

Approved DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes February 9, 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, Kim Williams/Clallam Conservation District (adv), Tom Martin/PUD, Marc McHenry/USFS (adv)
Others Present: Aaron Brooks/JST, Eric Kinne/WDFW, Nicole Gutierrez/WWT, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County, Robert Knapp/JST, Steve Gray/Clallam County, Phil Martin/resident, Genie Mixon/Dungeness Meadows resident, Darcy/WSU Extension, Marguerite Glover/Sequim Realtors, Alex Scagliotti/Graysmarsh, Randy Johnson/JST, Jamie Tippett/resident, Joel Greene/Streamkeepers, Bill Strehle/resident, Tiffany Royal/NWIFC, Maggie/CELP, Neil Harrington/JST

I. Introductions

Hansi called meeting to order, introductions were made, and Draft January 12, 2022 DRMT meeting notes were reviewed. Hansi recognized the addition to the notes about Joe's e-mail follow-up about Senate Bill 4882. Robert Beebe moved to approve January meeting notes as amended, Judy Larson seconded the motion. Notes were approved accordingly.

Public Comment

- Shawn noted that the USGS streamflow website is being upgraded, and starting next month will open in the upgraded format. The upgrade will include new tools and reports. A USGS representative was invited to walk DRMT through the new tools later this summer. The "legacy" site should still be accessible for throughout 2022.
- Ben recognized appreciation for Jamestown Tribe related to discussions on Riparian Buffer bill. Similarly, Hansi voiced appreciation for Ben's participation.

II. 2022 Nature Center Floodplain Bridge Project

Randy Johnson, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

- Randy provided background about the project. While the bridge/Howe Truss, constructed in early 20th century, is a worthy structure, the trestles originally build on either side of it were not.
- Channel migration zone at this location exceeds 1000ft in width, while bridge opening is 150 ft.
- East side trestle blew out in 1961. River moved there, but river dike was built to prevent river from reaching railroad; dredged to maintain. Eventually the land was transferred to Tribe's ownership.
- Tribe proposing to tear out dike, let river come back through there, extend bridge, widening from 900 feet to 1100 feet, replace function of the dike with log revetment.
- West side trestle washed out 2015. Tribe ripped it out and replaced old trestle, extended 150 feet farther west. Note – Railroad Bridge receives 250,000 crossings/year.
- Project will help restore more of the floodplain, reduce flood hazards for Nature Center.
- Dike will come out, parking lot will be removed, side-channel will be excavated, reconnected floodplain to be spanned with bridge, ELJs installed.
- Funding is in hand, project to be completed by Oct 2022. Construction to start in May or June, depending on contractor and ordered materials. Trail will need to close down roughly mid-July to September.
- Construction documents can be distributed to those interested.
- Nature Center on higher ground, and bridge being constructed to handle 10,000 year flood.
- Powell responded to question about whether public has been notified by saying he was interviewed by newspapers. *Note: article published in PDN on 2/10/22:*
<https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/railroad-bridge-park-to-be-modified-to-restore-floodplain/>

III. Dungeness River Nature Center Expansion Update

Powell Jones, Dungeness River Nature Center

- River Center Board very appreciative of the Tribe's restoration project.
- Powell reminded group that River Center changed its name to Dungeness River Nature Center, and now has a beautiful new logo made by Tribal Citizen.

- Construction delayed, but putting finishing touches. Soft opening in March, Peninsula Trails Coalition kicking off with Traveler Journal series. Possibly DRMT can begin using facility in April.
- Still raising money. Approaching \$6 million in costs, roughly 350K away from need. Finishing touches needed, staining, polishing, etc.
- Coffee shop being planned!
- Landscaping being planned. Many native plants, some cultivars for water conservation. Rain garden already installed with design from UW Extension and help from many volunteers.
- Working on exhibit and wildlife viewing spaces. Mural from inside old meeting room was photographed and will be printed/transferred to outside of new meeting room. Part of exhibit budget.
- Construction updates on website: [Construction Updates | Dungeness River Center \(dungenessrivernaturecenter.org\)](http://dungenessrivernaturecenter.org)

IV. Background on Hatcheries

Aaron Brooks, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and Eric Kinne, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Aaron and Eric came to answer follow up questions from previous presentations about comanagement of hatcheries.
- Two kinds of hatchery programs:
 - a) supplementation – trying to rebuild ESA listed stock
 - b) harvest – sport or commercial purposes
 - Both types have ESA guidelines. For harvest, need to pay attention to competition for space or food with wild stocks.
 - Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP)– designed to limit genetic mixing between wild and hatchery fish for these programs.
 - Supplementaiton on Dungeness – working on increasing release of Dungeness Chinook. Working with NOAA on redoing HGMP.
 - Each river system has a carrying capacity and escapement goal, as listed in co-manager harvest and recovery plans. River can only sustain so many fish. Plus other listed species requiring protection, such as bull trout, Puget Sound steelhead. So, it’s not as simple as increasing numbers in supplementation program. Any changes need to be approved by NOAA.
 - Other challenges to increasing supplementation: increasing smolts can also bring in more predators; budget constraints; litigation, etc.
 - Another document that guides production within co-management process is the Future Brood document – sets production goals that need to be agreed to by co-managers. This, as well as the HGMP drive the requirements on the ESA side. HGMP is the application process for NOAA to start consultation. Following consultation, terms and conditions described in Biological Opinion.
 - For example, on Dungeness specifically, recent requirements to upgrade some of the intakes – Canyon Ck and Dungeness Hatchery.
 - Coho season ends end of Nov, since typically see wild coho coming in at that time. Chinook run is in river late spring and through summer and into Sept/Oct, as well as Pink, mid summer to early fall. Right now, very beginning of wild steelhead run. Limited steelhead program at hatchery for harvest, but due to litigation, limited to 10,000 smolt release. 1-2% ocean survival, so not going to see many returns.
 - Flows aren’t low enough yet to be affecting migration. Need to be below 130cfs before we are concerned about choke points impeding upstream migration.
 - Any studies showing if hatchery fish interbreed with wild fish that they produce wild spawn? Answer: Try to time harvest runs prior to natural runs, as it is a segregated program on the Dungeness (as opposed to an integrated program, which Dungeness does not currently have).
 - We don’t specifically survey for bulltrout during annual surveys, but they do get recorded during Chinook, Steelhead, coho surveys, or sometimes with other project-specific surveys.
 - Eric announced that WDFW is moving Hurd Creek Hatchery out of the floodplain. Final desgin getting close, will go out to bid soon. Anticipated to start work this summer, \$11.9 million.

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

- Standing Item: Water Resources Technical Group update
Tony Corrado is chairing this new group/committee and updated the DRMT about what occurred in its first meeting on 1/28, which was largely devoted to operational details. Group using DRMT meeting ground rules/operating procedures. Will meet twice/month for Feb/Mar, and will decide in April whether to reduce frequency. Lifespan of committee is 4-6 months, per Executive Committee. 10 members of the committee: Scott Chitwood, Tony (PPF), Carol Creasey (Clallam County), Shawn, Hansi, Robert Knapp (JST), Tom Martin (PUD), Ann Soule (City of Sequim), Alex Scagliotti (Graysmarsh), Lance Vail (OPAS). Technical advisors: Mike Gallagher (Ecology), Joe Holtrop (representing Clallam Conservation District for this committee), Ryan Murphy (PNPTC), Ben Smith (WUA). Next meeting will discuss scope and methods for determining recommendations.
- Standing Item: Project Update for Phase I Levee Setback:
 - Cathy announced that County has made progress in setback levee construction since the rain stopped. Working from Anderson Road area working south on WSDOT property. Beaver activity noticeable. HPA from WDFW to lower water levels on some of the beaver dams. Cathy to send pictures of beaver dams.
- Standing Item: Team additions to next agenda, or suggestions for future agendas. Shawn read list of confirmed items for March meeting: Ecology updates, Dungeness Exchange/Mitigation, Puget Sound Nutrient Permit. Possibility that DRMT will meet in-person in April, possibly with Zoom capability as well. Send in your agenda items!

VI. Public Comment

- None

Meeting Adjourned