

DUNGENESS RIVER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

June 11, 2025 – Draft Notes

Hybrid/ Zoom, hosted by Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe/ Dungeness River Nature Center

Meeting Recording and Notes: https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/?category_id=55

Dungeness River Flows

RM 0.75, Ecology Gauge (Provisional).....787 cfs (as of 7:30 AM)

RM 11.0, USGS #12048000 (Provisional).....714 cfs (as of 8:15 AM)

Daily Mean (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000).....696 cfs (based on 94 yrs)

Median/50% Exceedance (RM 11.0, USGS #12048000).....633 cfs (based on 94 yrs)

Dungeness SNOTEL: (Station Elev. 4,100’) SWE =0 in, 30-year Median =0 in, 30-year Ave. = in

Chair: Hansi Hals, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

April Vice Chair: Danielle Zitomer, WDFW

In Person

Hansi Hals- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Chair); Bowen Kendrick- Clallam County PUD #1(Member); Jamie Tippet- Sports Fisheries Rep. (Member); Stephanie Robinson- Graysmarsh (Member) Shawn Hines- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Alt); Jamie Porter- Protect the Peninsula’s Future (Alt); Tony Corrado- Protect the Peninsula’s Future (Member); Montana Napier- Dungeness River Nature Center (Member); Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin (Guest); Genie Mixson (Guest); John Stednick (Guest); Barbara Vanderwerf (Guest); Ron Richards (Guest); Fred Mitchell (Guest); Craig Smith (Guest); Matt Heines (Guest); Lance Vail- Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (Alt); Randy Tierney (Guest); Alan Clark (Guest); Carol Baunbor (Guest); Louise Hill (Guest); Dan Teirney (Guest); Mary Foster (Guest); Carrol Hull (Guest); Maren Halvorson (Guest); Steve Johnson (Guest); Judy Larson (Guest); Phil Martin (Guest); Sue Heffernin (Guest); James Monroe (Guest); Carl Drear (Guest); Dale Jarvis (Guest); Melissa Suarez (Guest); Deneb Maine- Dungeness River Nature Center (Guest); Darcy McNamara (Guest), Meggan Uecker- City of Sequim (Member)

Online

Enrique Valenzuela (Guest); Marguerite Glover (Guest); Mark Ozias- Clallam County (Member); Bob Phreaner- Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (Member); Lexi Wagor- North Olympic Land Trust (Alt); Lori DeLorm- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (Guest); John Strivens- Clallam County (Guest) Steve Gray- Clallam County (Guest); Rich Havel (Guest); Danielle Zitomer- Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (Member); John Worthington (Guest); Rebecca Mahan- Clallam County (Alt); Nate White- Washington Department of

Fish and Wildlife (Guest); Ben Smith- Water Users Association (Member); Cheryl Baumann- North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon (Guest)

**Introductions / Review Agenda / Approve Draft May 14, 2025 DRMT Meeting
Notes**

2:09: Ben Smith moves to approve amended May notes, seconded, no objections, the motion is passed

2:10: Public comment: Judy Larson: RCW's 90.03.010, 90.14.031, 90.54.920

2:13: Public Comment: John Worthington: Jimmycomelately creek alignment and comparisons

An Introduction to Water Law in Washington State- Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, J.D., Esq.

2:17: Introduction

2:19: The Common Law

2:20: Water law systems between western US and eastern

2:22: Water use related to irrigation

2:23: Eastern US water law history

2:24: Western US water law history

2:25: First in time, first in right

2:29: Prior appropriation principles: beneficial use, use it or lose it

2:31: Water right vs. ownership, RCW 90.03.010

2:33: Water-use rights and landownership rights are separate property rights in Washington State

2:38: Minimum instream flow

2:39: Dungeness River instream flow

2:42: Instream flow and water rule's adoption

2:43: Winters Doctrine

2:45: Treaty of Point No Point (1855) reserved indigenous fishing rights

Questions:

2:50: Are the senior and Jr water rights divided hierarchically?

2:53: Has the legal system caught up to the link between water quantity use and water quality use?

2:55: Did anything in law alter non-appropriative use of the water such as the use of water for aesthetic purposes?

2:56: Do you know why Idaho is a large user of water?

2:57: Can a large use of water by a household be regulated?

3:01: How does Ecology monitor flow of tributaries for the Dungeness Water Rule

3:02: Can you change your beneficial use?

3:04: National Park should have a similar Winters Doctrine water right; do you know of any case law that litigates that?

Dungeness Irrigation History and Water Rights- Mike Gallagher Dept. of Ecology
Water Resources Program

3:13: Introduction

3:16: Variation in flow in Dungeness River

3:17: Side looking view of regional ground water flow system

3:18: Connection between aquifers

3:19: Irrigation company senior water rights

3:21: Dungeness irrigation conservation milestones by year

3:25: Recommendations of the Dungeness River Agricultural Water Users Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Statement

3:26: Purpose of the Conservation Plan

3:27: WA state law prohibits the development of any right to wasted water

3:29: Conservation plan EIS conclusions regarding the “do nothing”

3:29: Water quantity recommendations

3:35: 1998 and 2012 memorandums of agreement/ understanding (MOU) between Ecology and Dungeness River Agricultural Water Users Association (DWUA)

3:37: 2012 Ecology-DWUA MOU conditions of water use

3:38: Comparison of outtake and tailwater 2023 & 2024

3:40: Stream flow and outtake (cfs) 2023 & 2024

3:41: Irrigated lands report 2024

3:42: Purpose of the Dungeness water rule

3:46: DWE website

3:49: DWE application processing

3:50: 2024 Mitigation breakdown

3:56: Drought emergency declaration

3:57: What does a drought declaration do?

3:58: Example drought response grant projects

4:01: Washington SNOTEL

Questions:

4:03: Is tail water included in the total calculation for irrigation diversions?

4:03: Why did the Ecology stream gauge default switch from cfs to feet?

4:04: Is the purpose of a water right equal to the beneficial use?

Other Orders of Business, Announcements

4:13: Tonny Corrado: Shoutout to Robert Knapp and Shawn for the app development project to show Dungeness water levels.

4:14: Jamie Porter: Topic of discussion of the County water steward or water advisory board, the County Charter Review Commission has been interested in creating this position.

4:15: Ron Richards: Charter Review Commission considering a water steward position for the County. Overview, history, update, and discussion.

4:28: Lance Vail: Working on a project to define data structures related to water management in order to preserve and assimilate water management data.

4:30: Off Channel Reservoir Update: Cleanup of the old dump site is anticipated to be completed by late July- August. Next step is to take the 10% concept and turn it into a 30% design. A June 30th update will be given to the County Commissioners at their work session.

Potential infiltration area in the northern portion of the County ownership site will continue to be evaluated.

4:39: Is one of the options to reduce stormwater capture in the highland irrigation canal to pipe it?

4:43: Question: Is the infiltration facility a percolation pond?

4:47: Was the city of Sequim doing this infiltration project as a flood control project or a water supply project? Was the city going to recover costs from landowners in some way? Is the county planning on recovering costs from landowners in some way?

4:50: Team addition and August DRMT field trip discussion.

Public Comment

4:53: John Worthington, Jimmy Comelately creek comparisons