

APPROVED Draft DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes July 13, 2022

Prepared by Shawn Hines, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Shawn Hines/JST (alt), Judy Larson/ Protect the Peninsula's Future, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future (alt), Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Kim Williams/Clallam Conservation District, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Ann Soule/City of Sequim, Meggan Ueker/new City of Sequim rep, Ben Smith/WUA, Tom Martin/PUD, Bob Phreaner/OPAS

Others Present: Genie Mixon/Dungeness Meadows resident, Marguerite Glover/Sequim Realtors, Joel Green/Streamkeepers, Joe Holtrop/Jefferson and Clallam Conservation Districts, Phil Martin/resident, Carol Creasey/Clallam County, Ron Gilles/guest, Randy Johnson, JST, Alex Scagliotti/Graysmarsh, John Stednick/resident

I. Introductions

Introductions were made and Ann Soule introduced her replacement, Meggan Ueker, as the City's representative on the DRMT. Dungeness flows from this morning were reviewed. Although the upper and lower gages are reading much closer than last month (last month's lower Ecology gage flows were inaccurate until Ecology updated its rating curve following that month's manual flow measurement), the lower gage seemed too high (would expect it to be lower, even with inputs from tributaries) considering irrigators are currently withdrawing). Shawn will inquire with Ecology technician. Ben note (later) that irrigators are currently withdrawing around 41 cfs.

Many thank yous and much appreciation for Ann Soule and her many contributions to and work in the Dungeness Watershed, who is transitioning to part-time, and no longer representing the City on DRMT. Ann will be missed, but thankfully not going far!

Reviewed Draft meeting notes. Judy commented that her suggestions for future meeting agendas/trips were missing. Following public comment (below), Shawn noted the June notes were mis-labeled as May and reminded folks June agenda items were rearranged to accommodate presenters. Shawn resent notes with correct header. Ben moved and Judy seconded to approve June notes as amended. Notes were approved.

Public Comment

Hansi announced that the presentation by Robinson and Noble (R&N) regarding the PUD's Draft Mitigation Plan for their water right application happened (DRMT and WRTG had been invited) on June 17th at PUD. Carol Creasey said if folks had further questions, R&N would be willing to come speak again or answer specific questions. That meeting was recorded, and Tom Martin can provide link to DRMT.

Hansi noted the State Legislature approached JST to see if Tribe could host a legislative round-robin to talk about salmon and agriculture. Tentatively schedule for 7/25, but not confirmed whether it will happen yet, depending on what is decided about whether this is the right time. If it happens, DRMT will receive invitation; stay tuned.

Powell reminded that Nature Center is open; hopefully hybrid meeting next month.

Ann announced the City's Water System Plan update (happens every six years, currently) is ready for review by City Council and Planning Commission next week. Following that, it will be forwarded to Ecology. Public hearing likely before next DRMT meeting.

II. WRTG Presentation of Dungeness Water Resources Recommendations Summary

Tony Corrado, PPF Representative and WRTG Chair

Tony presented a PowerPoint of the Draft Recommendations Summary and Appendix documents, which were forwarded to the Team previously. In the presentation, Tony reviewed the scope and methodology of the Water Resources Technical Group, followed by a summary of the 13 topics and related recommendations developed by the WRTG. He explained that the Appendix includes rationale for particular topics/recommendations, individual comments by WRTG and Advisory members, lists resources and describes the need for volunteer "Resource Teams" to hopefully collaborate on advancing the recommendations. Tony

encouraged everyone to read the comments in the Appendix. He also noted that many of the resources included are outdated. Next steps: Potential DRMT endorsement of Summary and Appendix, Guidance from DRMT Exec Committee on distribution, “staffing” resource teams, implementation. Please see attached slides.

Hansi proposed postponing the idea of endorsement and other next steps until next meeting, so that folks have time to continue reviewing following this presentation. There were no objections to continue reviewing and providing input prior to and/or during next meeting.

Q/A/Comments:

Q: The idea of prioritization/urgency in the context of funding/implementation was raised.

A: WRTG discussed prioritization, but deliberately chose not to so that any potential sponsor of next level of work would select tasks most appropriate to their interest. DRMT could possibly decide to do that as its own body, but WRTG decided not to as a committee.

Comments/Questions: Regarding implementation/updating new studies, graduate students may be interested, and may be able to get funding. Battelle may also be interested and/or have funding. Regarding outreach, suggestion to add history/science/current water needs element to Sequim Irrigation Festival. Questions about some of the instruments used for data collection, how to obtain data, funding, etc. Particular questions related to saltwater intrusion, etc.

A: Regarding additional suggestions (within scope) on any particular topic, or questions related to technical information about a particular topic (such as Arc GIS questions), Tony explained these kinds of discussions could take place within the Resource Teams that get formed. The Resource Teams, once they are up and running, are the place for getting into the details on each topic, as well as how to implement. Regarding universities, yes, one of the WRTG members is reaching out to academic community.

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

- **Standing Item: Project Updates**

WRTG update: follow up discussion from Tony’s presentation (above) will happen at next DRMT meeting.

Levee Setback Update:

Cathy Lear, Clallam County:

Phase 1: Cathy shared June drone photos from construction efforts near Anderson Road, including a WSDOT mitigation site that was replanted with native vegetation, and a section of the levee that spurs to the north (“the north levee”) – an extremely challenging place to build due to wetness. Expected completion date mid-October.



Phase 2: Went to bid in June, received one bid, 47% above engineered estimate. Attempted to modify plans, but ultimately rejected that bid. Next steps –modify bid-package to incorporate feedback from bidders and non-bidders; will re-issue modified bid package at a later date.

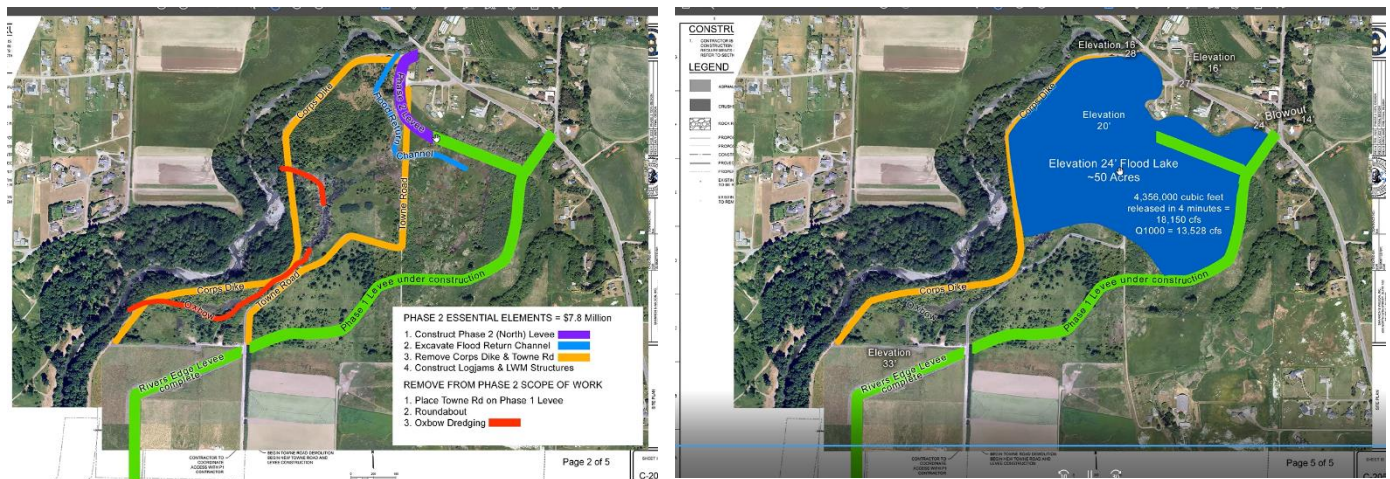
Question – what is the safety plan and plan for salmon habitat goals of the funding, now that there is a 500-foot gap in levee if not building right now?

