

DRMT ZOOM Meeting Notes December 14, 2022

Prepared by Todd Coward, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals (Chair)/JST, Shawn Hines/JST (alt), Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Robert Beebe (vice Chair)/Riverside Property Owner, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Alex Scagliotti/Estuary/Tidelands (alt), Kim Williams/Clallam CD, Ben Smith/Water Users Assoc, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County(alt), Bob Phraener/Olympic Audubon, Mike Auger/NOLT, Lance Vail/Olympic Peninsula Audubon(alt), Meggan Uecker/City of Sequim

Others Present:

Marguerite Glover/Sequim Assoc of Realtors, Bruce Emery/Clallam County, Sarah Henneford/WDFW, Phil Martin/Guest, Paul Moore/Guest, Hannah McDonough/Washington Water Trust, Stephanie Robinson/Washington Water Trust, Ann Soule/Guest, Joel Green/Streamkeepers, Hilton Turnbull/JST, Genie Mixson/Guest, John Stednick/Guest

I. Introductions/Review Agenda

Hansi called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and asked each person present on Zoom to introduce themselves.

Ben made a motion to approve the October meeting notes, seconded by Powell, motion carried.

Ben made a motion to approve the November meeting notes, seconded by Danielle, motion carried.

No public comments.

Member Comments

Ben wanted to thank the Nature Center and Powell for hosting the open house for the Off Channel Reservoir Project.

Hansi mentioned that discussion of the DRMT support of the Off Channel Reservoir Project will be brought back onto the agenda in January.

II. Streamkeepers Report

Joel Green, Streamkeepers

Joel started the presentation by describing Streamkeepers and what they are doing in the vicinity of the Dungeness River. The mission of Streamkeepers is to Enhance involvement in stewardship of local streams. The presentation then went on to describe each of the Organization's goals. The first is to monitor local streams and gather quality data to guide management decisions. The next is to report the information to a variety of audiences. The last is to facilitate public involvement in Citizen Science and stewardship. Joel then went into detail on each of the three goals.

Streamkeepers does a variety of monitoring chemical and physical properties of the streams. This is completed using multiparameters. The parameters that are monitored are pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, salinity and conductivity. Turbidity and temperature are important parameters for salmon and trout habitat. Grab samples are also used to monitor bacteria, nutrients and toxics.

Stream flow is monitored by Streamkeepers and is important for salmon and trout for adequate water to migrate and temperature. The sampling of benthic macroinvertebrates can determine the water quality of the stream by identifying what species are present.

The reporting of information regarding the monitoring is distributed to WA department of Ecology, and watershed planning groups and agencies. In addition, Streamkeepers attends and presents at public events and maintains a public website.

Joel detailed the projects that Streamkeepers is active in the region. This includes quarterly monitoring in McDonald Creek, Seibert Creek and Bagley Creek, Pollution Investigation and Correction (PIC), the Dungeness Off Channel Reservoir Project and the Lower Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration Project.

The collaborative Pollution Investigation and Correction (PIC) was then explained. The Streamkeepers conduct the monitoring at the mouths of the streams while Clallam County Environmental Health and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe do follow up monitoring. Segmented monitoring is done if pollutants are found in a creek. This narrows down the location of the source of the pollution. Clallam County Environmental Health and Clallam Conservation District work with landowners if a septic system is suspected of pollution.

Joel shared a table of fecal coliform monitoring for 2015 – 2021. It indicated that several creeks showed a trend towards higher counts from 2018 to 2021. This included Bell, Matriotti and Meadowbrook slough. These higher counts have not closed the shellfish beds.

Streamkeepers is currently monitoring the Highland Irrigation ditch at the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Project in order to provide a baseline for future monitoring. Monitoring is also being done at the Lower Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration Project to ensure compliance with environmental permits.

Q/A/Comments:

Alex asked about the table in the presentation showing the pollution measurements and if there have been actions to curtail the source. Joel explained that CC EH and JST conduct the segmented monitoring. EH and CCD work with the landowners and offer assistance. Joel also described cases where livestock have been fenced away from the creeks to stop the pollution of the creeks. Kim added that the CCD replaced two failing septic systems within the last two months.

III. Side Channel Restoration Project Update

Hilton Turnbull, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Hilton updated the group on two projects that the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe are working on. The first was the Phase 3 Engineered Log Jam (ELJ) located at RM 13.7 on the Dungeness. This project was done to facilitate reconnection of side channels and improve fish habitat. The ELJs were placed within the floodplain by helicopter. They were anchored with rock collars. The project consisted of 230 logs which were placed over a three-day timespan.

The next project update was the Caldero Project. This is located near Fish Hatchery Road. The parcel was purchased in order to restore it due to the fact that it is in the 100-year floodplain. This project consisted of constructing a side channel to produce off channel habitat for fish. ELJs were installed and excavation was done to create the side channel. The side channel measures 750 ft and was completed in October.

Hilton shared that Coho have already been spawning in the side channel.

Q/A/Comments:

Joel asked for clarification regarding the tying in the side channel back to the river. Hilton explained that the side channel was built in the dry and then the river was let back into the channel.

Powell asked Hilton how many ELJs have been installed by JST. According to Randy Johnson, the number is estimated at 55 ELJs.

Cathy asked if that reach of the river is going to become part of the Coho spawning survey index. Hilton's answer was yes. Hansi added that three of the four redds had already been flagged by the survey crew and are in the database.

Ben mentioned that it would be a good idea to revisit the sites in the future to gauge how they have matured. Hilton added that the projects will be monitored with aerial photography to see how they are maturing.

