

APPROVED DRMT Hybrid Meeting Notes May 10, 2023

Prepared by William Habel, Clallam County

DRMT Members Present:

Hansi Hals (Chair)/JST, Shawn Hines/JST(alt), Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Matt Hines/Riverside Property Owners (Estuary-Tidelands), Tony Corrado/PTPF, Judy Larsen/PPF (alt), Lance Vail/Dungeness River Audubon, Ann Soule/City of Sequim (alt), Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Mike Auger/North Olympic Land Trust, Powel Jones/Dungeness River Nature Center, Alex Scagliotti/Riverside Property Owners (alt), Megan Uecker/City of Sequim, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County (alt)

Others Present:

Scott Chittwood/resident, Tom Leich, Paul Moore/resident, Katie Cowal/Clallam County Environmental Health, Jenna Ziogas/JST, Raegan Huffman/USGS, Robert Knapp/JST, , Lori Delorm/JST, Stephanie Robinson/Dungeness Water Exchange, Joel Green/Clallam County Streamkeepers, Genie Mixson/Dungeness Meadows, William Habel/Clallam County.

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

The Meeting started at approximately 2:00 Introductions of in-person members and guests, as well as remote attendants. The group moved to approve April's notes, which they were.

Agenda Comment: Judy asked where the wildlife corridor mapping that was discussed in last months was located, Danielle replied that she could assist Judy after the meeting. There were no other comments on the agenda.

Public Comment: Judy Larsen mentioned that this year was the 128th annual irrigation festival. She mentioned that the very first irrigation ditch, the Sequim Prairie ditch, could possibly be confined within a pipe. She believes that the public should have some comment on the project.

II. Updated Web Format for Dungeness USGS Real-Time Flow Data ("Next Generation Monitoring")- Presented by Raegan Huffman- USGS

Raegan proceeded to give a presentation on the next generation of streamflow monitoring provided by the USGS. NWIS Web is decades old and is not mobile friendly. The legacy product is being replaced by Water Date for the Nation. Raegan walked the group through the modernization process, and how there will be temporary disruptions, as the old systems cannot be simply updated all at once. The new pages have interactive hydrographs, flood stages, cameras, basin features, and links to the legacy pages for any features not yet supported by the new system. The new system does not yet support data download capability, expanded data, wind direction, statistics, field visits, water quality data, and multistation data access. These are all still accessible through the legacy page via a button on the new website.

Link to DRMT telemetry website:

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/12048000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D>

Link to dashboard:

<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=usgs-12048000>

Subscribe to Water Alerts:

<https://accounts.waterdata.usgs.gov/wateralert/my-alerts/#siteNumber=12048000¶meterCode=00065>

Raegan demonstrated the new WaterAlert System, called Next Generation WaterAlert. It is the same subscription service as before, but with new features and higher compatibility with mobile browsers. She mentioned that if you want to help the USGS test new products, simply email wdfn_usabilitytesting@usgs.org. You can also contact the USGS through social media, or through wdfn@usgs.org. A demonstration of the new system followed the presentation. Lance Veil asked if his automatic data programs would work with the new software. Raegan said they would not, he would have to re-write certain aspects of his code. She recommended he contact USGS on how to integrate his queries into the new datasets.

III. Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Carbon Neutral Plan- Presented by Robert Knapp- Jamestown Environmental Planning Manager

Jamestown adopted this plan in February of this year. The concept was originally expanded upon during the 2022 Alaska Tribal Climate Camp. Robert illustrated the Tribe’s current emissions, which were up 84% over 9 years (from 2012-2021). The building emissions were up (due to a greater inventory of building and property), but fleet operations were increased substantially. Employee commutes were the largest contributor by a substantial margin to Jamestown’s greenhouse gas emissions. After the inventory of GHG’s were taken, the Tribe set goals to become carbon neutral by 2032. These goals include:

- Make response to climate change a Tribal-wide priority
- Find ways that all age levels can participate in climate change solutions
- Celebrate and share Indigenous, solutions-based strategies and actions for climate change through partnership and collaboration
- Support Tribal sovereignty, community health and resiliency, and the natural environment

The focus areas for the carbon neutral plan include:

- Communication and education
 - Increase understanding for all Tribal staff and citizens of climate change, its impacts, and how they can participate.
- Transportation and Fleets
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from employee commute and tribal fleet.
- Buildings and Energy
 - Make all Tribal-Owned buildings energy-efficient and/or energy-neutral.
- Water and Wastewater
 - Reduce water consumption, reduce energy-use for water and wastewater, and ensure a dependable water supply.
- Food Systems and Solid waste
 - Protect food sovereignty, expand food programs, and reduce solid waste.

Robert provided some strategies on how these goals could be achieved. He then listed ongoing and already completed projects related to climate change including:

- 2010- Incentives for Public Transit
- 2011- Aquaculture development- new expansion to Paradise Cove, Olympia oyster enhancement
- 2012- GHG Emissions inventory
- 2013- Climate Vulnerability and Adapt. Plan

- 2016- Traditional Foods Program development
- 2020- EV chargers at Hotel and Clinic
- 2021- GHG emissions inventory
- 2022- ATNI Climate Change Camp
- 2022- Carbon Neutral Report

Robert wrapped up the presentation with some additional actions the Tribe has taken, like installing solar panels and additional charging stations for electric cars. There were no questions for Robert.

The DRMT then took a short break.

IV. Clallam County's Climate Action Plan- Clea Rome; WSU Extension-Clallam County

Clea introduced herself, and how she assembled a group of county employees to create a County Climate Action Plan to further reduce the County's carbon footprint. The Climate Committee was established in Fall of 2021. Plan components included a GHG inventory in 2019, strategies and recommendations, and an implementation plan. The emissions inventory consisted of both a geographic inventory, including government operations, and the County as a whole. The second inventory was a "consumption-based inventory", which analyzed emissions associated with all goods and services consumed by residents of the County. Clea emphasized that the plan is primarily focused on how County Government can reduce emissions, rather than the entire county. Clea pointed out that most of Clallam County's emissions come from transportation, 57% from on-road vehicles. The rest was a mix of home heating, industry, off-road vehicles and equipment, and refrigerants. The total figure was approximately 6 MTCO₂ per capita. The county government itself also had primarily transportation-based emissions, especially from the county fleet, and the employees commuting to work. Clea then showed the problem we have ahead of us statewide. Even with proposed laws, there will be a 350 thousand MTCO_{2e} shortfall statewide by the carbon neutral goal of 2050. The Committee recommends that Clallam County creates a position for a "Sustainability Officer". The officer will:

- identify and secure funding opportunities to integrate climate action into all County planning efforts
- Support departments with grant writing for climate-related opportunities
- Ensure accountability of policies/actions related to existing CAP goals
- Recommend new and updated policies that promote sustainability
- Create a systematic way to assess the GHG emissions associated with major county actions/policies/plans and consider the cost of those emissions during the decision-making process
- Oversee centralized procurement process

Clallam County also plans on expanding E-Government, to reduce trips into Port Angeles from some of the farther out towns. Clea then concluded the presentation. Lance Veil thought the plan did not go far enough, and that multiple people should be hired to steer the county towards carbon neutrality. Judy Larsen then asked how Cascadia Consulting Firm came up with the emissions figures, Clea answered that Cascadia cites their sources within the Climate Report. The group then discussed different ways to implement the recommendations.

The committee then took a break until 3:45.

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

A memo from the DRMT Executive Committee to the DRMT was handed out with a current list of DRMT members, including alternates and vacancies; and recommendations that Operating Procedures be updated to clarify that Advisory members are non-voting, unless they seek and receive joint-approval from Tribe and County to become voting members. The memo also encouraged members and alternates to review Operating Procedures regarding attendance policy and to notify group if new reps or alternates should be considered.

Cathy Lear updated the group on the off-channel reservoir project. The FAQ sheet for residents is nearly completed, and 2 test soil boring samples have been taken at the sites for the settling pond and irrigation canal. Negotiations with the Department of Natural Resources are continuing. The boring and property line surveys are nearly completed. A presentation is being prepared for members of Dungeness Meadows.

Towne Road was the next item of discussion, Matt wanted to know if there was going to be a meeting about the decision not to pave Towne Road. Cathy Lear responded, saying the commissioners are interested in a range of options, including input from the public. Folks seem to still be divided on the decision to keep Towne Road as either pedestrian only access, or as a fully paved public road.

The McDonald Creek Dam project was the next item of discussion, Matt wants to see an audit of the whole project and is concerned money is being wasted. Cathy responded that the County has failed to attract bidders, as there are very few local contractors who have the expertise or time to bid on a project of this nature. The County is reaching out to contractors in eastern Washington as a possibility.

Public Comment

Paul Moore commented on the Dungeness Meadows HOA concerns about the way the Off Channel Reservoir project was portrayed in a recent FEMA grant application submitted by the County. For example, Paul noted that the application included letters of support that were written at the conceptual design level but are being portrayed as supportive of the 30% design. Genie Mixson wondered if there had been responses from the County on recent letters from Dungeness Meadows residents. Hansi responded that Commissioner Ozias responded to the DRMT letter, and there is a work group in progress to respond to other public comments.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:21