspections. This postcard directly addressed a common misconception- you need to pump your tank and complete a full check the different components of your OSS regularly.
- Displayed a graph of OSS systems that are compliant is increasing.
- Displayed a graph which showed individual months in 2017 vs. OSS status. This clearly showed and reinforced the impact of the post cards had.
- It is a State requirement that OSS gets inspected at the time of property sale.
- Judy suggested including a note with the tax statement that informs households that their septic system needs to be current on inspections. Jacob said this hasn't been done but is a good suggestion.
- Jacob presented an overview of the positive results of the PIC program. Jacob pointed to a case where the PIC and OSS program can work in-tandem; PIC identified a problem with dye testing, OSS program assisted landowner in achieving compliance.

III. Dungeness Water Management Rule Update- “The First 5 Years of Implementing the Dungeness Instream Flow Regulation”, Michael Gallagher, Water Resources Program, WA Dept. of Ecology, Emily Dick, Washington Water Trust

- Background- Rule originated as a recommendation from the Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted the plan on June 7, 2005.
- The Dungeness Water Rule (DWR) adopted November 16, 2012. Rule in effect as of January 2, 2013.
- The rule applies to any use and/or appropriation of surface and/or groundwater begun after the effective date of the rule (January 2, 2013). New water users are required to mitigate or compensate for the impacts of the new water use. Mitigation may be achieved by buying mitigation certificate through the Dungeness Water Exchange.
- 3 main aquifers in Dungeness- upper, middle, and deep. Mike displayed a graph that demonstrates the relationship of these aquifers- when one goes down, all of the aquifers go down.
- There are 4,725 water wells in the Dungeness Valley. This is approximately one percent of all the water wells in WA in an area of less than one-tenth of one percent of the total land area of WA.
- There are 1,875 water rights in the area east of Finn Hall Road, west of Sequim Bay and north of Olson Road. Most senior right is from November 1, 1895. There are currently 8 new water right applications.
- Group B water systems are less than 15 connections, Group A is 15 or more connections.
- One of the drivers of the DWR was presence of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species in the Dungeness- Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, Bull Trout.
- The Dungeness Rule established a reserve of water available for mitigation. This mitigation is intended to replenish reserves. If a reserve is fully allocated, no new users are allowed until mitigation is put in place.
- Mitigation is a one-time fee. Price is based on cost of water, mitigation project cost, transaction cost, and overhead.
- There are 233 Mitigation packages sold. With 59 outdoor packages, 5 stock water, and 3 water rights, the water reserve is projected to last 40 years.
- 1:34
- Mitigation runs with property in-perpetuity.
- Mitigated wells require metering. As of 3-7-18, 224 certificates issued (235 unique parcels to monitor). Of those, 132 have a verified meter. 103 do not have a meter. Of the 103 that do not have a meter, 80% will be identified during the completion of the building permit process. The other 20%, DWE has reached out to these households with letters.
- Clallam County does not final building permits without DWE compliance (purchase mitigation and well is metered).
- DWE monitor mitigation effectiveness by monitoring stream balances.
- Mitigation has paid for 4 aquifer recharge projects in 2017. These sites have provided 54 acre feet of water to the aquifer.
- What is considered domestic use? Use of water associated with human health and welfare requirements, including water used for drinking, bathing, sanitary purposes, coking, laundering, and other incidental household uses.

IV. Other Business/Announcements/Follow-ups

- Dungeness Floodplain Footprint Pilot Project, Cathy Lear, Clallam County- Cathy announced Puget Sound Partnership has some vital signs that reflect the water quality-stormwater, chinook, floodplains, etc. In regard to floodplain vital sign, they are looking to dial in the metrics to determine how well floodplain restoration efforts are working. They selected 3 watersheds: Dungeness, Green/Duwamish, Stillaguamish. ESA is the consultant. They will develop 2 or 3 workshops to learn what experts know, and put it into a series of maps, bring back to the experts to confirm, then use it to determine the status of floodplains in Puget Sound. Cathy is very excited that the Dungeness was chosen and is not asking for anything from the DRMT.
- Dungeness River Audubon Center DRMT Membership Application- moved this agenda item to the beginning of meeting.

- Hansi announced that a bill is in front of the Governor for funding for Dungeness River Off-Channel Reservoir. Ann provided additional information and would like to a letter from the DRMT in support of the funding for the Off-Channel Reservoir. Ann Soule made a motion for Shawn to prepare a letter on behalf of the DRMT, listing long-standing support of the community and re-iterating that this project is a NTA in the 2005 Watershed plan and there are stakeholders ready to proceed. Judy seconded. None opposed. Hansi confirmed with the DRMT that it is OK for her to sign the letter.
- Carol Creasey asked for DRMT support for 3 projects that she is seeking funding for and are near term actions. Last date that she can get it in is March 30. The 3 projects include:
 - Clallam County stormwater outreach plan. Carol's hope is this money can provide a boost to finish the work started in 2008. Hope to get an adopted stormwater management plan. Don asked isn't this already done, Carol responded no, this project will re-invigorate the previous work. Ben also had some concerns that much of this work was done by the Conservation District and never got adopted. Hansi suggested that the DRMT invite Carol back to give a status report of current stormwater management efforts at the County. Hansi added that the requested support letter is to support a planning document, and there isn't anything to prevent the DRMT from further involvement. The group decided to take no action on this item.
 - Clallam County saltwater intrusion assessment and implementation. There was previous work done in 1968 and 1978 and this NTA would re-establish baseline and determine the extent of the problem. Ann made a motion to write a letter of support clearly stating the DRMTs interest in only within their boundaries. Judy second. None opposed.
 - Clallam County groundwater resources program. This project would compile all existing information in a central spot, determine the capacity, and also water quality information. Judy voiced some concern that the DRMTs interest is just in the Dungeness River watershed. Hansi added that the letter could be written so that the geographic focus of the support was clear. Ben had some concerns over why this specificity of well information is cost effective. Don clarified that this wants the County go back and do the stormwater Judy stated that the Dept of Ecology provides a report on every new well that is dug. Carol clarified that while this in true, the location of the well is listed by ¼ of ¼ section. This project aims to more accurately determine the location. Robert asked where is this database going to be stored and how would people get access to it? Carol responded that first this will be used internally, but she envisions having a web-based porthole to access the information. Carol mentioned a database created by King and Thurston Counties could possibility and for a minimal fee they could get the Clallam County data into this regional database. Ben suggested uploading the well logs to the existing Clallam County parcel information and wouldn't that take care of a lot of information gaps. Carol responded one of the major challenges is determining which parcel to attach the information. No motion was made.

Meeting adjourned . ~5:00

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