

APPROVED DRMT Hybrid Meeting Notes November, 2023

Prepared by William Habel, Clallam County

River Flows: Ecology: 228 cfs, USGS: 245 CFS, Daily mean: 319, median 235 cfs.

Introductions:

DRMT Members and Guests Present:

Stephanie Robertson/Graysmarsh Homeowners, Mike Auger/NOLT, Lexi Wagor NOLT ALT, Danielle Zitomer/WDFW, Gwen L./WDFW Alt, Hansi Halls/JST, Tony Corrado/PTPF, Lance Vail/Audubon, Robert Beebe/Riverside Property Owners, Powell Jones/Nature Center, Bob Phreaner/Audubon, Rebecca Mahan/Clallam County Meggan Uecker/City of Sequim, Cathy Lear/Clallam County, Shawn Hines/JST, Chris Burns/JST, Aaron Brooks/JST, Jamie Tippet/Dungeness Landowner Guest, Phillip Martin/Resident, Genie Mixson, Ron Richards/Citizen, Joel Greene/Clallam County, Katie Kowal/Clallam County, Kim Williams/Clallam Conservation District, Michael Blanton/Citizen, Montana Napier/Nature Center ALT, Rhiana Barkie/Clallam County OCR, Jones Steppick/Citizen, Jenna Ziogas/JST Guest, Ben Smith/Water Users Association.

1. Introductions and Welcome New Representatives and Alternatives! Review Agenda/Approve September 2023 Draft Meeting Notes (No October Notes)

The September notes were approved. New DRMT member representatives were introduced, including: Stephanie Robinson/Graysmarsh, Lexi Wagor/NOLT ALT, and Gwen L./WDFW ALT.

Public Comment: Ron Richards spoke on his belief that plantation forestry reduces stream flows. Wants to see better planting methods. He thinks that perhaps the lumber industry should contribute to mitigation in the Dungeness Water Exchange.

2. Spawning Ground Surveys-Season Recap.

Danielle's Spawning Ground Survey was moved to December 13th in order to more accurately collect and analyze data.

Drought Response- Aaron Brooks/JST

Flows were very low this summer. Chokepoint surveys were completed around mid July when flows were at approximately 150 cfs. The levee floodplain restoration has moved the river into the new area. Since the area is new, there has not been a chance for any channel forming. Channels were dug through the cattails. Screens were installed in dead end channels to try and keep fish in the main route, which led back to the main channel of the Dungeness. Some stranded Chinook had to be relocated to the mainstream with the help of WDFW hatchery staff. Rock dam paths were created in chokepoints to aid with upstream migration. Aquadams were also installed in areas to help channelize and raise the river level. Thanks were produced.

Some questions followed the presentation. Tony Corrado asked about the early drought planning in May. Aaron replied that the planning was done early due to the rapidly melting snowpack, and a prediction of a dry summer. Chris added that after the last drought, they learned to plan early. Hansi added that this was the lowest flow September on record. Joel Green asked if the actions taken in the river benefited some salmon more than the others? Aaron Brooks said that the Chinook probably benefited the most, as the pinks can usually make it through difficult conditions. A guest asked if irrigation water wasn't diverted, would there be an issue? Aaron replied there likely still would be. Robert Beebe asked if channel sediment deposition was being tracked. It is, via Lidar.

Drought Response Recap- Ben Smith

Ben spoke a bit about lessons learned with some of the experimental drought abatement methods pursued this year, including pulse flows, which strategies worked well, and which ones did not. A Zoom call to further discuss the topic will be scheduled for a later date.

3. WRTG Topic 6.6 Presentation: Community Support Through Public Outreach. Powell Jones

Powell spoke about how public support and outreach can shorten timelines on projects. Input can also be useful for shaping projects. Creating educational tools can help people visualize and understand better how complex systems work. Include education for elementary/middle school children. One new form of outreach includes the League of Women Voters, who are going to meet at the Nature Center 29th of November. Start outreach early, rather than later. Powell talked about developing reciprocity with the river. Helping people build a relationship with the River leads to people understanding and caring with greater depth than they might have otherwise.

4. Other Orders of Business, Standing Agenda Items, Announcements

Lance Vail discussed future WRTG topics, including monitoring groundwater. He mentioned to the group that he is seeking abandoned wells for monitoring of the aquifer.

Off Channel Reservoir Update: Looks like mid summer to next fall to finalize a location and design in order to finalize seismic data.

Meggan Uecker reported on a new potential well in the Silberhorn Wellfield.

Standing Items: Agendas: Possibly forest practices and effects on water levels, Chandra is going to give a presentation on sediment deposition and aggradation.

Last Item: are open nominations for next years DRMT Chair/Executive Committee. There are 5 executive members, 3 are elected. 2 (from the County and Tribe) are automatically appointed. It is a one year appointment, and will be decided in December.

Public Comment: No Public Comment. 3:45 meeting adjourned