

APPROVED DRMT Zoom Meeting Notes September 14, 2022

Prepared by Todd Coward, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present: Hansi Hals/Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Mike Auger/NOLT, Judy Larson/Protect the Peninsula’s Future (alt), Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula’s Future, Cathy Lear/ Clallam County, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Ann Soule/Hydrologist, Matt Heins/OPAS, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owner, Tom Martin/PUD, Shawn Hines/Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Meggan Ueker/ City of Sequim, Bob Phaener/OPAS,
Others Present: Jeremy Reiman/ Dept of Ecology, Stephanie Robinson/WWT, Joel Green/Streamkeepers, Alex Scagliotti/Graymarsh, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County, Randy Johnson/Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, John Stedman/ Friends of Dungeness River, Lance (alt)/Olympic Audubon Society

I. Introductions

Hansi opened the meeting at 2:00pm and had a question regarding the low river flow (129 cfs) on the lower gauge. Shawn commented that she received an email from Tyler Burks with Department of Ecology. They are making some repairs to the monitoring equipment and will check the flow data next week.

Hansi stated that the 112 cfs number was probably closer to the accurate flow. It is unknown what the water users are pulling right now. The group will wait until next month, once Ecology completes the repairs to compare the flow numbers.

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves starting around the table and then online.

Hansi introduced Todd Coward as the new note taker for future meetings.

After introductions, Hansi mentioned that she had not seen the August meeting notes. Shawn stated that the meeting notes were distributed.

Hansi made a motion to approve the August meeting notes. Judy Larson made mention that August notes mislabel her as the rep and Tony Corrado as the alternate for Protect the Peninsula’s Future (PPF). Judy is actually the alternate delegate and Tony is the main delegate for PPF.

With this correction, Powell made a motion to approve the notes, which was seconded by Tony. The August notes were approved.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

II. Presentation of the recently released Water Quality Assessment and Candidate 303(d) list as it pertains to the Dungeness Clean Water District.

Jeremy Reiman, Water Quality Assessment Scientist with the WA Department of Ecology.

Jeremy began by explaining the Water Quality Assessment for 2018 was approved by the EPA last month and he will be showing the results as it pertains to the Dungeness Clean Water District.

Clean Water Act is a requirement to provide the EPA a report every two years on even numbered years. The report contains a list of impaired waters and a general report known as the 305(d) report. Department of Ecology gathers all relevant and high-quality data throughout Washington. Ecology can then make water

quality determinations. The goal is to prioritize the protection of water quality from the Clean Water Act's perspective TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) bring the impaired waters up to the Clean Water Standards.

Jeremy then explained the Water Quality Assessment cycle. Once the assessment is approved, the Department of Ecology updates their databases and distribute the information. The result is a tangible list of waters based on their health. There are five categories, with 1 meeting the standards and 5 being impaired. The Category 5 waters are put on the 303(d) list. These waters are prioritized for clean up after every assessment period.

The WQA data is available online at www.ecology.wa.gov/303d. There you will find interactive maps and access to the database.

Based on the assessment, States prioritize development of TMDLs or other pollution control programs to clean up impaired water. Jeremy explained the limitations associated with the assessment including data availability which limits the quantity of determinations that can be made. Testing standards and policy changes also make comparing past assessments with current data difficult. The EPA requires that a water body stay on the 303(d) list until data shows otherwise. There may not be enough data available to keep the list current. The assessment also does not identify pollution sources, evaluates the water's health. Only about 15% of the waters are reviewed.

Jeremy then summarized the results of the assessment. The 2018 Assessment represents the lists from the previous two periods. This contains data from 2006 through 2016. There was a 41% increase in water quality determinations over the 2016 assessment.

Data details were then reviewed, detailing the groups that were involved with the data collections and a map of the monitoring points (340 locations).

Actual assessment determinations were discussed. These included fecal coliform in marine waters and shellfish harvesting. Washington Department of Health is the regulatory agency for shellfish harvesting and the Department of Ecology follows their determinations. There were 6 new impairments (Cat 5) that were located at the Golden Sands slough. There were also 5 previously impaired waters that now meet Category 1.

Upstream (Freshwater) Fecal Coliform assessment determination is based on recreation uses and not shellfish harvesting. The freshwater assessment showed that three new waters were impaired (Matriotti Creek, Golden Sands slough and Bell Creek). It was noted that the standards for freshwater now use EColi.

Temperature determinations were then reviewed within the Dungeness area. The graph showed that two-thirds of the temperature data was listed in Category 3 due to few comprehensive datasets. Many waters within the Dungeness watershed have supplemental spawning protection running from September to June. The map showed that the water temperatures were higher during time of spawning.

The dissolved oxygen assessment of the surface waters had four new impairments within the Dungeness watershed (Golden Sands Slough, Cline ditch (2), Matriotti Creek). All waters that were Category 5 in the last cycle still have impaired DO and remain on the list.

The last assessment that Jeremy reviewed was Toxics. The presentation had a slide showing the parameters and the most common determinations within the area. There were 242 determinations with two-thirds coming from water and one-third from shellfish. The number of toxic parameters was shown on a map along with associated studies. The Clallam County River Keepers study focused on pesticides. The investigation of

the former Rayonier site has used tissue analysis in Dungeness Bay. A study by Department of Ecology investigates copper zinc and in marinas.

The next slide displayed what uses the toxics data can be used for. The toxics associated with aquatic life assessment indicate six new 303d listings. These were Lotzgezell River, upper Dungeness and an unnamed tributary into the Strait. They are listed due to DDT and Chlropyrifos. The determination also indicated the lower reaches of the Dungeness seemed to be doing well.

Toxics related to shellfish harvesting had seventy-seven data points using twenty-two parameters. Over ninety percent of the data was listed as Category 1, which meets water quality standards. Almost all the data was gathered at the Rayonier Mill Site. This data was carried forward since no new data was available for this assessment cycle. This is an example of how the administrative requirements of the assessment do not always provide the most up to data analysis.

The last assessment was the Toxics in the Domestic Water Supply. There were four Category 2 listings, which were from Bell Creek, Lotzgezell Creek, an unnamed ditch and the Dungeness River. Policy for the assessment requires samples in two different years. The Dungeness and unnamed ditch samples were taken within months of one another to make a meaningful determination. This lack of data is not uncommon throughout the state.

Jeremy's presentation ended with an update of what is next with the assessments. There will be a policy update where the methodology for harmful algal blooms will be clarified.

There is also a call for data for the water quality assessment for 2022. This closes on 9/30/2022 and will include the data window 2012 – 2021. The public review for the 2022 Water Quality Assessment will be available in early 2024.

Q/A/Comments:

Q: Alex asked if standards change and where can one find the changes

A: Within the assessment database show the specific thresholds. This will also show the historical standards that were used for older assessments. Use WAC 173.203a to find the current standards.

Q: Tom asked about the one sampling point in the National Park and what creek that was and what the impairment was.

A: McDonald Creek and dissolved oxygen.

Hansi then asked Jeremy to demonstrate how to use the interactive map and database to view the assessment data.

Q: Judy asked what the criteria is for the number of points needed to assign a Category.

A: Varies depending on parameter and the data available. There is less data needed to show an impairment than it is to show an improvement. The policy describes how much data and monitoring timing that is necessary.

Q: John asked if the number of impairments has changed over time.

A: Each water bodies impairments increase over time. This is due to the amount of data and the extents that are used to determine the impairments. Presently, the data represents a smaller geographic area that past assessments.

Q: John followed up asking if the designated use. will change, like other states in order to decrease the number of impairments.

A: EPA is quantifying the number of TMDLs as a metric for water quality improvement.

Q: Hansi asked if there was a metric developed to measure algae blooms.

A: It is based on phytotoxicity data developed by Department of Ecology past program.

Q: Hansi asked about the domestic water supply of the Dungeness and if it being used for consumption.

A: Water quality standards can be set to a goal that can be attained. Most surface waters in the state are measured within the drinking water standards.

Hansi commented on the temperature data that Jamestown is collecting and how best to get it to Ecology. Jeremy said that the data can be polled by Ecology and that he has seen recent data for Matriotti Creek.

Jeremy announced that he is changing positions within Ecology. The new position is within the watershed management section working on non-point TMDL standards. Jeremy would like to increase the tribal engagement and transparency he will be reaching out to some of the members.

Q: Judy asked if Jeremy's presentation would be available.

A: Yes. The presentation will either be sent to Shawn or Todd for insertion into the monthly notes.

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

Hansi discussed the DRMT's 35th anniversary. It was asked of the group whether anyone had any plans or thoughts. Shawn was asked to discuss the 30th Anniversary for more information.

Shawn said that a newsletter usually gets developed for the every-five-year anniversaries, and we usually coordinate a celebration to happen during Dungeness River Festival. A photo contest was done one year, and the DRMT logo also came from an anniversary event. We have one year to plan (next River Festival is September 2023).

Powell mentioned that during Riverfest, it is nice to call out members/have DRMT members present at the festival, possibly at a booth. All the booths participating will need to provide for kid's activities. Estimates are one-thousand kids in one day, with one adult per four kids. It was suggested that the festival happen on a Friday, when attendance is higher due to more organizations able to attend.

The date is usually the last weekend of September. We are keeping it to one day.

Hansi mentioned that it is important for the newsletter to document what the group has been doing. She also suggested the possibility of having a driving tour to show the Dike or other projects.

Shawn mentioned that accomplishments and partnerships over the last five years (since last anniversary celebration) will be mentioned in the newsletter, so start thinking about what you want included.

IV. Standing Items

Dungeness Water Resources Planning Report Summary

DRMT Discussion

Last month, the summary report was approved and distributed.

Tony mentioned that formally he had not heard anything regarding the summary. Informally, some groups are beginning to discuss the topics which could lead to a full-on effort. He asked Shawn if she had any feedback on the summary. She had not heard any formal feedback.

Powell mentioned that Tony had reached out to him, and he will be putting the summary on the Nature Center's website.

Shawn said that the DRMT will house the report on its website once the site is updated.

Ann said that the video (Zoom) portion of Tony's presentation about the report can be posted on the DRMT's YouTube site. Ann would also post on the Sequim City webpage.

Tony was asked if he was willing to have the video posted. He thought that anything that puts the information out would be a positive. Tony highly recommended that it be widely accessible. He said that some people have been distributing it and if there is a reference online, it would be easier to reference and ask questions.

Cathy stated that it was a great idea.

There were no concerns regarding the posting of the video.

Hansi asked Shawn to coordinate with the WRTG members in order to get the report and video posted.

Judy asked on the timing of the DRMT website being updated. Shawn said that there was some software research that was needed prior to the update but was hoping for the end of the year. Judy asked if anything can be uploaded to the website currently. The answer given by Shawn was no. Judy then asked if the report was in a digital format. Shawn said that she emailed the report to DRMT members, the "Dungeness Friends" distribution list, and to those who have requested it and it is available in digital format.

Levee Setback Project Update

Cathy Lear, Clallam County

Trenching for utilities were completed and most of the work has been done at the north end and the tie-in. The contractor is currently working on the key trench. Presentation slides showed the waterlogged soils near Towne Road, the geo-textile fabric being installed by the contractor and the work on the tie-in.

River's Edge Project/Nature Center Project Update

Randy Johnson, Jamestown S'Klallam

Randy updated the group on Jamestown S'Klallam's work on the dike. The Tribe is currently removing the 1964 core levee. They completed the removal of the core levee upstream of River's edge. All that is left is the removal two construction roads from the floodplain and farmland.

Randy then updated the restoration work being completed at the Nature Center. The bridge spans and decks are ready to pour. The trail will be paved either Monday or Tuesday. He then discussed the new traffic flow that will be used on the new bridge and approaches.

Hansi asked Randy if that was groundwater in the excavated side channel shown on the slide. Randy confirmed that it was groundwater.

The trail closure is scheduled to end on October 1.

Q: Judy asked if the chronicling of the bridge project could be posted online.

A: Hansi stated that a formal presentation will be available in the future.

V. Announcements

Hansi made an announcement regarding the installation of a log jam using a helicopter on the upper Dungeness is scheduled for the week of September 26.

Hansi shared a second announcement that the Clallam County Board of Commissioners and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Council held a joint meeting and one of the suggested outcomes was to form a work group to discuss a water right proposal for the deep aquifer in Carlsborg. Both parties showed a willingness, and more stakeholders will be involved moving forward.

Hansi mentioned that the Hood Canal Bridge is currently being retrofitted to limit the impeding of the salmon migration.

There is a research project published in August by Washington State Academy of Sciences to catalog the effectiveness of No Net Loss on a county level. The consulting firm Cascadia is looking for persons interested in No Net Loss to contribute input.

Matt requested that an update from the Clean Water Work Group be scheduled to review recent monitoring results (Shoreline Survey) and analyses by WDOH.

Hansi asked for agenda requests for the October or future meeting.

Matt asked if he needed to go to the executive committee in order to nominate an alternate. Hansi asked that Matt nominate his alternate to the executive committee.

Judy asked about having Streamkeepers present at a future meeting. Joel stated that he would be presenting in October regarding PIC monitoring and will follow up with the Clean Water Work Group. Hansi asked for a condensed presentation possibly one-half hour, and possibly coinciding with an update responding to Matt's concerns. Joel may need to push his presentation to November due to September and October being a busy time for him.

Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned