

## APPROVED DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes August 10, 2022

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

**DRMT Members Present:** Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lance Vail/OPAS (alt), Mike Auger/NOLT, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula's Future (alt), Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Kim Williams/Clallam Conservation District, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Ben Smith/WUA, Tom Martin/PUD, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County (alt), Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owner

**Others Present:** Cheryl Baumann/NOPL, LaTrisha Suggs/JST, Marguerite Glover/Sequim Realtors, Phil Martin/resident, Carol Creasey/Clallam County, Alex Scagliotti/Graysmarsh, Lara Kawal/Clallam County, Randy Johnson/JST, Stephanie Robinson/WWT, Jamie Tippet/river property owner, Hilton Turnbull/JST, Bill Strehle/WUA, Todd Coward/Clallam County, Hannah McConnough/WWT, Stephen Lukas/WWT

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### I. Introductions

Introductions were made, including introduction to Todd Coward, new Planner for Clallam County who will also take on notetaking for the DRMT, and several new staff from Washington Water Trust. Welcome all.

Reviewed Revised Draft meeting notes from July 13 DRMT meeting. Cathy's edits were incorporated previously. Mike noted a typo in paragraph 3. Ben moved and Judy seconded to approve Revised July notes as amended. Notes were approved.

#### Public Comment

Jamie Tippet noted had some "eyes on the river" comments: noted presence of 6 Chinook in river that he saw from his property. They have since moved on. Also noticed small camp under west abutment of bridge (chair, cooler, table).

Ben Smith announced Conservation District is hiring a salmon riparian habitat technician, full time. Position will be ready to advertise in about two weeks. Also have a volunteer position open for next four weeks on the District's Board of Supervisors. That position is an elected position. Mid-Term opening will be over March 2023. Information is on Conservation's website.

Hansi noted that the Riparian Roundtable mentioned last month was hosted by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Shout out to Kim and Ben for participating and providing information.

Bill Strehle mentioned the earth, sun, moon will be aligned this week which will cause high tides and possible flooding in PA and Three Crabs and Port Townsend.

### II. Fish Passage Projects – Request for Letters of Support

*Cheryl Baumann, NOPL for Salmon and LaTrisha Suggs, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

Coordinates the Lead Entity for Salmon. Consortium that works to advance restoration and protection across the North Olympic Peninsula. Currently working on grant with Clallam County Public Works to do fish passage corrections on Matriotti Creek, the largest lower elevation tributary to the Dungeness. Application to NOAA due Monday, asking for funding for 6 to 9 fish passage barrier corrections on Matriotti. Requesting letter of support from DRMT. Lara showed a map of the barriers and described the issues with each (undersized, preventing fish passage, sediment, flooding, etc.).

*Q/A/Comments:*

Q: Are designs completed?

A: There are no designs yet. The ask will likely include design and construction. These are all replacement culverts; there will be no bridges.

Q: Will all nine move forward or will there be prioritization?

A: We are using the prioritization the Lead Entity used in the Inventory, which is 1 to 9. Lowest downstream to upstream.

Q: Will there be chance to provide input on design as the new culverts relate to biosecurity issues and preventing wildlife (e.g., black tail deer) from going through culverts and coming onto properties?

A: Cheryl will discuss what the process will be with Clallam County.

Q: Quality of habitat on this creek vs bigger waterways that have bigger barrier issues. Why was Matriotti prioritized over other waterways that may be more productive.

A: WRIA 18 Elwha-Dungeness, county road culverts that rose to the top. Fish us. Juvenile smolts in Matriotti Creek, spawning and rearing. ESA listed salmon. Most productive tributary of the Dungeness, over wintering habitat, etc. Money specific to culverts. Ongoing request from local governments to receive funding for this type of work.

Ben Smith made a motion to approve writing letter of support for this project. Powell Jones seconded. Motion carried.

LaTrisha Suggs described the Tribe's proposal to apply for the Tribal grant funding from the bipartisan infrastructure bill to improve fish passage (different pot of money than the one Cheryl's grant is applying to, so as not to compete against partners). Focusing on replacing two culverts on Chicken Coop Creek, just east of Tribe's Blyn campus, one on East Sequim Bay Road and one on Old Blyn Hwy. Proposal would improve and open up four miles of spawning and rearing habitat, and it would tie in with the overall restoration happening in Sequim Bay watershed. Tribe is partnering with North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and hopes to include design, permitting, and construction, with construction beginning in 2023 and completing in 2024. This is one of the Tribe's high priority culvert sites in Sequim Bay watershed.

Ben Smith made a motion to approve writing letter of support for this project. Mike Auger seconded. Motion carried.

### III. DRAFT Dungeness Water Resources Planning – Recommendations Summary Document, Next Steps

#### *DRMT Discussion*

Hansi reviewed conclusion from last meeting --that group would take time to review the *Draft Dungeness Water Resources Planning – Recommendations Summary* document that was presented at last meeting and have a chance to provide feedback prior to or during this meeting. Hansi asked Tony if any feedback was received, and Tony said none was received. Hansi asked if anyone from the Team had any comment specifically on the document.

Ben said that no comments reflect a good quality document. Judy noted that she made several oral comments during last month's meeting, but she did not put any of them in writing. She recalled they had to do with suggestions about how to get others, such as academic institutions, etc. involved.

With no other comments related directly to the document, Hansi noted the process could be for the Team to approve the document as a finished product and then decide on next steps. Ben Smith made a motion to approve the Dungeness Water Resources Planning Recommendations Summary, as presented. Cathy Lear seconded. Motion carried. There were no abstentions and no objections.

#### *Next Steps Discussion*

Tony Corrado had the following ideas for potential next steps:

- *Distribute the report widely.* Hansi confirmed that with DRMT's approval of the document, it can now be posted to the DRMT's website. [Note from Shawn 8/23/22: DRMT website is out of commission temporarily as we decide on and convert software].
- *Either DRMT or DRMT Executive Committee could submit a letter referencing the report to relevant agencies and interested parties, urging that they review the report and perhaps commit to specific actions.*

- *Report could be submitted to all political institutions (Commissioners, representatives, etc.) to seek support for implementation, which would be coordinated through DRMT.*

Hansi stepped in to summarize what the DRMT Executive Committee (EC) discussed prior to this meeting related to potential next steps.

- General idea from the EC was that individual DRMT members would share the report with the entities they represent and with others they felt should see it, but that DRMT itself wouldn't try to assign or implement the actions. Instead, we could discuss how DRMT members could self-assign their own projects.

Judy asked if a press release could be made for radio, newsletters, etc. Judy also asked about League of Women Voters, whether they might like to distribute it.

- Hansi responded on behalf of EC that this idea could be done by an individual entity on the DRMT, but that DRMT itself would not organize such an effort.
- Ben Smith's perspective is that the DRMT houses information, but the DRMT's mission isn't to be an implementer. Actions are left up to individual organizations to try to implement as they can.

Tony continued his earlier list and discussed "*Resource Teams*". These were not intended to be a means for DRMT to take actions; rather, the thought was that DRMT might be able to coordinate helping interested volunteers access the Resource Teams and resources. The idea was that DRMT could at least help others who want to get involved to be able to contact any of the leads to access resources.

- Hansi raised the idea of possibly reinstating another committee to help with coordination, since the WRTG has officially concluded. Another option is to first distribute widely and see how it is received and who might respond.
- Ben said another option is to continue having this as a standing item, where anyone taking anything on related to the recommendations would report during that time.
- Powell said he would be willing to also put on Dungeness Nature Center website, but asked if there is somewhere in document that has contact information? Tony reiterated that the *Resource Teams* were meant to be a means of coordinating and getting resources to interested parties.
- Hansi noted some topics don't have resource team names. Seems that first we need to find out if those listed as *Resource Team* members to topics are willing to have contact information shared in that way and find out who else is interested in being a resource. Tony suggested this happen off-line.
- Ben suggested letting folks know this will be a standing item at DRMT meetings, so interested participants could be encouraged to come to DRMT meetings with interest/inquiries.

Discussion led to following proposal: Report documents (*Summary* and *Appendix*) get distributed to full DRMT distribution lists (DRMT member list and "Dungeness Friends" list) with cover letter noting this will be a standing item and inviting interested parties to attend DRMT meetings for more information.

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

- **Standing Item: Project Updates**

- Levee Setback Update:

- Cathy Lear, Clallam County*

- Crew has worked from Anderson to Towne Road. Making progress on north levee, despite wet conditions in this area. Once at five feet, then do one layer foot per week. Also installing series of piezometers so that if they show that water is moving away more quickly, we can add layers more quickly. Moving forward with being able to connect with River's Edge levee. Working with Tribe to be able to remove old Corps levee before flood season. Because construction activity is ramping up, there will be temporary road closures on parts of Towne Road for the duration of project.

River's Edge Project Update:

*Randy Johnson, JST*

Removing final remnants of the Corps dike where it parallels the River's Edge levee. Will begin constructing five engineered log jams in a side channel the week after next. Then hope to begin on County's portion of Corps dike. Will remove blackberry bushes on Corps dike and adjacent surfaces, will strip and grub dike and begin to haul it away.

Caldero Habitat Restoration Project Update:

*Hilton Turnbull, JST*

Just below fish hatchery on Tribally owned parcel, Tribe is constructing a side channel to provide some additional off-channel habitat through that reach. Also building some ELJs. Project should be completed by early September. Following that, another upper watershed habitat restoration with ELJs on some DRN properties, which will require helicopter movement of construction materials, like past projects. If landowners have questions about whether their parcels are a good fit for this type of work, or conservation easement or other restoration, Hilton can be contacted. Hilton noted that NOLT and Conservation District and other have outreach information on how to participate in stewardship. Tribe's Habitat Program is focused on restoration projects along the Dungeness River. Note from Shawn: Dungeness River Restoration Workgroup also has a Riparian Land Protection Strategies for the Dungeness River Riparian Area (2003) that includes prioritized recommendations for which parcels along the river would benefit from purchases, easements, and stewardship, generally.

North Olympic Land Trust Conservation Opportunities:

*Mike Auger, NOLT*

NOLT continues to seek out willing landowners to conserve farmland within DRMT's focus area. Can purchase farmland and also have conservation easement funding through Floodplains by Design grant to buy or conserve or conserve with conservation easements. If anyone is aware of interested landowners, feel free to provide Mike's contact info.

Clallam Conservation District Project Updates:

*Kim Williams, Clallam Conservation District*

Kim mentioned the Conservation District works with private landowners to increase habitat or to protect natural resources on their properties. Contact Kim if interested.

Carlsborg Water Quality

*Tom Martin, Clallam PUD #1*

Tom mentioned he attended NOLT's annual picnic and Executive Committee meeting. Learned about a report by NOLT that discusses growth in the Dungeness, and potential "climate refugees". The topic reminded Tom of PUD's work to address water quality in Carlsborg. PUD wants to bring clean water from the new well that was drilled and blend that water with existing water in Carlsborg. Project design is almost 60% complete. Interim design report coming in September.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Those in person attended tour of Nature Center and the restoration and bridge project currently underway on the property.