

APPROVED DRMT ZOOM Meeting Notes November 9, 2022

Prepared by Todd Coward, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Matt Heins/Landowner, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Powell Jones\Dungeness River Nature Center, Tom Martin\PUD, Robert Beebe\Riverside Property Owner, Jenna Ziogas\Dungeness River Nature Center(alt), Cathy Lear\Clallam County, Hansi Hals\Jamestown S'Klallam, Rebecca Mahan\Clallam County (alt), Ben Smith\Water Users Assoc., Bob Phraener\Oly Pen Audubon, Shawn Hines\Jamestown S'Klallam (alt), Danielle Zitomer\WDFW

Others Present: Bowen Kendrick\PUD, Michael Friese\Dept of Health, Joel Green\Streamkeepers, Bob Simmons\WSU Extension, Marguerite Glover\Sequim Assoc of Realtors, Ann Soule\Friend, Alex Scagliotti\Graysmarsh, Bruce Cornett\Presenter, Paul Moore\Presenter, Meggan Uecker\City of Sequim, Robert Knapp\Jamestown S'Klallam, Trevor Swanson\Dept of Health, Lance Vail\Oly Pen Audubon, Carol Creasey\Clallam County, Kim Williams\Conservation District, Todd Coward\Clallam County, David Rice\Anchor QEA, Kara Cardinal\Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network, John Stednick, Friends of the Dungeness, Stephanie Robinson\Washington Water Trust, Phil Martin\Guest, Jason Hatch\Washington Water Trust, Bob Montgomery\Anchor QEA, Mark Ozias\Clallam County,

I. Introductions/Review Agenda

Hansi called the meeting to order and asked each person present on Zoom to introduce themselves. During the introductions, Tom Martin introduced his replacement, Bowen Kendrick.

After introductions, Hansi adjusted the agenda so that the Off Channel Reservoir presentation would begin and then Public Comments would follow.

Shawn mentioned that Carol Creasey and the County's consultants would present after the Neighbors of Dungeness Reservoir presentation.

II. Neighbors of Dungeness Reservoir-Project Comments/Discussion

Bruce Cornett and Paul Moore, Neighbors

Bruce and Paul shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their concerns regarding the construction of the Off Channel Reservoir. They mentioned that they are in favor of the goals of the reservoir and that their presentation is not to try and stop the construction of the reservoir. Paul shared that the data used for the presentation was provided by Carol Creasey with Clallam County and the County's consultant for this project Anchor QEA.

The main concerns are the height of the reservoir and the quantity of water being held above ground. Paul showed documents detailing the elevations per the 30 percent reservoir design. The presentation went on to highlight that the footprint of the reservoir had been decreased, which increased the amount of water being held above ground. One other concern shared in the presentation was that there may be insufficient excavated material to construct the dam and the remedial action of deepening the excavation and lowering the berms in order to lessen the need to import material. This was proposed by PanGeo in an engineering review in December 2020. The presentation went on to detail safety regulations that the reservoir will have to meet by the Washington Department of Ecology Dam Safety Office. Paul then went on to highlight the group's concern regarding the engineered safety. He referenced several documents provided by the Department of Ecology Dam Safety Guidelines.

Paul then summarized the presentation which reviewed the group's concern regarding the dam's height, the design focus on cost and the dam's safety during an extreme event.

Bruce then reiterated the group's concerns and asked the DRMT to condition their support for the project. Hansi acknowledged the group's safety concerns and their request to condition the DRMT's support until these concerns are addressed.

Hansi then introduced Carol and representatives from the County's consulting firm working on the reservoir project, Anchor QEA. Carol thanked Paul and Bruce for their presentation and concerns over the safety of the project. Carol shared that County and the consultants are also concerned with the safety of the project and that the following presentation will focus on addressing the previous presentation's highlighted safety concerns.

Carol announced that there will be an open house on December 6 at the Dungeness River Nature Center from 6 – 8 pm. The goal of the open house will be to share information regarding the 30 percent preliminary design and for the public have their questions answered.

David Rice with Anchor QEA's presentation started by detailing the project's purpose and the targeted benefits. He reviewed the status of work which is currently at the 30 percent design stage. He went on to explain that the project is now in the more detailed design and permitting phase.

Dave shared the key design considerations of the project, which included the gravity operation, site constraints and safety. A slide showing a comparison of the 2016 concept design with the current preliminary design. This slide compared the footprint and height of the reservoir. The goal is to gain 1,600-acre feet of storage. Dave explained that the current design focuses on several site limitations including a wetland, a BPA easement to the south and the location of a bluff and shoreline buffers to the west.

The presentation showed elevation comparisons of the preliminary design versus the 2016 concept design. Dave explained that the depth of the reservoir is key to it being able to be gravity fed and delivered. The presentation highlighted the preliminary design review with the Department of Ecology's Dam Safety Office. This outlines the design requirements so that a construction permit can be secured. The design requirements include the safety considerations of the design. Dave reviewed each of the safety items that need to be provided to the Office of Dam Safety. The presentation then explained using the conservative design step analysis that will be needed for permitting. To date, the analyses are still being completed.

The presentation then reviewed the reservoir operation with the fill and release cycles during the year. The following slide showed the key design feature to ensure safety. The talking points were the flow to and from the reservoir, the spillway design, seepage control and seismic stability.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Hansi stated that the meeting was under time constraints so further comments and questions would be limited. She noted that the DRMT would not condition their support for the project at this time, but that this issue would be put on a future agenda. She then asked Joel Green if he could postpone his presentation until the December meeting. Joel agreed to have his presentation ready for the December DRMT meeting.

Q/A/Comments:

Hansi then asked for comments/questions from the group. Ben asked Dave and Carol how this issue would be kept in the forefront and for the Neighbors of the Reservoir to be in the loop. Carol stated that there is the opportunity to share comments on the Dungeness Reservoir web site and there is the opportunity to be on a distribution list for current information. Carol will also have an FAQ section on the web site after the December open house.

Hansi added that the permitting process would also have publicly available documents regarding the project.

Carol explained how the open house would be structured. One of the stations during the open house will help answer any questions about permitting and safety.

Paul questioned the gravity design of the reservoir. Also, he asked about the step analysis and the historical data that would be used. Bruce commented on the discharge point and the current elevations.

Dave addressed the question concerning changing the design to lower the water level and maintain gravity feeding. The bottom of the reservoir has to be higher than the ditch. Otherwise, the ditch would have to be excavated throughout the run. This process would involve excavating on private properties. The height of the pipe at the property boundary is a critical design element.

Hansi asked if there was an opportunity for the neighbors to become involved during more of the design from 30 to 60 percent. Carol stated that there will be further opportunities to comment on the project during future design and permitting phases.

Bob Montgomery from Anchor QEA explained the design criteria for the seismic portion of the project. He also stated that all of the design criteria are very conservative per the Department of Ecology Dam Safety Office. More information will be available during the open house.

Bruce mentioned that Carol has been very responsive in sharing information and documents.

III. Review of the October Meeting Notes

Hansi asked the group if there were any comments on the October notes and to make a motion to approve them. Matt commented that he was mislabeled as belonging to OPUS. Shawn stated that in the notes Tom was listed as the speaker when in fact it was Matt as he was the vice chair. Aaron Brooks, a presenter at the last meeting wanted to add some clarifications to his presentation within the October notes.

Hansi suggested that the October notes be corrected and approved at the December meeting.

Hansi asked the group if they had any farewell wishes for Tom and if he would still be available. Tom stated that he would be available for the group after his retirement. Hansi mentioned a concept by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for the formation of a technical workgroup among stakeholders to further consider alternative mitigation strategies related to PUD's water right application, and she asked if PUD has considered convening

such a group. Tom stated that the PUD is considering the workgroup, but he hasn't had full conformation from his Board.

Ben commented on Tom's ability to easily speak on a subject will be missed. Hansi added that he asked great questions to presenters and he has been a great addition to the DRMT.

IV. Public Comment and Announcements

Hansi asked for any public comments from the group. Shawn asked if the current Agenda would be followed. Hansi stated that it would and that Joel's presentation would be moved to December. The meeting would then be over by only 10 minutes.

Matt asked if the executive committee had decided on the alternate for Tidelands and Estuary

Ben announced that the Conservation District hired a person to work on riparian buffers. Kim went on to detail that the program will focus on private landowners and streams that have a temperature impairments.

Hansi had the group take a 5-minute break

IV. Dungeness Bay Water Quality Analysis

Trevor Swanson, WA Department of Health

Trevor shared that this would be a shellfish water quality perspective of the latest data. He shared a map showing the classification for shellfish harvesting (commercial) within the Dungeness Bay. He detailed the standards for water quality testing. He mentioned that Stations 198 and 199 have previously not met the standards. He then showed the current unsorted data for Dungeness Bay. It showed that all Stations were within standards within the growing areas. A table showing the comparison of this year to last year showed an improvement in the Meadowbrook Creek area, while several stations degraded. All were still within current standards.

He then reviewed tables showing the open and closed periods for harvest. The areas are closed due to predictable events. He then went on to ways to upgrade Dungeness Bay for year-round harvesting. This includes improving water quality throughout the year and no new pollution sources.

Trevor explained that if stations within an area were to improve, that sub area could be upgraded within the Bay. This currently is not possible due to the data results. He detailed the data from several stations to explain the SOP for data analysis. He also showed a flow graph from the USGS gauge which shows random events after a large flush.

Trevor mentioned that Michael Friese was available to help answer questions regarding shoreline and sanitary surveys.

Q/A/Comments:

Matt stated that the map shows station 198 at the mouth of the river, when in fact it is station 197. He also stated that there is confusion regarding Meadowbrook slough and Meadowbrook Creek in the literature.

Trevor followed up by saying that the map used in the presentation was outdated and that 197 is in fact in the mouth. Michael then addressed the confusion regarding the Meadowbrook slough. The sample location encompasses the confluence of both the slough and creek. Matt had a concern about the public's misinterpretation of the data. He added that the public sees only big picture and that the data shows that everything is ok. Michael stated that the data is not distributed to the general public. Matt shared that comments from the public on the microbial source tracking data report were that all the pollutants were from the birds, when in fact it is it could be from septic systems.

Joel asked Michael about Streamkeepers losing access to Meadowbrook slough monitoring in 2020 and if the data for that area is current. Hansi asked if this question could be answered offline due to time constraints.

Kim mentioned that the Conservation District has an OSS repair program in place. They will be repairing two septic systems within the area of concern.

Ben mentioned that two systems have been repaired by the Conservation District in that area and two more are scheduled to be repaired.

Matt had a comment/question on the Shoreline Survey and irrigation ditches being tightlined and redirected back into the river instead of the bay. Ben answered that there is no tailwater and the paragraph in the Survey is incorrect. Michael acknowledged the inaccuracy and will update the report.

Hansi asked Trevor how many times a month Dungeness Bay is being monitored. He stated one time per month, but hopefully two times per month November through January, though the added data may skew the analyses.

Hansi asked Joel to highlight where the testing sites are located during his December presentation.

V. Stormwater Outreach

Bob Simmons, WSU Extension

Bob shared WSU Extension's Rural Stormwater Solutions program. He introduced Darcy who is the program coordinator.

The program was created to manage rural stormwater. Most programs have been focused on urban stormwater. The idea was to produce a suite of information for landowners based on surveys from people working in stormwater in rural areas. This program is to help those with minor flooding and standing water on their property.

Bob described the Rural Stormwater website where all of the information can be accessed (ruralstormwater.wsu.edu). There are links to factsheets, videos and references that will help with stormwater management. There is also a whitepaper within the factsheets section that details the technical foundation of the factsheets.

Bob demonstrated the use of the Resource section of the website and showed a portion of a video on how to create a site plan. He then demonstrated an area of the website that has resources broken out by County and then showed Clallam County's resources, including critical areas maps and organizations that can be of help with stormwater management.

There is also a spec sheet for managing surface water and BMPs in the Rural Stormwater Solutions Section. Bob highlighted the demonstration site at the Dungeness River Nature Center that has details associated with it on the website.

Bob concluded his presentation by sharing information on how to receive promotional items that can be displayed for use by the public and staff (ruralstormwater.wsu.edu). Darcy mentioned that the City of Sequim has been added to the site.

VI. Other Orders of Business

Matt is asking the DRMT to approve an alternate for the Tidelands and Estuary membership on DRMT. He recommended Alex Scagliotti with Graysmarsh to be the alternate. Hansi stated that the executive committee would like to recommend Alex as a representative. Alex stated that he would be willing to become an alternate. Hansi expressed to the group that the cleanest way to move forward would be for the executive committee to recommend Alex and the DRMT members make a motion to accept. Cathy made a motion to approve Alex as the alternate for Tidelands and Estuary which was seconded by Tony. The motion passed.

Shawn explained that the entire month of November is open nominations for the executive committee. Members can either nominate during today's meeting or email their nomination. Nominees will be officially elected in December. The executive Committee has automatic appointments for a Tribal and County representative and three open seats.

Matt asked if the County representative was Mary Ellen Winborn. Hansi explained that Mary Ellen vacated her place and Cathy Lear, as the County's alternate took her place. Hansi then asked Cathy how the County will fill the automatic appointment going forward. Cathy will have a conversation with the new DCD Director regarding how the County will fill the appointment. She will share the response with the group once it is known.

Matt mentioned that the County's Executive Committee seat used to be filled by a commissioner. Cathy answered that the DCD Director took over from the Commissioner in around 2011, and Mary Ellen carried it through. Hansi mentioned that Commissioner Ozias has been engaged with the group.

Ben had to excuse himself from the meeting but had Hansi make his nomination of Tony Corrado for the Executive Committee for him.

Hansi then recognized the current members of the Executive Committee: Robert Beebe, Ben Smith and Ann Soule. Ann will not be planning on accepting a renewal of a nomination. Shawn shared that Ben is available to continue as a member of the Executive Committee, unless someone else is interested in a seat. Robert stated that he can continue, but that it would be fine with him if someone wanted to take his seat.

Shawn updated the group on the DRMT website. There is a consultant that will be transferring all of the data to a new software platform. The site can still be accessed but hasn't been updated in several months. The website should be ready to update in January.

VII. Project Updates

Off Channel Reservoir Project
Carol Creasey, Clallam County

Carol reminded the group about the open house on December 6 and that postcards are going out to residence within a one mile and down gradient from the site and they should be received the week of the 14th. There are also improvements to the website where people can provide comments. There will be a new project website available in 2023. She mentioned that phase two of the field work is currently going on at the site, which includes geophysics and surveying. Additionally, a few more soil borings will be taking place.

Levee Setback Project Update

Cathy Lear, Clallam County

Cathy updated the group that they have met their goal on the floodplain and that it safe for the flood season. The tie ins are complete on the north and south ends. There is now one continuous levee, from the Schoolhouse all the way south. Some topsoil is slumping on the levee, which is not a structural issue, only aesthetic. The contractor will be addressing the slumping in the near future. Old Towne Road is being removed. Removal started at the north end near the Schoolhouse and are now at where the levee crosses the road. There was more than anticipated contaminated material, so there has been additional hauling. The engineered log jams are in place. The river has engaged the floodplain as planned at the truncated meander. This area will be known as the historic oxbow.

Gates will be installed in order to keep the public from driving onto the levee until the guardrails are installed. There will also be a parking lot at the Schoolhouse, where the public can park and walk onto the levee.

Hansi followed up on Cathy's update by saying that field trips to the site need to be scheduled.

Dungeness River Nature Center

Powell Jones, Dungeness River Nature Center

There were several trees lost during the windstorm, which added to the log jams. There hasn't been enough flow in order to view the activation of the channel. The outer parking lot is being completed.

Caldero Channel

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Hansi updated the group on the Tribe's work on the Caldero channel downstream of the fish hatchery. It is a one-thousand foot re-natured off channel habitat. It pulls two percent of the river flow.

VIII. Announcements

Tony thanked Ben for the nomination. He stated that at the last meeting several suggestions were made as to how best to engage the public on the WRTG recommendations. He mentioned that Ann suggested the summary presentation by Tony to the DRMT be put on the website. A follow up discussion with members of the WRTG suggested that some WRTG members would be interested in giving a presentation on their "pet topic" from the WRTG recommendations to the group for further in-depth discussion, possibly one per month. Shawn can work with Tony to coordinate dates for willing WRTG members and possibly additional technical presenters to reserve time on future DRMT agendas.

IV. Standing Agenda Items

Hansi mentioned Tony's thought of incorporating these subject matters from the WRTG into the agenda would be a good idea.

Shawn wanted to clarify if Tony would have the "champions" of the thirteen WRTG topics present their topics or if these would be related technical presenters or both. Tony said that it would be both. Some of the topics don't have a champion within the group. Some people would not be comfortable presenting. We may need additional resources and speakers with expert commentary.

Matt mentioned that at last month's meeting it was discussed that the Water Resources Work Group, as a subcommittee of the DRMT, have done their work and now need to present. The group can have a light discussion on the topic and determine who is the expert. Shawn will reach out to Tony and the "champions" on the topics for future agendas.

Hansi brought up the request from Bruce and Paul from the Neighbors of Dungeness Reservoir to condition the DRMT's support for the project. She asked the group their thoughts on either taking a position or not. Robert requested that the question be repeated. Hansi stated that the DRMT supports the off-channel reservoir. Previously, the group made a motion and approved the project and she has signed letters on behalf of the DRMT in support of the project. She repeated her question by stating that the Neighbors group has requested that DRMT would consider conditioning their support related to the safety. She asked the group if discussing this request should be placed on the December or January agenda.

Robert agreed that it should be put on a future agenda.

Tony stated that he thought the group should wait until after the public outreach and if the DRMT needs to take a position.

Hansi stated that she was following up on the request by the Neighbors group. She wanted clarification from the DRMT as to what position they were taking so she can follow up with the Neighbors group. There were no objections to bring the topic onto the January agenda.

Hansi had an announcement regarding an Open House tomorrow at 5:30 at the MacLeay Grange.

Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned