

DRAFT DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes January 12, 2022

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Ben Smith/Dungeness Water Users Association, Shawn Hines/JST (alt), Judy Larson/ Protect the Peninsula's Future, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future (alt), , Lorenz Sollmann/USFWS (advisory), Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Bob Phreaner/OPAS, Lance Vail/OPAS (alt), Michael Auger/NOLT, Matt Heins/Estuary-Tidelands Property Owners, Kim Williams/Clallam Conservation District (advisory)

Others Present: Phil Martin/resident, Alex Scagliotti/Graysmarsh, Randy Johnson/JST, Robert Knapp/JST, Lori DeLorm/JST, Gayle Baker/resident, Joe Holtrop/Jefferson Conservation District, Jamie Tippet/resident, Joel Greene/Streamkeepers, Scott Chitwood/WRTG, Jocelyn Gray/DOH-Drinking Water

I. Introductions

Hansi called meeting to order, introductions were made, and December 2021 DRMT meeting notes were reviewed. Group edited December notes to include that Judy Larson moved and Powell Jones seconded the December motion to approve that 2021 DRMT Chair and Executive Committee continue same roles in 2022. Ben Smith made a motion and Cathy Lear seconded the motion to approve the notes. Ben Smith moved to approve December meeting notes as amended, Cathy Lear seconded the motion. Danielle Zitomer and Mike Auger, and Kim Williams abstained, as they were not present at December meeting. Notes were approved accordingly.

Public Comment

- Jamie Tippet noted mainstem relocated to east since last flood and wondered the impact on fish in reach north of Railroad bridge area, and whether any action would be taken. Hansi tabled question to end of comments.
- Jocelyn Gray, Office of Drinking Water. Leadership changes: new director Holly Meyers, deputy director Kay Rotell, Jocelyn now assistant regional manager/SW. Many new positions created in Office of Drinking Water. Jocelyn main contact for Clallam County as regional engineer.
- Judy recommended Smithsonian Magazine/Jan/Feb issue. Recommended two articles: "Finding the oldest tree" – CO2 sequestration, and "The Wonder Bird" – climate impacts.
- Hansi introduced Jamie's comment again, and also suggested "channel migration" as future DRMT topic. Invited Randy Johnson and Danielle Zitomer to respond about natural meandering. Danielle responded the WDFW wouldn't artificially reroute channel where it has naturally changed course, say in a braided area. They do have mechanism to keep certain areas wetted when impacted by irrigation intake activity. There is risk to in-river work.
- Randy reiterated that Dungeness prone to moving around. Can have be destructive to salmon redds in some areas (such as with redd scouring from flood events), but in other areas may be okay, due to fact that salmon eggs can remain viable as long as gravel remains damp. After hatching can remain in gravel and feed as they await surface flow.

II. Ecology Water Resources Policy on Conveying Stockwater - Update

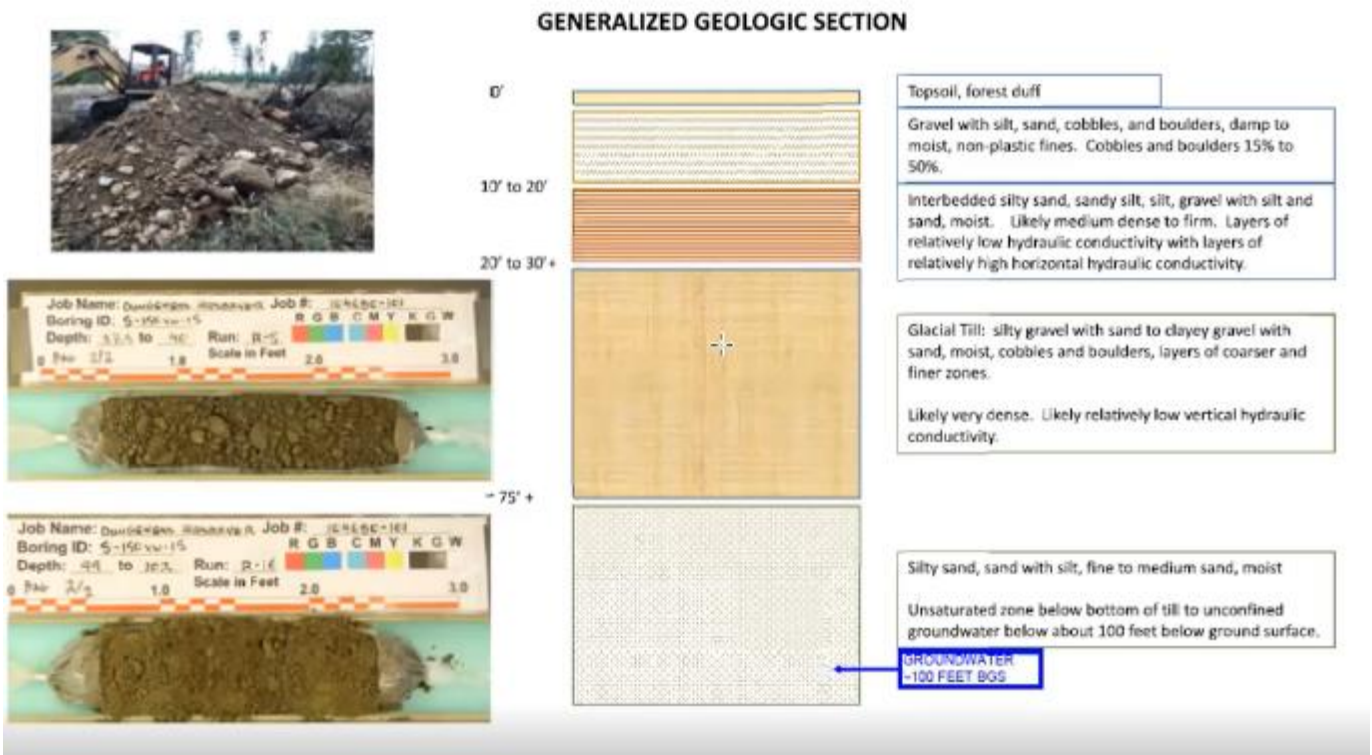
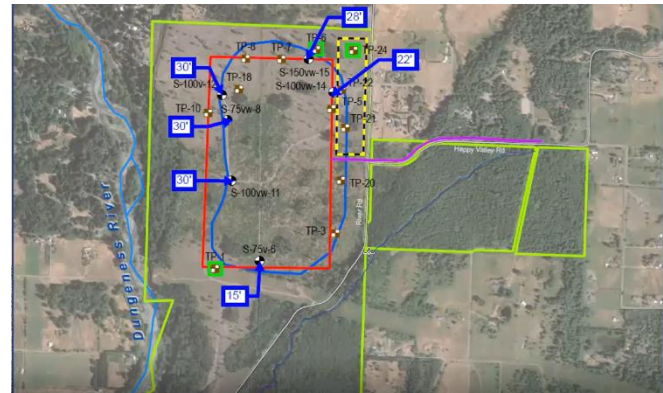
Joe Holtrop, Jefferson Conservation Trust

- Background – in 1994, Ecology drafted policy to encourage fencing off streams while allowing for continued stock water use by diverting the water from the stream to stock tanks. This fall, ECY proposed revision to the policy; they said it was in conflict with water rights law – and would require a water right to divert water, and need water right if livestock are going to drink out of stream. Reaction to revision was strong.
- Joe said this isn't much of an issue in Dungeness. The practice of livestock drinking out of irrigation ditches has largely been eliminated here. Plus, irrigation districts had water rights that allowed for stockwater.
- Ecology suggested permit exempt well; however drilling wells, expensive. Plus, yellow area in Dungeness, drilling well for livestock not allowed, per water Rule.
- Ecology put a pause on new revision, convened stakeholder group that will meet over next several months to come up with better solution.
- *[Joe provide email follow-up that there is a bill under consideration in this legislative session intended to address this. It is SB 5882].*

III. Reservoir Soil Survey Update

Ben Smith, WUA

- Ben showed aerial photo showing reservoir location, and soil test pit locations. Showed cross section of generalized geologic section. Consultant analysis suggests low hydraulic continuity, so possibility of foregoing the synthetic liner. Would instead have clay-lined reservoir, rather than liner. Advantages: significant cost savings. Synthetic liner would require ongoing maintenance.
- Final recommendation to shrink surface area of reservoir and go deeper. Less total surface area, less evaporation.



- Q: How will this affect schedule and costs? A: Any impact to schedule likely minor. Can't say for sure, and don't have cost estimates as of yet.
- Q: Glacial till is compacted/compressed. When it gets removed, does it lose its ability to be impervious to water? A: If clay content is high enough that it is re-compactable, then assumption is that it will work. Relying on engineer recommendation.
- Q: Does going deeper imply more pumping? A: Reservoir will be as far south (up-slope) as possible, and will be gravity fed.

