

## APPROVED DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes March 10, 2021

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

**DRMT Members Present:** Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Cathy Lear/Clallam County DCD, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Ben Smith/Dungeness Water Users Association, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Powell Jones/River Center, Mike Auger/NOLT, Shawn Hines/JST, Yewah Lau/USFS

**Others Present:** Genie Mixson/resident and Sierra Club, Hilton Turnbull/JST, Alex Scagliotti/Graysmarsh, John Stednick/resident, Phil Martin/citizen, Marguerite Glover/Sequim Realtors Association, Joel Green/Streamkeepers, Tiffany Royal/NWIFC, Carol Creasey/Clallam County

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### I. Introductions/Approval of Notes

Hansi called meeting to order, introductions.

- Following some discussion, Team agreed to postpone approval of February notes until April DRMT meeting.

Public Comment

- Shawn noted that Agenda shows yesterday's flow at the USGS gage instead of today's because for the third time in the past several weeks, the telemetry gage is not working due to vandalism. There is no road blockage, and vehicles have been driving down and shooting up the area, including the housing for the gage. USGS will be repairing it again next week. DNR has been contacted. Tribal enforcement has been contacted.
- Ben reminded that Conservation District's election is coming up for supervisor position. In person voting next Friday, 3/19, 12-8pm at the Conservation District Office.

### II. Dungeness River Audubon Center, Expansion and Education Outreach Updates

*Powel Jones, DRAC*

- Powel showed a Powerpoint presentation, starting with Expansion Update. Expansion is part of a long-term project, 3 Phases: 1-original Center, amphitheater, picnic shelter; 2-current expansion of buildings/facilities; 3-development/construction of new exhibit space. We're in phases 2 and 3 now.
- Goal of separating meeting space and exhibit space. New and improved parking and entrance for safety (same timeline).
- Anticipate opening in fall, still raising money for 3<sup>rd</sup> phase.
- Time-lapsed video showing 5 months of construction: <https://youtu.be/auxadXjLJq0>, plus more info on Center's website: [www.DungenessRiverCenter.org](http://www.DungenessRiverCenter.org)
- Outreach: there has been great demand for Virtual learning. More taking it virtually than were doing in person. Going forward, will be providing both in-person and virtual. Has opened an incredible new audience. Doing weekly classes, around an hour. Various presenters, including staff or other efforts in the field. Very many topics. Free of charge (from donors). Around 100 participants.
- Also doing nature newsletters that go out to around 3,000 participants.
- Future Outreach Programs: Virtual Watershed Stewardship, Virtual River Festival, Virtual Intermediate Bird Classes, Virtual Watershed Program, In-person, small group, outside programs (social distanced). Your project welcome for virtual series. Contact Jenna. [Jenna@DungenessRiverCenter.org](mailto:Jenna@DungenessRiverCenter.org)
- No kid camps this year.

### III. 2016 Engineered Log Jam Project Update

*Hilton Turnbull, JST*

- Graywolf River Salmon Habitat Enhancement
- The jams have been up there about 5 years now. Long-term approach to restoring large woody debris in upper watershed. About 6 river miles, starting above confluence with Dungeness, down to USFS boundary. Phased approach. Phase 1, 2016 (Gray Wolf Area), Phase 2, RM 14 last fall. Phase 3 in next couple years.
- Redd and smolt survival vs maximum flow. Chart showing where flows above 2-year flow cause smolt survival to plummet. They can't survive these higher flows because flow isn't able to distribute across floodplain.
- In upper watershed, main anthropogenic stressor is loss of wood. Channel network has been simplified.
- No stable large woody debris jams to create fish habitat.
- What's happened since installation? Conducted low elevation, high resolution drone photography. Last 3 years have analyzed annual aerial photography – to see if they have moved. All 2016 jams have stayed in place. Creating habitat, slowing flow down, accumulating more wood. In some cases, reconnecting to floodplain.

- 23 structures in 4-5 miles so far. Not a lot.
- Fish habitat formed even after 1 year. Deep pools now.
- Designed to provide low velocity refugia in the structure, and pools outside the structure. Allowing for fine sediment deposition.
- All 2016 ELJs were created as “deflector jams”, constructed into the banks.
- Comparison of WDFW 2020 redd count vs 22 year average in these 3 ELJ reaches: 2020 generally higher than 22 year average. Hopeful, but can’t definitively make conclusions about biological effects. Also tracking Steelhead use.
- Phase 2 area – 14 acres of floodplain disconnected. Project adds 1,400 feet of river length.
- Wood donated by Forest Service. Flown by helicopter piece by piece to project area, anchored by rock collars. Phase 2 concentrated structures much more along the reach. Objective of Phase 2: reconnect to adjacent floodplain. WDFW and Tribe are conducting effectiveness monitoring.

#### Questions:

- After habitat improvements are made, what then inspires salmon to move upstream?  
*Trends showing increased number of fish as habitat complexity increases. Log jams provide fish habitat, pools for holding, spawning gravel, etc. Hansi commented also that the fish that come up earliest are most likely to head further up-river; however, it’s the same timing as when the screw trap (used for broodstock recovery) is in the river, and the fish tend to hold up in that area when the trap is in and so their upstream migration tends to stall (especially when flows are low). Getting the trap out sooner is becoming a priority.*
- What’s the ideal number of logjams to have in a river reach?  
*We have installed 23 structures so far, but that is only a small fraction of historical wood-loading rates. The ones we’ve provided are functioning, so we will continue to add structures as opportunities arise. Eventually hope to snorkel the area to provide even further data on fish numbers.*
- What is refugia? *Refuge for fish during high flows*
- What about using large rocks/boulders as refugia?  
*We are using boulders in our projects because we have to ballast the wood structures. We are restricted to helicopters, and so have weight limits, which is why the structures are built the way they are (two boulders per rock collar). They are proving effective, so we are sticking with this design.*

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

- **Standing Item:** Project Updates and/or Announcements:
  - Bob Phreaner: there’s been concern about damage to trumpeter swans at Kirner Rd (intersection with Woodcock) due to collisions with the powerlines to the west of the pond. The swans use the pond for roosting. The powerlines are in their flightpath, and present significant threat from electrocution. Numerous dead swans have been collected there. Raising funds to bury the wires this summer. Estimate \$65,000 cost. Joint project with PUD; PUD has been very cooperative. More info in a video: <https://olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org/donate-swans>
  - Ben: Don’t forget Conservation District elections March 19.
  - Cathy: hoping to do annual drone flight of the River when weather permits.
  - Hansi: Clallam County has been working toward stable funding for septic system operation and maintenance. They are considering a fee. In April BOH will be deliberating on that. Heather Watts is the Clallam County Environmental Health lead for more information.
  - Powell invites anyone who has a virtual presentation or topic for community to get in touch with him or Jenna at the River Center.
  - Ann: tomorrow at 3, virtual presentation of Archeology of Sequim Prairie, sponsored by JSKT Library.
  - Shawn: May meeting will be SRFB project proposal presentations.
- **Standing Item:** review next agenda for any suggested additions
  - Confirmed: Importance of Prairie Restoration, Mackenzie Grinnell and Emma Brownell/JST and Fred Sharpe.
  - Confirmed: Refuge pilot native garden update, Lorenz Sollmann.
  - Confirmed: SNOTEL/snowpack update, Ann Soule.
  - Confirmed: Stormwater Ordinance.

Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned