

## **DRAFT DRMT Meeting Notes September 12, 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), Joe Holtrop/Clallam Conservation District, David Garlington/City of Sequim (alt), Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Audubon Center, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Don Hatler/Sports Fisheries, Pete Walker/ Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt), Yewah Lau/USFS, Robert Phreaner/Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

**Others Present:** Carrol Hull (Clallam County League of Women Voters), Jason Hatch (WA Water Trust), Phil Martin (resident).

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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.

- Cathy motioned to approve August 8 notes as prepared, Judy seconded, none opposed, motion carried.
- Judy provided a clarification to the meeting notes- Group B system range from 2-14 connections.
- Cathy announced that at next Tuesday, September 18, 2018 Board of County Commissioners meeting they will read a declaration of proclamation of appreciation to DRMT.
- Hansi announced that the Tribal Council also shared a proclamation of appreciation at their Tribal Council meeting on September 11, 2018.
- Judy mentioned some concerns about keeping the website updated. Hansi asked that the Group revisit this topic later in the meeting.
- Powell announced DRMT 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Thursday September 27, 2018 from 4:00 to 7:00- everyone invited to attend.

#### *Public Comment:*

- A member of the audience mentioned a study in Northern Sierra Nevada range that found thinning a forest stand can increase river flows and by up to 6% and also delays the timing of the flows by allowing more snow to fall to the ground, instead of getting caught in the canopy. Not sure if the article was peer reviewed. Jason also commented that similar work done in the Nisqually basin where they looked at prescriptive thinning and the relationship of water usage by different age classes of trees.
- A member of the audience mentioned in small watersheds every percent of watershed cut will increase flows by 3.5 mm per year, and as the forest grows that amount increases for 30 years. The impacts get diluted the farther downstream you get. In Colorado, the increase in flow is considered salvage water, and no one has rights to that water. As canopy closes, the leaf area index increases which increase evapotranspiration and thereby decreases any additional input to stream flow. So this relationship typically balances itself out over a year. This relationship is very site specific and complex, Hansi encouraged interested people to review the literature on Forest Practices and Water Usage.

### **II. Off-channel Reservoir History/DRMT Support, Jason Hatch Washington Water Trust**

- Purpose of presentation ultimately to get DRMT support for the Off-Channel Reservoir in the form of a letter.
- The letter will support a grant application to receive money that was allocated as part of Bill 6091 aka Hirst fix.
- Viewed movie prepared to garner legislative support for the Off-Channel Reservoir.
- Aquifer recharge sites offset impacts from new wells. There are currently 3 that are mitigation specific and 1 site that is restoration specific. Currently, the Water Trust has access, through purchase of water from the irrigators, 175 acre feet from irrigators. Of those 175 acre feet, 45 acre feet remains in the river, 130 is withdrawn from river and using the irrigation infrastructure is distributed and infiltrated at the 3 aquifer recharge sites.
- Conservation District, Washington Water Trust and the Irrigators are working to develop additional sites. Currently, there are 3 potential sites they are working to develop.
- Submitting an NTA for a restoration aquifer recharge sites that could provide an additional 450 acre feet.
- Submitted for a Trust land transfer to DNR. This is a process that you exchange money for land. The legislature considers these requests as part of capital budget process. Last year none of these projects were funded.

- 396 acres for a Trust land transfer. 2 parcels on east and west side of River Road. West side is where the reservoir would be which equals approximately 320 acres. The remaining 76 acres on the east side of road will be developed as a park subject to public process. DNR requires both parcels to be sold together.
- Securing funding is the first step in continuing momentum to develop an off-channel reservoir.
- Hansi noted and recollected that roughly 1% increase in flow (CFS) equals 1% increase in the usable productive spawning habitat for chinook along fringes of river, protected from high flows.
- Cathy noted that as far back as the late 1990s, increasing stream flow has been one of the objectives of the DRMT.
- Current total estimate of construction costs are 25 million.
- Steps in the project- acquire the land, design, permitting, and then construction. Currently focusing on acquiring the land.
- Currently seeking 4-4.5 million.
- Discussion was had amongst the members re-iterating their support and the importance of this project to the Dungeness River Watershed.
- Ann et al prepared a table of DRMT support of streamflow enhancement, storage, and aquifer recharge to supplement the support letter.
- Current breakdown of the 4 million requested in grant:
  - 2.5 million for land acquisition (estimate from DNR);
  - 1.2 million for design;
  - 250k for permitting.
- Key question for DRMT; clearly the entire group is in support, how does the group want to represent their support? Motion? Bring a resolution in October?
- Ann prepared some bullet points to include in letter of support. She noted these bullets could easily be turned into "Whereas..." statements for a resolution.
- Ann motioned to "Support the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Water Storage project and prepare a resolution for approval the October 10 DRMT meeting." Cathy seconded. None opposed.

### III. Update/Approval of DRMT Purpose/Goals

- Shawn noted that the DRMT did discuss this back in April. At that time, the group discussed the whether the goals needed updating.
- Shawn handed out existing purpose statement and eight existing goals. She re-worked the goals to include them under purpose statements. All eight goals are included in some form under the 3 purpose statements.
- Judy supported putting goals under purpose statements.
- Discussion was had regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose statement. The Group decided to re-work this purpose statement to read "Coordinate the implementation plans and strategies<sup>1</sup> relevant to the DRMT focus area." Note the footnote includes plans and strategies endorsed by the DRMT.
- Ann supported the new format; she felt it better represents our activities.
- Discussion was had regarding numbering the purpose statements. There was concern about the numbers identifying priority or ranking. Group was in favor of bullets instead of numbers.
- Cathy noted the 1997 Restoration Projects aka Blue Book was not listed in the footnote about plans and strategies.
- Shawn clarified that the purpose and goals will be incorporated into the Operating Procedures
- Judy moved to adopt the changes to goals and purpose as the Group discussed. Powell second. None opposed.

### IV. Vote on Photo Contest Submittals

- 15 photos were submitted with a title and a vision. Each of the photos was numbered and included on a handout prepared by Shawn.
- Prizes will be awarded to the top 3.
- Everyone in the room had the ability to vote, not just voting members.
- The ranking format- everyone identifies their 3 finalists. Photos with the most votes will be the winner.
- The photos receiving the most votes were and the final ranking is:
  1. 4b- River's Heartbeat;
  2. 5a- Three Crabs;

3. 7- Silver Singing River.

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

- Website discussion-
  - Judy feels the information contained on the website is a great resource and would like to see this information maintained.
  - Judy noted 2017 is the last entry for notes. Shawn reported there were some technical glitches in 2017 that were never quite resolved. She can still upload them but needs to work with her IT Department to get the kinks worked out..
  - Hansi stated that the group isn't staffed and does not receive money to keep the Team going. She felt minutes, slideshows, and other information is very worthwhile and is in support of working out the technical glitches so the information can be uploaded to the website.

Meeting adjourned 4:19.

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