

DRMT Hybrid Meeting
DRAFT Notes April 10, 2024

Prepared by Enrique Valenzuela, Clallam County and Shawn Hines, JST

Chair: Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

April Vice Chair: Tony Corrado– Protect the Peninsula’s Future

Introductions

Online

Phil Martin- County Resident; Steve Gray- Clallam County Public Works; Mike Auger- NOLT Conservation Director; Lexi Wagor NOLT Community Relations Manager; Ann Soule- City of Sequim Public Works Dept. Resource Manager; Marguerite Glover- President of Sequim Association of Realtors; Bob Simmons WSU Extension Water Resources Faculty; Enrique Valenzuela- Clallam County Planning; Solvei Metcalf Washington Water Trust; Joel Green- Clallam County Streamkeepers; Ron Thom- National Marine Sciences Laboratory, Emeritus; Kim Williams- Clallam Conservation District Manager.

In Person

Hansi Hals- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Director, DRMT Chair; Meggan Uecker- City of Sequim Resource Analyst; Lance Vail- Olympic Audubon Society; Tony Corrado- Protect Peninsula’s Future Member; Jamie Tippet- Sport Fisheries Representative; Ben Smith- Water Users Association President; Robert Beebe- Riverside Property Owner; Powell Jones- Dungeness River Nature Center; Montana Napier- Dungeness River Nature Center; Stephanie Robinson- Graysmarsh Biologist; Bob Phreaner- Olympic Audubon Society; Mike Gallagher- Dept. of Ecology Southwest Regional Water Resources section manager; Shawn Hines- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Watershed Planner; Alex Scagliotti- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Environmental Planner, Katie Kowal- Clallam County Env. Health Water Quality Specialist; Robert Knapp- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Env. Planning Manager, Jeff Martee- Dept. of Ecology SW Region, Paul Moore- Visitor, Virginia Shogren- Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association; Genie Nixon; Carroll Hull - League of Women Voters; Deirdra Hahn- Dept. of Ecology SW Region; Jordan Higgins- Dungeness River Nature Center; Lori Delorm- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Cathy Lear- Clallam County; Ben Smith- Water Users Association

2:00: Approve March 2024 Draft Meeting notes

Overview of Dungeness Water Management and Collaboration + Q/A Panel

Mike Gallagher/WA Department of Ecology presentation (see attached slides)

2:14: Wide variation in flow, ESA listed species (Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, Bulltrout)

2:16: Groundwater flow, connection between aquifers

2:16: Water rights and Irrigation Companies

2:19: Dungeness Irrigation Conservation Milestones, Purpose of the Conservation Plan

2:22: Washington State water law

2:23: Conservation Plan EIS conclusions regarding the “do nothing”

2:25: 2005 Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan

2:26: Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan Recommendations, Water Quantity Recommendations (Section 3.1 of WRIA 18 Plan, Irrigation Water Mgt Recommendations, Section 3.1.8))

2:28: 1998 Trust Water Rights MOU and 2012 Ecology-DWUA MOU, Conditions of Water Use

2:30: Annual reporting of water use by WUA; 2023 Outtake and Tailwater

2:32: Dungeness irrigation withdrawals in Acre Feet WUA Data April 15- Sept. 15, 2001-2023 data

2:33: WAC 173-518 Dungeness Instream Flow Regulation

2:36: Rule adopted November 16, 2012; Rule went into effect as of January 2, 2013

Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe panelist (see attached slides)

2:38 1855 Treaty of Point No Point

2:39: US Constitution, Article 6, Boldt decision, Rafeedie decision

2:40: Culvert Case

2:40: Jamestown Federal Recognition, 1981

2:41: Jamestown Cooperative Management, DRMT, habitat loss 1989 vs 1997, irrigation withdrawals 1987 vs 1988 vs 2022, exempt wells

2:44: Dungeness Chinook Salmon Escapement, 1986-2022; climate change impacts on river flow

Questions

A question was asked about definition of “wasted water”. Mike: water that is not “beneficially used”. Beneficial use defined in Rule.

Ben Smith emphasized the importance of cooperative water management.

A question was directed at Mike Gallagher: Are you aware of any pipelines contributing to saltwater intrusion? Mike: No, there have been cases of sea water intrusion in coastal water wells.

Clallam County Comprehensive Plan – Status Update, Holden Fleming, Clallam County (see attached slides)

3:15: Holden Fleming provided an update presentation on the Clallam County Comp Plan Update process. A suggestion was made for County to keep a “tracked changes” version for reviewers to efficiently be able to compare updates to it.

Possible 2025 Drought Preparedness Plan Application – Discussion, Meggan Uecker, City of Sequim

3:38: Background for new drought preparedness standing item: Group decided at an earlier meeting to add Drought Preparedness as a new DRMT “Standing Agenda Item”. Any member could provide relevant announcements/updates about 2024 drought preparedness.

Also at a previous DRMT meeting, Meggan suggested that Ecology’s Guidance on Local Drought Preparedness Plans (LDPP) could be used as a way to organize drought discussions, and possibly generate content for future LDPP.

DRMT Executive Committee discussed earlier today and recognized that Meggan’s LDPP idea would likely need additional time reserved (15-20 min) on the agenda each month and recommended moving it up above the Standing Items. Standing Item section could still be used for updates from members planning for/responding to this year’s drought.

3:40: What is a local drought preparedness plan (LDPP)? Meggan reviewed Ecology’s guidance for drafting LDPPs. (See LDPP slides attachment).

3:46: What is the Dept. of Ecology grant about and what is the City of Sequim planning on using it for? Megan answers: LDPP grants are specifically for funding development of LDPP’s. One of the benefits of having a LDPP is that actions listed in LDPP’s could likely get access to future Ecology drought funding. If an entity applies for this grant funding, a project area would need to be defined.

Discussion to continue at May or June meeting.

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

4:00 Water Resource Planning Topics: Carol Hull discussed reviving League of Women Voters Story of Water Series (second phase). Still planning scope and will continue to update DRMT.

4:05: Future presentations: Next month’s meeting will be largely devoted to sponsor presentations of proposed Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects. DRMT members will be scoring the project proposals. Please send agenda topic ideas to Shawn or Executive Committee.

4:08: Hansi announced that Powell has accepted a position at Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe as the new Land Steward Manager. He starts in May. Thank you for everything, Powell!

4:13: Meeting adjourned.