Answer – County expects to put some elements of Phase 2 on the ground for flood safety.

Joe Donisi, Clallam County:

Elaborated that County has been coordinating with Tribe and County Commissioners to look at alternatives for flood safety. Plan is to complete the setback levee 100 percent. Still figuring out details since it is out of sequence with other elements of project. Hansi noted the other piece to assuring flood safety is making sure enough of the interior existing dike is removed to prevent a dam situation from occurring. Cathy replied that County doesn't intend to remove any of the Corps levee until after flood season.

Randy Johnson, JST: in relation to above discussion, Randy showed current conditions on aerial photo slide, including completed Rivers Edge Levee, County's Phase 1 Levee under construction, and portion of "the north levee".



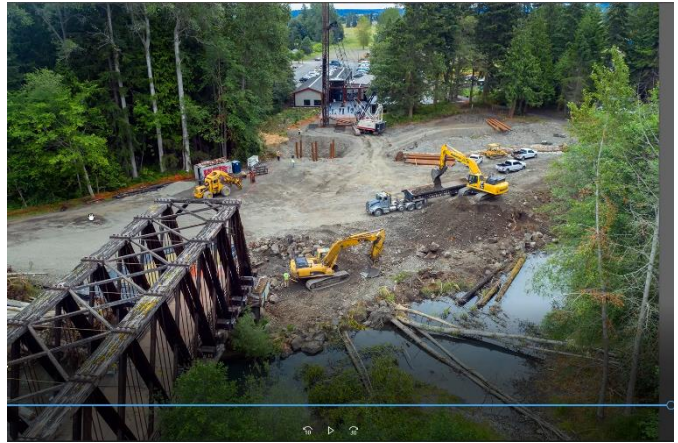
Also showed essential elements of Phase 2 (left aerial), and what could occur if both levees (Corps dike and Phase 1 levee) remain in place during flood season (right aerial). Water that gets between the levees would pond up and create a lake, and potential catastrophic flooding. Removing the Corps dike would prevent that. Randy estimated that removing the Corps dike could take two to four weeks.

Cathy – County has prioritized elements they feel will accomplish flood safety, and also plans to include flood return channel with a culvert outlet to relieve pressure.

Nature Center Floodplain Restoration Update:

Randy Johnson, JST:

Bid came back over-budget but JST modified elements so that construction could move forward. Have put in foundation/pilings for connecting to bridge. Construction is in area that river was flowing in 1961. Dismantling railroad levee, which also served as the ramp to get up to Howe Truss (picture at right). A wishbone bridge system will replace the ramp, which should be operational by September. Riprap from the Railroad dike will all be removed from site. Powell noted that the project is being very well-received by the public.



Clallam Conservation District Project Updates:

Kim Williams, Clallam Conservation District

Kim announced tomorrow will be a volunteer work party at River's Edge. Working with JST and NOSC. Putting mulch on all the plants that were planted this winter by WCC and NOSC. All encouraged to come help. Need about 20 more volunteers. 9am-12pm and 12:30-3:30pm shifts. Bring wheelbarrow.

Kim announced Conservation District was awarded a Water Smart Grant. \$1.5 million. Piping projects in three reaches of Sequim Prairie Tri system, and upgrades to Sequim Prairie Dungeness District diversion.

Clallam County Reservoir Updates:

Carol Creasey, Clallam County

County received Water Smart Grant award for Highland Irrigation District upgrades (headgate, flow structure, fish bypass/fish screen). These tasks are upgradient of Reservoir Project. Also, public meeting for Reservoir Project has been rescheduled to fall.

- **Standing Item: Team additions to next agenda, or suggestions for future agendas.**
 - Please send Shawn or Executive Committee ideas for future agenda items.
 - August meeting should be at Nature Center, with Hybrid capability. August agenda includes spending time following up on Tony's presentation of WRTG's products and deciding next steps, and possible field trip outside to see status of Nature Center floodplain restoration/removal of railroad dike.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Adjourned