IV. Lower Levee Setback – Update

Cathy Lear, Clallam County

- Construction has been delayed with the wet weather.
- Cathy shared precip chart Oct-Dec, data from NOAA:

Precipitation, October – December, 2021, Sequim, WA

Sequim	Normal	2021
October	1.63	2.10
November	2.64	4.80
December	2.25	3.39
Qtr. Total	6.52	10.29
Annual	16.85	20.87

- Half of the 2021 precip totals fell in Oct-Dec. 2021 precip total is larger than normal average. November had almost twice normal precip for that month.
- Cathy to forward aerial image from John Gussman via email.
- Q: schedule/timeline for setback levee going in so that old levee can be removed? A: Dewatering plan – do in 50-100 feet chunks. New approach.
- Q: when existing dike gets removed, will engineers make any changes within floodplain on either side of existing dike? A: want river to do as much work as possible in reoccupying floodplain, but some channel excavations expected, as well as some wood jams.

V. New Water Resources (WR) Subcommittee – Follow-up from December

Hansi Hals, JSKT + Group Discussion

- Recognizing that weather anomalies are happening more frequently, and that plans and studies/tools we are using for water resource management may not be up to date as far as data assumptions/ranges used, how do we make sure our tools are updated for future planning?
- Tony and Ann helped provide some of the initial conceptualization of what a water resources work group would do. What do we want to know now if we consider adjusting our tools. See handout.
- 4 to 6 month assignment, not sure how frequent. Work Group assignment – to offer recommendations to DRMT for specific studies needed related to water supply, water demand, stream flow needs for the purposes of revising water resources management. (See attachment).
- Some of the questions may not be DRMT –scale, but certain entities may take on certain areas.
- Ann described handout; hope is that the work group can distill long list of questions down to the most important studies.
- Tony summarized the task as establishing the information base from which others can make decisions.
- Ben’s take was that work group would research topic/needs, come back with say top 10 needs, and then individual entities (not DRMT itself) may take on any one or more, if it is a good fit for their organization. Hansi agreed. What do we know, what are we missing in terms of approaches to water management.
- Tom asked if it was more trying to collect info/data do we need to collect for managing the climate changes we are seeing, or is it a comprehensive watershed study? What is scope? Hansi responded that climate change is a driver for ground-truthing existing tools, but other tools are needed as well. For example, what would warrant updating ground water model? Whoever is at the table will also be involved in formulating scope.
- Tom wanted to make sure that whatever comes out of this is in line with recommendations and desired outcomes of our approved Watershed Plan (WRIA 18). Hansi replied this effort is trying to identify gaps, what’s missing, plus any new info. Tom mentioned tools from EPA for water suppliers to build resiliency with climate change. Possibly similar direction.
- Hansi inquired about procedure for establishing subcommittee, proposed doing so by motion. Shawn noted the Operating Procedures don’t detail how, but do state that committees may be activated as needed, so a motion and vote makes sense.
- Judy suggested one of the tasks could be reviewing what exists, and seeing whether they are meeting current needs. She also mentioned Terry Hussmann grant for potential future source of funding.
- Ben suggested that regular updates from the group would be requested.
- Ben moved that we establish Water Resource Work Group committee. Ann proposed leaving committee off name. Matt seconded with that change to the name. Motion passed.
- Proposed composition of Work Group, 8 to 12: Ann, Tony, Shawn/Hansi, Carol Creasey, Tom Martin, Scott Chitwood, Alex Scagliotti, Lance Vail. Advisory Group: Ben Smith, Mike Gallagher, possibly Ian Miller. Other suggestions: Joe Holtrop or Megan Attamire. Shawn will get confirmation from Joe.

VI. Other Orders of Business, Announcements & Standing Agenda Items

- Standing Item: Project Updates and/or Announcements:
 - Cathy announced that County recently reinvigorated its Climate Advisory Committee. Work with NODC on climate resilience planning and implementation. County will be doing a greenhouse gas inventory, RFP proposals due at end of month.
 - Ben said 30% design for Reservoir project will be going out soon. Also, Conservation District partnered with JST for tree planting. Kim explained it would re-vegetate setback area. Planting plan in place. 7,000 plants to go in this winter, and ramping up next winter depending on levee project. May be three years, 32,000 plants, 52 acres.
 - Matt Heins said one of the reasons he's back on DRMT is for updates about water quality. Team welcomes Matt back.
 - Conservation District working on piping projects near Costco; one in partnership with JST, will be done in next month. The other in fall. Also put in Water Smart grant application for ditch piping in City of Sequim, and make modifications to improve Sequim Prairie and Dungeness Irrigation District diversion. Find out in March.
- Standing Item: Team additions to next agenda, or suggestions for future agendas. Shawn read list of confirmed items for February meeting. The following suggestions for future agendas were proposed:
 - CWWG update
 - Summary report from Annie Raymond

VI. Public Comment

- None

Meeting Adjourned