

DRMT Hybrid Meeting Notes March 13, 2024

Prepared by Enrique Valenzuela, Clallam County

Chair: Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

March Vice Chair: Robert Phreaner – Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society

Introductions

Online

Phil Martin- County Resident; Steve Gray- Clallam County Public Works; Mike Auger- NOLT Conservation Director; Lexi Wagor NOLT Community Relations Manager; Laurie Weitkamp- NOAA/NMFS NW Fisheries Science Center; Lori Delorme; Bowen Kendrick- Clallam County PUD; Water & Wastewater Systems 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, Nate Mantua- NOAA SW Fisheries Science Center, Rebecca Mahan- Clallam County Habitat Biologist, MRC Coordinator; Ron Thom- National Marine Sciences Laboratory, Emeritus.

In Person

Hansi Hals- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Director, DRMT Chair; Megan Uecker- City of Sequim Resource Analyst; Lance Vail- Olympic Audubon Society; Tony Carrano- Protect Peninsula’s Future Member; Jamie Tippet- Sport Fisheries Representative; Ben Smith- Water Users Association President; Robert Bebe- Riverside Property Owner; Powell Jones- Dungeness River Nature Center; Montana Napier- Dungeness River Nature Center; Stephanie Robinson- Graysmarsh Biologist; Bob Phreaner- Olympic Audubon Society; Kim Williams- Clallam Conservation District Manager; 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, Chuck Martee- Dept. of Ecology SW Region, Paul Worm- Visitor, Virginia Shogren- Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association; Scott Chitwood- County Resident; Genie Nixon; Carol Hull- League of Women Voters; Deirdra Hahn- Dept. of Ecology SW Region; Jordan Higgins- Dungeness River Nature Center

Review Agenda / Approve February 2024 Draft Meeting Notes

2:10: February 2024 notes approved.

El Niño impacts on NW weather, climate, salmon streams, marine resources

2:14: What is El Niño?

2:17: Typical winter winds and jet stream during El Niño winters.

2:18: El Niño favors a NW/SW see-saw in snowfall.

2:19: Variation in El Niño winters.

2:22: This El Niño winter.

2:28: Equatorial Kelvin waves.

2:32: ENSO and CCS surface temperatures.

2:37: **The effects of El Niños on Pacific salmon:** Laurie Weitkamp

2:37: Two ways El Niños affect Pacific salmon.

2:39 Both marine heat waves and El Niños cause elevated ocean temperatures along the West Coast.

2:40: Heat waves off the Pacific coast.

2:40: Direct effects of El Niño on salmon.

2:45: Indirect Impacts of El Niño on salmon.

2:47: Copepod abundance on the Newport (Oregon) Line.

2:49: Huge change in jellyfish community of WA/OR coast 2015/2016.

2:50: Unusual sightings in 2015/16.

2:51: Presumed El Nino impacts to salmon.

2:52: Juvenile salmon catches off WA/OR coast were all low in 1998 (1st year of survey), less so than in 2015/16.

2:54: WA and OR Coho marine survival not exceptional during 1982/83 or 1997/98 El Ninos.

2:55: Conclusions: El Nino impacts to salmon are mixed.

Questions

2:57: What happened to PDO? Nate answers: The Pacific Decadal Oscillation is still around, currently in a cold state.

3:02: Ron Thom asserts: it seems salmon will not continue upriver in the Colombia River if waters reach around 18-19° C, this could have concerning effects if ocean temperatures continue to increase.

3:07: Hansi asks: Why is the climate average a 30 year rolling average instead of a historical average with all of the data we have?

Clean Water Work Group Update

3:15: Who is the clean water work group?

3:16: CWWG goals.

3:17: Shellfish closures in Dungeness Bay.

3:26: Bacteria that causes closures in Dungeness Bay.

3:30: Dungeness Watershed CWWG efforts.

3:33: What is the PIC Project?

3:33: How does the PIC Project address pollution?

3:34: Phase 3 results of the PIC Project.

3:35: Phase 3 trend results of the PIC Project.

3:37: Phase 3 segmented results.

3:38: PIC Project- Microbial Source Tracking.

Clallam Conservation District Updates

3:53: CCD overview.

3:55: CCD guiding principles.

3:56: Long range goals: Habitat for our Future.

3:59: 2024 Planting season overview.

4:00: 2018-2024 Timeline.

4:01: Assisting Clallam County with water conservation for our farmers and fish.

4:02: Key water conservation programs.

4:05: Irrigation efficiencies program.

4:07 Water quality improvements.

4:08: Irrigation Efficiencies facts.

4:10: Current pipe project: Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Association Irrigation Improvement Project.

4:13: SPTIA and Dungeness Irrigation District River Diversion point.

4:15: Onsite septic cost share program.

4:20: Technical assistance for horse and livestock farms.

4:22: Native Plant Sale.

Questions:

4:25: Discussion regarding SPTIA Irrigation Improvement Project

4:33: Is aquifer recharge an approved use of the water rights the irrigation districts hold? Mike Gallagher answers: No, these water rights are strictly for irrigation and stock water.

4:35 Hansi Halls asks: Can you (Mike Gallagher) talk about how irrigators are using their water right for aquifer recharge? Mike Gallagher answers: There are six managed aquifer recharge sites in the Dungeness watershed constructed by CCD, WWT, and the irrigators with grant money from the state. Every year I issue temporary permits for taking maximum allocation water off the river to be conveyed to these recharge sites.

4:37: Is this situation similar to the lawsuit Graysmarsh won against the state to keep water in Gierin Creek? Mike Gallagher answers: No, because Gierin held a water right specifically for habitat, the irrigators hold water rights for irrigation and stock water only.

4:42: Hansi Halls asks: Should we give DRMT a historical overview of the collaboration in the Dungeness Watershed? The group answers: Yes.

Other Orders of Business, Standing Agenda Items, Announcements

Standing Item: Water Resources Planning Topics

4:44: League of Women Voters update.

Standing Item: Project Updates and/ or Announcements

4:47: Clallam County Off Channel Reservoir update.

New Standing Item: Drought Preparedness

4:51: Ecology drought preparedness grant, City of Sequim would like to work together with other agencies to acquire this grant.

Standing Item: Team additions to next agenda, or suggestions for future agendas

4:53: Next month items include the Clallam Comprehensive Plan update, McDonald Creek Restoration Project, others. May will include surfboard project presentations.

Public Comment

4:54: Ben Smith, speaking as a public citizen: The piping projects meet the goals of the community and they are critical moving forward. There have been 25cfs-30cfs saved by the piping projects, I would encourage you to vote in the CCD elections, Lori DeLorm is the only candidate in support of the piping projects.

4:55: Meeting adjourned.