

DRAFT DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes May 13, 2020

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, David Garlington/City of Sequim, Cathy Lear/Clallam County DCD, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Ben Smith/Dungeness Water Users Association, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Lorenz Sollmann/Dungeness Refuge

Others Present: Randy Johnson/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Helle Anderson/Clallam County, Cheryl Baumann/NOPLE for Salmon, Phil Martin/citizen, Neil Harrington/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

I. Introductions

Hansi called meeting to order. Introductions were made, brief Zoom instructions provided.

- No notes to review. February notes not yet available, March meeting was canceled, and Powerpoint slides from the April presentation were sent out to group.
- Shawn Hines to take brief notes today; Powerpoint slides of SRFB proposal presentations can be made available.

II. 2020 SRFB Project Proposal Presentations (East NOPLE)

Cheryl Bauman introduced the process. LE is consortium working with all partners working to advance salmon restoration and protection on NOP. Citizen Board is made up of JSKT, Elwha, and Makah tribes, Clallam County, Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim, and also work with non-profits like NOSC and NOLT. Two projects being proposed in our area of the County, which we will hear from today. Sponsors have already presented and provided field visit to NOPLE. Scoring meeting yesterday.

Cheryl gave brief introductions of Randy Johnson, sponsor of JSKT's River's Edge project, part of larger Dungeness floodplain restoration, and Helle Anderson, sponsor of Clallam County's project on McDonald Creek Fish Passage. Each sponsor in turn provided a Powerpoint presentation of their project proposals, followed by questions from the audience.

Dungeness Floodplain Restoration – River's Edge

Randy provided a Powerpoint presentation. Questions from the audience:

- Phil Martin provided a comment of thanks for maintaining recreational uses in the area.
- Ben Smith asked what the road blocks or challenges may be. Randy replied that the biggest worry today would be getting ACOE permits in timely fashion, and securing enough money. We have a few leads, but can't predict Covid-19 pandemic impacts to funding. Some say shovel ready projects may get a boost with stimulus funding. Need \$5.6 million just to design and move the dike. Applying for considerably more because we are also looking to buy agricultural easement of almost 130 acres of farmland. Buying up 65 acres of former floodplain that became ag land. Tribe has vowed to do our best to permanently conserve twice that much acreage of existing ag land (FbD grant). Also have not yet purchased Creamery's property, although they are very strongly behind the project. Michele Canale noted that Mike Augie is working on that portion of the project right now.
- Ben Smith on behalf of farming community thanked the Tribe for its position in helping secure ag lands to replace those that will go back to fish habitat.

McDonald Creek Fish Passage Restoration, Helle Anderson, Clallam County, DCD

Helle presented the County's proposal on improving fish passage on McDonald Creek. Questions from audience:

- Thanks given to Helle for great presentation.

NOPLE's Scoring Summary, Cheryl Baumann

Started with 9 or 10 projects, down to 6. 18 member tech team, 17 out of 18 scored. Draft scores released yesterday. Of the 6, River's Edge was #1. Scored very highly. McDonald Creek 6th. That project is in a lower priority watershed. Technical team discusses all the projects, including those outside our area. Tech team recommended to Lead Entity policy group to advance all projects in the ranked order, and funding should flow down the list as money becomes available.

Lead Entity group will be meeting on May 27th to make their decision about what projects they want to have on our list and what projects to forward for funding. Right now \$3.3 mill total. Anticipated allocation is \$2.8 mill. \$500,000 shortfall. As Randy mentioned, there may be calls for shovel ready projects, so we are looking for stimulus opportunities. That's how removal of Elwha dam was funded in last recession. Hopeful that capital budget can move forward as they can help with funding job opportunities.

Tracking two previously funded projects, which may not be going forward, or may be overfunded. So there may be some funding availability from those.

Cheryl will email Shawn the final score sheets and analysis.

Ben questioned that, while the presentations are wonderful for the DRMT to view and very valuable, what is the value in DRMT scoring when they've already been ranked? Asked for clarification as to why DRMT is scoring, as opposed to listening to the presentations and providing support? Cheryl responded that it is the usual practice that NOPL have their scores completed prior to DRMT viewing presentations. The Tech Team makes a recommendation, but the Lead Entity looks at everything. They look at Tech recommendations, any other comments, the DRMT, the review panel, etc. So Cheryl thinks it very valuable to hear from DRMT their thoughts and weigh in on the projects. It is up to DRMT on what process is used. Whatever gets sent to Cheryl then gets forwarded to Lead Entity group prior to them making final decision.

Danielle asked about those who have already scored (e.g., TRG and LEG members). It was noted that DRMT doesn't have an official rule about this, but this question has come up in the past. Ann Soule found 2018 documentation related to this, which concluded the following: ***DRMT members who are also TRG or LEG members should recuse themselves from scoring, and DRMT members whose organization is a project sponsor should recuse themselves. Advisory members can score as they so choose, unless either of the above are true.***

Shawn reviewed DRMT's process and what should be filled out on scoring sheet. Ben asked about the case where reviewers score both projects with the same score. Is the goal to make sure the projects are differentiated by different scores? Shawn replied that we have never qualified that in the past. There have been cases in the past where reviewers have given the same score to different projects. All reviewer's scores are added and averaged to come up with the rank of the project.

Scores, comments due to Shawn in one week. *[Consolidated scores/comments were emailed to Cheryl and DRMT on Friday, 5/22].*

III. JST Dungeness Bay Oyster Farm Application Update, Hansi Hals

A public notice has been reissued by ACOE, which has prompted questions about whether Tribe has proposed any changes to the project. Jamestown has not proposed any changes. The new public notice went out because ADOE wanted to clarify that it is considering Phase 1 for its review, because that is the activity authorized by County, State shoreline approvals.

IV. Other Orders of DRMT Business, Announcements and Standing Agenda Items

- Standing Item: Project Updates and/or Announcements:
 - WDFW screw trap: Hansi asked if the screw trap is installed and fishing for out-migrants now. Danielle said she thought so.
 - Ben Smith: update on reservoir project –County has applied for some construction fund grants along with WWT. Water Users and CCD asked for clearer understanding of the basics of the proposal, such as operations and maintenance. Want to make sure there is clear understanding by all parties involved before we seek construction funds. Still have great group agreement on the concept of the project, but want to get certain details worked out before applying for funding. Hope to focus on those details in the near future.
 - Green crab: Hansi asked for update from Lorenz and Neil, related to this monitoring and stay home order. Lorenz said in previous 3 years April and May were the months where 67% of the green crab were caught, so we felt it important to get out there even with the stay home order. Conducted a risk assessment. Staff has been out trapping once/week, 500 traps, no volunteer assistance due to stay home order. Have caught two to date, both in the channel. Meeting with state and other stakeholders yesterday– numbers are down everywhere. Neil checked traps today in JCL for first time, none found.
- Standing Item: review next agenda for any suggested additions
 - Confirmed DOH water quality proposed rule changes *[however, on 7/1 DOH had to cancel]*
 - Confirmed USFS Dungeness Roads management decision, plus ELJs

Ann Soule – snow pack. Yesterday river flow was 716 cfs. A higher flow than what we have on record for long term average. In early April, low flow before snow melt started was 150 cfs, which is lower than long term average for that early spring, late winter low flow. So, we've gone from below average flow to above average melting in a month. State website looks like Olympics doing pretty well, but difficult to generalize for Dungeness based on what they say about Olympics over all. At least there was a decent amount of snow to start with, though already starting to disappear. Ben said water users are generally feeling somewhat on the comfortable side since we haven't had a big runoff prior to this. Hoping for a respectable water year.

Ben announced Robert Beebe's term has ended on Conservation District Board and thanked him for his time. He brought a lot to the organization.

Hansi made sure everyone understood scoring instructions, and the meeting adjourned.

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