IV. Other Orders of Business

Hansi brought up the DRMT December business. She asked the group if there are any further nominations to the Executive Committee since those nominated in November. She explained that the Committee is made up of five seats (3 elected, plus the automatic appointment of the Tribe, County and Chair). Three people have been nominated (Robert Beebe, Tony Corrado, Ben Smith).

Review of DRMT Operating Procedures

Next was a discussion on the DRMT operating procedures. Shawn reviewed the 2018 document with the group and detailed some of the suggested edits that she made. The first discussion was on page 2, the way the group votes. The suggested edit was regarding confidential paper vote **and** show of hands (either in person or with Zoom). Ben suggested that the group should consider waiting until next meeting in order to digest the edits. He mentioned a potential issue if more than one person was vying for a position. Powell mentioned that there is a way in Zoom to conduct a private vote, or the use of Survey Monkey.

The next item was in regard to WRTG being a temporary committee within the *Other Committees*. Ben mentioned that a committee can be standing or temporary committee. Hansi mentioned that the group can discuss, but as it is written, it is accurate.

The next item was the approval of the meeting notes and agenda items. Ben mentioned that Agenda items should not be voted on. That item was tabled for more discussion. Shawn then showed a possible edit to the Decision Making Process 1.(a), where there seemed to be redundancy regarding the voting decisions. Hansi

mentioned that this item should remain in order to show that the group would show effort in making a decision. Cathy agreed with leaving item (a.) in the procedures.

Tony wanted to review Item 7, regarding DRMT members not representing themselves as speaking for the DRMT unless a prior agreement is granted by the group. He mentioned possible issues with the 4th Aquifer and subcommittees. The time that it would take to gain approval from the group in order to gain information from a government agency on behalf of the DRMT could be 90 days. He asked if there is a method for granting temporary authorization.

Danielle shared a possible suggestion of having a two-week comment period. This would allow the group to discuss the request and act on it sooner than the 90-day cycle. Hansi asked Tony for clarification regarding the editing of Item 7. Hansi mentioned that she was uncomfortable with an individual or group acting on behalf of the DRMT without prior approval from DRMT. Tony explained that he wanted to shorten the time for approval, not edit the meaning of Item 7.

Hansi asked the group if more time was needed to review the edits. Cathy mentioned that she would need more time, and that further discussion be held in January. Ben agreed. Danielle also agreed and stated that maybe she and Tony could discuss how an edit to Item 7 could make the approval process more time responsive and bring that back to the group in January.

Ben mentioned that there may be confusion between an individual or subgroup requesting information and presenting as DRMT.

Hansi tabled this discussion until the January or possibly February meeting.

V. Project Updates

Off Channel Reservoir Update

Cathy Lear, Clallam County

Due to Carol's absence, Cathy delivered the update on the project. She mentioned that the Open House attendance was robust. The additional cultural resource work had no significant finds. Geophysical work is being completed in addition to the surveying. Permitting meetings are now underway. The agenda and comments from the open house will be made available on the County's website within several weeks. A frequently asked question portion of the website will be produced based on the questions from the open house.

Levee Setback Project Update

Cathy Lear, Clallam County

Cathy shared a slide showing the re-connection of the river. The two levees have been connected. This will allow the river to create additional habitats. The north levee near the schoolhouse has been connected at the bridge. Hydroseeding has begun and gates have been installed on the levees for public safety.

The historic side channel has been joined up with the river, even with the low flows. Asphalt and contaminants from Towne Road are currently being removed from the site.

Q/A/Comments:

Mike asked when Towne Road would be re-opened. Cathy answered that the road would be paved and opened in 2023.

VI. Standing Agenda Items

Tony updated the group on the WRTG. There will be four WRTG representatives that will present detailed presentations on some of the topics from the Recommendations Summary. This will be on four of the thirteen topics. This is planned to start in January, with Alex Scagliotti and Joe Holtrop discussing Effectiveness of Shallow Aquifer Recharge. Ann Soule will discuss the Updated Groundwater Characterization in February. Regarding the report as a whole, there have been some questions on the report, but Tony has not discussed anything that the DRMT hasn't put up for review.

The next item is for requests for Agenda items. Shawn mentioned that the January agenda is full, but she will confirm. February may be a better option for continuing Operating Procedures discussion.

The next item was 2023 DRMT elections. Hansi asked if the group wanted confidential ballots. Shawn stated that since all the seats are unopposed, the group may not necessarily need a confidential vote. No additional nominations have been received. It was also mentioned that Ben had in the past updated the operating procedures to distinguish that November would be the nomination month so that nominees had time to accept or decline prior to the December meeting, and December would be the election.

Shawn told the group that Ben had to log off the meeting but had accepted his nomination.

Robert made a motion to accept the nominations, Powell seconded and the motion passed. Hansi asked for clarification on whether it was to accept or to approve the nominations. Robert modified his motion to accept and approve the nominations, Powell seconded, motion passed.

The Executive Committee will consist of Robert Beebe, Ben Smith, Cathy Lear, Tony Corrado and Hansi Hals, with Hansi as Chair.

VII. Public Comment

Paul Moore mentioned the attendance of the open house meeting regarding Off Channel Reservoir. He also stated concerns regarding the project.

Hansi mentioned that due to Paul's comments she read Appendix C of the design report.

Stephanie wanted to thank Hansi, and the staff at the Nature Center for putting on a great event (Open House).

Cathy mentioned that the public can send Carol comments via email and view the recording of the open house and see the FAQs for the Off Channel Reservoir Project on the County's website.

It has yet to be determined if January's meeting will be hybrid or on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm