

APPROVED DRMT Hybrid Meeting Notes April 12, 2023

Prepared by William Habel, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present:

Hansi Hals (Chair)/JST, Shawn Hines/JST(alt), Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Robert Beebe /Riverside Property Owner, Powell Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Ben Smith/Water Users Assoc, Tony Corrado/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Bob Phraener/Olympic Audubon, Bowen Kendrick/PUD, Judy Larson (alt)/Protect the Peninsula's Future, Meggan Uecker/City of Sequim, Lance Vail/Olympic Audubon (alt), Montana Napier/Dungeness River Nature Center (alt), Kim Williams/CCD

Others Present:

William Habel/Clallam County, Lexi Wagor/NOLT, Ann Soule/WRTG, Peter Schwartzman/Mott MacDonald, Donella Clark/Clallam County, Officer Owen Barabasz/WDFW, Robert Knapp/JST, Hannah McDonough/WWT, Maggie Franquemont, Stephanie Robinson/WWT, Phil Martin/resident

I. Introductions/Review Agenda/Approve March 2023 Draft Meeting Notes

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. Introductions of in person members and guests, as well as remote attendants. Ben Smith moved that last month's notes be approved, which they were.

Public Comment-

Dungeness Region SNOTEL: 184% 1991-2020 median. Judy Larson mentioned that Protect the Peninsula's Future was celebrating its 50th anniversary as an organization. Cathy Lear mentioned that the Clallam County Climate Action plan presentation to the BOCC was delayed until the following Monday, April 17th.

II. WRTG Topic 6.9 Presentation: Saltwater Intrusion- Lance Vail and Ann Soule

Lance began the presentation by illustrating why the region as a whole should have a monitoring program for saltwater intrusion. A monitoring program would help build models to ensure acceptable water quality into the future considering possible feasible future conditions, including sea level rise, aquifer recharge, increased groundwater use, etc. A monitoring system would help assess vulnerabilities and help develop future policies for water use. He illustrated a current lack of monitoring capability.

Lance introduced several existing aquifer models for seawater intrusion, including the Ghyben-Herzberg Relation, and the Glover Model. He maintains that while these models are a convenient and easy way to predict intrusion, they are not adequate models. Lance provided several examples illustrating that aquifers are much more complicated than what is portrayed in these simple models. Models are useful, but monitoring is necessary. Ann Soule then took over presenting, further illustrating the complexity of why the Dungeness Aquifer system is not a simple system. She then discussed the most recent data on saltwater intrusion was last studied in 1993. The 1993 study indicated that most of the system was resistant to salt water intrusion, but there was some present at Diamond Point, Sequim Bay, and Fairview. Soule highly

recommended a few steps to help prevent future intrusion, including: A county program testing for chlorides on all new well proposals, public outreach and awareness, define SWI and its significant increase and distance from shoreline, and finally an ambient, ongoing monitoring system on wells throughout the county. Ben Smith suggested that the wells sampled in 1993 should be sampled again to find evidence of change in salinity content, which would make a good first step for finding problem areas.

III. WRTG Topic 6.3 Presentation: Characterizing the Fourth Aquifer- Lance Veil

Lance expressed the need to characterize the deeper and still mostly unknown 4th aquifer of the Dungeness Drainage. Again, the importance of understanding the complexity of the aquifer system is mentioned. Lance says it's impossible to know completely the aquifer structure, but the more information that is available, the better. Modeling and retaining information on the aquifer would be immensely helpful for future generations. Lance proposed the creation of the "Dungeness Basin Water Good Ancestors Group" in order to fulfill this desire. The DBWGAG would be future focused (7 + generations), ensuring no future regrets regarding fourth aquifer utilization. The DBWGAG would need to define data gaps critical to long term decision making, objectively articulate water policy tradeoffs based on science, assemble and analyze existing data, and ensure institutional memory.

Questions-

Donella Clark (Speaking for Carol Creasey) passed out maps of the existing aquifers in the system.

Judy Larson asked when the Dungeness Groundwater model was developed, were there plans to include ongoing monitoring? Peter answered that when the model was originally developed, the County, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the City of Sequim all had monitoring networks. He said this sort of monitoring is no longer happening and is needed. While there are some new monitoring wells, some were also removed. The largest source of monitoring, Ecology, only has 12 wells with ambient monitoring. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Protecting Dungeness Watershed and Beyond. Presented by Officer Owen Barabasz

Officer Barabasz began the presentation by reminding everyone that Fish and Wildlife officers have the authority to act as regular state police, helping enhance their authority over wildlife and commercial fishery matters. This gives them the capability to help with search and rescue, drug enforcement, and public safety.

Commercial Fishery enforcement: commercial fisheries patrolled locally include crab and shrimp pots, gillnetting, sand shrimp, smelt, herring, etc. Officer Barabasz emphasized that year-round, something is open, meaning officers work year-round to prevent poaching and illegal activities.

Officer Barabasz then moved on to how Fish and Wildlife is involved with much more than just fisheries, including environmental protection. HPA's (Hydraulic Project Application) are issued

for work in sensitive areas like riverbanks and shorelines. WDFW patrols these sorts of activities to ensure compliance with the permit, or to make sure activities are permitted at all.

Officer Barabasz spoke about WDFW's role in ensuring the safety of harvested wildlife for the consumer. He said they have a "grounds to plate" method of ensuring safety and legal compliance at every step of the supply chain. This is particularly important for shellfish sales, as shellfish harvested from prohibited areas can have serious health consequences from biotoxin contamination.

Environmental protection is a big part of WDFW's mission. Derelict fishing gear and poaching are detriments to wildlife populations, and WDFW helps protect sensitive species from these detriments. Orcas are also constantly monitored for protection purposes.

Reporting Violations to WDFW: Officer Barabasz emphasized you shouldn't be afraid to call 911 to report violations that are currently underway. It is the fastest way to get information to a WDFW Officer. If something is less pressing, or is a violation not currently underway, you can send a text tip to (847411), then enter WDFWTIP, then your report. You can also submit a tip through the online reporting form. You can also call wildlife dispatch.

IV. Fourth Presentation: Reporting Suspected Environmental Violations Presented by Danielle Zitomer

Danielle began by showing an ORG chart on how to report environmental violations. Urgency and Risk were the starting guidelines of how to report a violation. If the activity is *obviously* illegal, and is an environmental emergency (pollution, spill, etc.), call 911. You can also call the Washington State Emergency Management Division. (1-800-258-5990). If the action is a lower risk and urgency, gather information (photos, vehicles, people, license plates etc.) and contact WILDCOMM. You can email WILDCOMM at WILDCOMM@dfw.wa.gov, or call them at (360-902-2936). If you are unsure if the violation is specifically a WDFW violation, you can utilize the Statewide Environmental Incident Report Form (ERTS) through Ecology. You can then forward the ERTS confirmation email to WILDCOMM. ERTS is helpful, as any report you make will be distributed throughout all of the possible regulatory authorities, so agencies will all be made aware of the possible violation. Danielle then provided some of the resources that WDFW and ecology supply, so civilians can make a determination on whether something is allowed or not. These include the WDFW Habitat Program Web APP, which you can use to search by location, priority habitats and species info, watercourse information, fish passage culvert info, and permit locations. You can also use the Aquatic Protection Permitting System, which is searchable by address, business, permit#, etc. This will grant you access to the HPA permit, and plan sets/documents.

Questions: Judy Larson asked if WDFW had mapped wildlife corridors, Danielle responded that they do.

V. Other Orders of Business, Announcements and Standing Agenda Items:

Donella speaking for Carol: Dungeness Off Channel Reservoir update; researching and modeling water availability, finalizing cultural resources survey, continuing to survey and review seismic resilience.

North Olympic Land Trust lower Dungeness Dike Setback update: Awarding the DRMT the Outstanding in the Field award.

McDonald Creek Project: Rebecca Mahan informed the group that Clallam County has received zero bids for the McDonald Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project and are regrouping to figure out what the next steps are.

Towne Road Relocation: Cathy Lear informed the group that the county commissioners and a group of citizens desire the levee surface to remain a pedestrian gravel road, rather than a paved road. Property owners and other parties will have access to the road through gates. Bob asked if there was going to be a public meeting about the new decision not to pave Towne Rd, as the road was originally intended to be paved. Ben Smith added that the decision to change the road surface without much public input erodes trust in the reservoir project as a whole.

The meeting adjourned with a group photograph of the DRMT team at approximately 4:15.