

DRAFT DRMT Meeting Notes February 12, 2020

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Bob Phreaner/ Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (alt), Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Don Hatler/Sports Fisheries, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Audubon Center, Cathy Lear/Clallam County DCD, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Ben Smith/Dungeness Water Users Association, Michael Gallagher/WA Department of Ecology, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW

Others Present: Bill Strehl, Water Users Association, Steve Worthington, Randy Johnson/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Marilyn Vogel, Ian Miller/WA Sea Grant, Phil Martin, Lance Vail, Jason Hart/Clallam County

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Approve December 2019 Meeting Notes

Hansi called meeting to order. Introductions were made, sign in sheets circulated.

- Reviewed December 2019 meeting notes. Bob Phreaner noted he was not present in December (edit made). Ben Smith moved to approve notes, and Judy Larson seconded. Bob Phreaner abstained. Motion passed.
- Shawn Hines to take notes today. Expectation that County Planner to be available for future note-taking.

Public Comment:

- Regarding the water statistics listed on agenda, Ann Soule noted that precipitation is at 70%, even though the Dungeness SNOTEL snow-water-equivalent (SWE) is at 160%. Michael Gallagher noted the difference between upper and lower gages seems high (684 cfs vs 488 cfs). He will discuss with his team.
- Carol Hull announced the next League of Women Voters (LWV) Story of Water Lecture in the series will be presented by Ben Smith and Joe Holthrop, Wednesday, 2/19, City Hall, discussing *Irrigators and Protectors: Rights and Conservation Actions Exercised by Our Farmers*. If you can't make it, you can view the lecture afterwards at LWV's web-page: <https://my.lwv.org/washington/clallam-county/story-water>
- Hansi applauds the efforts of LWV and partners who have made the lecture series possible.
- Judy stated she has been in touch with Robert Brown, who has been absent from his DRMT member position due to health reasons. He hopes to be back at DRMT meetings when he can.

II. PUD's Water Use Efficiency & Conservation (See copy of presentation for further detail)

- Tom Martin presented on PUD's Water Use Efficiency and Conservation efforts. He noted PUD has been making changes that can have positive impacts to the River. He went over the PUD's mission statement and discussed Department of Health's water use efficiency rule.
- The PUD has initiated a new rate structure for 2020, and inclining block structure. Rates have been revised to match use patterns; rates go up the more you used (the more water used, the more capacity and resources used, and thus higher rate). Majority of users are using "basic indoor use"; 58% of total. Reduced the size of blocks; reduced rate of lower blocks.
- Financial and Environmental Balance – part of mission. Higher blocks, builds reserves for additional capacity. Stretches out water right. Defers large capital costs.
- Judy inquired about Carlsborg water right application. Tom said PUD applied in 2006, to cover expanded urban growth area for full buildout, but may need to be expanded further.
- Ben asked what percentage comes from surface water compared to from wells. Tom said primarily well use. Evergreen and Carlsborg: wells; Fairview: combination of both.
- Judy asked why DOH is responsible for efficiency when DOE is responsible for water rights? Tom said DOH handles matters of distribution, and DOE of source.
- Judy inquired about reports. Tom said they provide annual reports to DOH, three-year rolling average.

III. Update on Washington Coastal Resilience Project (Sea Level Rise Projections (SLR)) (See copy of presentation for further detail)

- Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant, mentioned the paper discussed (Projected Sea Level Rise for Washington State, 2018) can be found online: www.wacoastalnetwork.com, although website currently being updated.
- New SLR approach in Washington, seeks to localize projections, provide better way to think about uncertainty, incorporate sea level changes from seismic events.
- Worked on 2013 climate planning with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and in 2015 on probabilistic framework. Assigns likelihoods to probabilities. Also worked on NOPRCD climate change report. See www.nopr.org. The state-wide project has its origins in these local projects.

- Two major processes of sea level rise: water expands when heated, and glaciers melt.
- Innovation 2: Localizing.
- Vertical land movement, tectonics.
- Results: 5/56 counties have sea level rise actions in Comp Plans. Judy asked if Clallam's Shoreline Management Plan includes relevant actions. Ian said it mentions sea level rise, but does not include an action component.
- Climate Impacts Group interactive map.
- Hansi stated the Tribe has been looking at land development impacts with respect to climate change.
- Tony asked if the glacial melt increase will be added into model. Ian said it is already embedded in there, in the spread of uncertainty. Projections will change as we learn more over time (lower spread of uncertainty) – flood of information in Iceland and Greenland.
- Tony asked about acidification. Ian said there are a variety of efforts in the state aimed at addressing acidification. Legislature dedicated \$\$ for research/management options. Sea Grant does have experts in ocean acidification.

IV. WA Department of Ecology and Dungeness Water Exchange Updates (See copies of Mike Gallagher's and Emily Dick's presentations for further detail)

- Mike discussed RCW 90.94, the Dungeness Meter Pilot, and drought. He provided two handouts. Noted Ecology's 50th anniversary is this year.
- \$4.093 million streamflow restoration grant awarded to Clallam County for the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir project for securing land, permitting and engineering design of reservoir.
- Ecology was directed in the 90.94 legislation to adopt a revised watershed plan by Feb. 2019. This effort was successful in the Nisqually, but not successful in the Nooksack, so a new Nooksack instream flow regulation (WAC 173-501) will be adopted instead.
- Meter Pilot Project Update: Clallam Conservation District is implementing this 10 year project. A progress report on the metering pilot is due to the legislature by the end of 2020.
- All mitigation certificate holders get new meters. 181 meters installed. 62,400 gall/month is calculated based on these 181 meters. That amounts to about 101 gal/day..
- Ben asked if meter project results show less than 150 gal/day, can rule be modified?
- Paul asked about green area vs yellow area usage.
- Emily noted 118 gal/day in August.
- Marguerite asked about those not participating. Mike said there were 10 holdouts, now 2. Technically, Ecology can enforce.
- Carol asked about incentives to use less or conserve. Mike said mitigation certificates say 150 gal/day based on average home (2.2 people at 60 gal/day). PUD using cost structure as incentive. Mitigation certificates and public awareness are incentives.
- 2019 Drought: drought is defined as 75% users affected. NW Climate toolbox data, mean daily temp anomaly.
- May 20, our area declared drought. DOH has webpage on drought. Ecology provided drought funding.
- Dungeness Dry Leasing project (Emily Dick): 20 farmers participated (20 different agreements) in leaving 1,350 acres dry the last month of irrigation season. Private funding plus Ecology funding. Dry leasing through the years, resulting in 10-12% of critical flows restored in low water years:
2015: 5.6 cfs saved
2016: 7.85 cfs saved
2019: 8.85 cfs saved
- Off-channel Reservoir (Emily Dick): Pursuing long term drought resiliency with off-channel reservoir, which would provide stable source of irrigation water, up to 25 cfs. Total project \$30 million. 4 million received from Ecology to initiate the project, initial design, project management and acquiring land from DNR. Property would transfer to County and become park. Have signed letter of intent with DNR. RFPs being drafted for cultural resources, seismic planning, etc. Would provide 25 cfs every year.
- Dungeness Exchange (Emily Dick): 130 acre-foot bought from irrigators for mitigation certificate offset for new wells installed after January 2013. At end of 2019, 20.62 AF out of that 130 had been allocated. Annual Report will be

done next week. (Emily to send when ready). Indoor mitigation certificates: \$1000. 30% for ground water recharge, 30% for due diligence and admin. Related to mitigation certificates, 20% water, 20% monitoring. Evaluating ongoing costs 2017-2019 in order to be self-sustaining.

- Ground water recharge projects (Emily Dick): 6 completed between 2016-2019. Mitigation Balance for 2019 table of credits and obligations (AFY).
- Ben asked about credit for WUA efforts going above and beyond.
- Tom mentioned that the WSDOT habitat project caused PUD to move systems, which was expensive endeavor. What kind of credit can PUD get? Mike responded that due to Foster case, water for water mitigation, can't do out of kind mitigation.
- Ann suggestion the Foster case could be a talk for future meeting. Mike said he could have someone discuss this fall.
- Judy asked about the status of the original model for making the rule. What are the constraints on the model? Emily said Ecology is monitoring wells at aquifer recharge sites. Joe noted the model is based on withdrawals from wells (below surface). Discussion about ground-truthing model. Mike Gallagher noted that would take money and time. Hansi thought it would be worthwhile to have follow up discussion on status of original model, e.g., how valid is the model, constraints on the model.

V. Other Orders of Business, Announcements and Standing Agenda Items

- Summer field trip ideas? Members suggested Large woody debris project sites, aquifer recharge sites (although some noted the AR sites are "boring").
 - Standing Item: Project Updates and/or Announcements:
 - Dike setback: Cathy said still working with Army Corps of Engineers. She noted the north parking lot by School house is full of water (from rain).
 - River's Edge: Hansi announced land deal is expected to close in spring.
 - Standing Item: review Net Agenda for any member additions
- Draft March Agenda*
- *Carlsborg well update –Clallam County*
 - *Strait ERN update –Strait ERN*

Judy – requested for future agenda item: DOH update about their changes to what they look for when analyzing water quality concerns for various supplies. Such as endocrine disruptors, etc. What are the changes?

Tom – requested Foster update regarding out of kind mitigation, streamflow restoration.

Powell – requested USFS update about any action on their Road Management Plan.

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