

Dungeness Water Working Group
March 7, 2007, 12:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Dungeness River Audubon Center – Railroad Bridge Park
2151 West Hendrickson Road, Sequim

In Attendance: Penny Eckert, Tetra Tech; Ann Soule, Clallam County (Environmental Health; Christine Corrigan, Philip Crane, Cynthia Nelson, Brian Walsh, Washington Department of Ecology; Gary Gleason, Clallam County Planning Commission; Hal Beecher, Randy Johnson, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Shawn Hines, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; Joe Holtrop, Clallam County Conservation District; Terri Jeffries, Port Angeles & Sequim Association of Realtors; Tom Martin, Will Purser, Clallam PUD; Bob Tillia, Tillia Well Drilling; Jessica Coyle, Graysmarsh

Brief introductions around the table and welcome – Brian Walsh & Cynthia Nelson

Several people from different agencies/organizations who had planned to attend sent their regrets for this first meeting. Alternates’ names are still being forwarded to Ecology.

Brian Walsh: Works in the Water Resource Program at the Department of Ecology. Background in water management, instream flow rule-adoption and watershed planning. He explained the two-tier structure for the rule advisory groups: 1) executive decision-making group and 2) working group – with interplay between the two groups. This will be a collaborative process on understanding the watershed and the needs of the community. Role of the working group is to make recommendations to executive committee as an advisory body. This group will also provide an informational avenue to the public. There will be orientation sessions to build on the collective knowledge base. Working group members will be expected to take information and discussions back to the agencies/organizations they represent to keep them up to speed and provide two-way communications.

Cynthia Nelson: Ecology’s big commitment after the watershed plan is to develop a rule for water management and instream flows. This will be a multi-faceted process. We want people broadly involved in this and have outreach plans for increasing the public awareness of issues and progress. The working group will help brainstorm water management solutions and potential water supplies and give feedback to Ecology and the executive group on what is feasible for water management in the Dungeness planning area.

Terry Jeffries had question on who was on Executive Committee and what was expected of Working Group. Cynthia Nelson will forward list of Executive Committee members to this group; it consists of governments plus the Water Users Association. Ideas will be exchanged both directions.

Brian Walsh: Wanted to acknowledge watershed planning efforts in the Dungeness area, will build on that effort.

Review of Ground Rules – Penny Eckert

- See “Ground (Water) Rules Dungeness Water Working Group March 2007”.
- Followed the DRMT Rules fairly closely in drafting this set of ground rules.
- Mission: Goal as facilitator to find the common ground and make that common space for discussion and differences of opinions. Large and varied population of the group: people from City, County, State government agencies, Tribe, property owners, Water Users Association, realtors, builders, well drillers: looking for common ground for all.
- Rules of conduct: Direct any comments to facilitator. Focus on subject, not personalities
- Facilitator may call halt during meetings to let everyone speak.
- Wait to be called upon to speak.
- Meetings should be attended regularly; alternates must attend if regular representative cannot. After 3 missed meetings by representative and alternate, a group/agency will no longer assumed to be involved.
- Individuals are not to represent themselves as speaking for the group.
- We will be meeting at the River Center where room space is limited, but that doesn’t look like it will be a problem.
- There will be two ten minute comment periods per meeting to give the community at large an opportunity to speak. Again, focus will be on subject not person.

Bob Tillia asked how long the process is expected to run.

Cynthia Nelson: looking at the fourth quarter 2007 to have formal rule draft.

Bob Tillia: will Ecology have the final say on the instream flows, with no public vote?

Cynthia Nelson: we hope there will be a lot of discussion but in the end Ecology will have to make decision.

Penny Eckert cited process example: Army Corps of Engineers rules for nation-wide permits change every five years. They publish proposed rules giving 60 days for closed public comment and internal discussion - then come up with a new set of rules. In this case Ecology is trying to make this process as public as possible. This is not something that is subject to a vote - it is the job of the Department of Ecology under the law.

Cynthia Nelson: Water Resources (WR) is the Department of Ecology Program responsible for development and adoption of the rule. Several of us at Ecology are working closely together on this process. Ken Slattery, is Program Manager for WR, Brian Walsh and Christine Corrigan also work for Water Resources. We will also be working with the Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT), and hope to meet with small citizen groups, clubs, Chamber Commerce, landscapers as well. So, this will be very public discussion (asked for suggestions from this group on contact names for smaller groups who might be interested).

Gary Gleason: Do I understand that the initiating government will no longer have a veto? In the WRIA 18 process the initiating government had to agree to a consensus.

Penny Eckert explained this was a different process. This process is Ecology's requirement as an agency under the law and it is part of the recommendations made under the watershed plan.

Terry Jeffries: asked if rule making was a new process for Ecology.

Cynthia Nelson: We've had rule making in other places; almost ½ dozen rules are in place now.

Terry Jeffries: with this being a localized rule rather than a statewide rule just wondered why this wouldn't be more of a negotiated process – perfect fit.

Cynthia Nelson: said she would look into this, but hadn't heard of the negotiated process in this situation.

Cynthia Nelson: Public workshops will be held before and after the rule is filed. The formal rule adoption process takes up to 180 days, includes public hearings.

Christine Corrigan: Will give information in much more depth on the process and the different steps. Lot of public outreach is planned before and during the final draft rule stage.

Penny Eckert: Universal Water 101 is topic for a meeting that will happen before the next working group meeting on 3/28/07 – more about this later in the meeting.

Web page and self-subscribe e-mail list – Christine Corrigan

There will be a web page developed dedicated to instream rule where people can find data and useful resources. Hope to be up by next week. List-serve setup. Everyone in the group, and their alternates, are encouraged to self-subscribe by signing up. Information will soon be out to the public that will direct them to the website. Questions specific to the Dungeness watershed will be answered via e-mail. It will function as a library and have links to the different organizations and agencies involved in these meetings. Common place for some great information.

Committee member's make "get acquainted" statements about their affiliation, history in the watershed and future concerns and hopes around water.

Penny Eckert: Looking for a common space and see how big we can make it - after this discussion sees three intersections: People's water use and people's land water use – how those are regulated. Connection between land use and fish use of water – particularly when it comes to flood control (high flows). Managing flooding land use and managing fish habitat. Land use/ fish/water connection. Connection between fish water/water for people. Many connections actually, have to talk about competing water users.

Scale of 1-10: How familiar are members with WRIA 18 Plan? Rate your own overall understanding.

Penny Eckert: (4); Brian Walsh: (2-3); Bob Tillia: (2-3); Terry Jeffries: (5); Tom Martin: (7ish); Gary Gleason: (7-8 West WRIA 19 / 5-6 for lower eastern); Joe Holtrop: 5-6 at one point); Ann Soule: (8-9 original author on quantity sections); Shawn Hines: (7 east side); Randy Johnson: (5); Hal Beecher: (1); Cynthia Nelson: (9-10); Philip Crane: (1); Christine Corrigan: (1)

Next Meeting – Cynthia Nelson

To achieve a common understanding of what everyone needs to know and to provide constructive feedback to propose solutions, we will have a four-hour discussion on Water 101. It will lay out water law basics and act as a refresher for everyone. We'll cover technical issues, water quantity and the legal framework.. We want everyone who is going to be involved in the process to have a broad understanding from the beginning.

Penny Eckert: The discussion will deal with law, the WRIA 18 plan and with what we know about water quantity. Get everyone up to speed.. March 28th plan on a larger crowd. Department of Health representatives will also be here.

Gary Gleason suggested Robbie Mantooth be invited for review session.

Meeting Adjourned