

**Technical Review Group Meeting Summary
March 22, 2017
Elwha Heritage Center**

In Attendance:

**Mike Haggerty, TRG, Makah, Haggerty Consulting
Jim McCullough, TRG, Citizen
John Cambalik, TRG, Strait ERN LIO
Robert Knapp, TRG Alt., Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Jim Walton, TRG, Citizen
Erin Ryan-Peñuela, Puget Sound Partnership
Kat Moore, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Keith Denton, TRG, Citizen
Sarah Doyle, TRG, North Olympic Salmon Coalition
Peter Vanderhoof, TRG, Citizen
Coleman Byrnes, TRG, Citizen
Randall McCoy, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Joshua Chenoweth, TRG, Olympic National Park
Sean Halberg, TRG, Citizen
Meghan Adamire, TRG, Clallam Conservation District
Cathy Lear, TRG Clallam County
Randy Johnson, TRG, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
Cheryl Baumann, Lead Entity Staff
Eric Carlsen, Lead Entity Staff
Shannon Weaver, Lead Entity Contract – Note Taker**

Welcome and Introductions

Cheryl Baumann, Coordinator, welcomed Josh Chenoweth and Sean Halberg, two new members of the Technical Review Group and thanked them for being here today.

Approval of February 22, 2017 Meeting Summary

After some review Jim Walton motioned to approve the February 22, 2017 meeting summary. John Cambalik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Abstaining due to lack of attendance: Meghan Adamire, Sean Halberg, Joshua Chenoweth, Randy Johnson, Peter Vanderhoof, Michele Canale, and Cathy Lear.

Fish Report

Keith Denton mentioned Steelhead and Coho were being monitored in the Elwha River using sonar.

Jim McCullough talked about seeing Blackmouth Chinook that are 22" or larger but very few smaller or clipped chinook.

Project Updates

Robert Knapp gave an update on the Robinson phase, stating that they are doing final clean up at the site and except for any unknown buried objects, all infrastructure has been removed. Robert also talked about the Kinkade phase, mentioning that the eight-acre parcel on the west side of the river will have a tenant for a few more months.

Cathy Lear updated the group on the Lower Dungeness project, stating that they are working closely with the Army Corps. of Engineers on a design that gives more habitat back to the river floodplain that is currently cut off by the levee.

Josh Chenoweth gave an update on the replanting and log jams along the Elwha River, he also mentioned that there was a washout above the bridge and it was closed off for some time for regrading.

Cheryl Baumann updated the group on the \$100,000 WRIA 19 funding from the LIO. Cheryl stated that NOPLA will work with NOSC and the Tribe for habitat research and landowner outreach, Shannon Weaver will be doing some of the GIS work to locate priority culverts, Dave Scheffler is contracted to do work with partners on Indian Creek, and Kristina Mayer will be working with partners to see what projects are needed in WRIA 19.

Presentations

Michele Canale, Conservation Manager for the North Olympic Land Trust; gave her presentation on the role of prioritizations in acquisitions. She emphasized the importance of planning to do the best work in our county.

John Cambalik asked, what is next? Michele answered – implementation.

Elwha Klallam Tribe GIS Specialist Randall McCoy gave a presentation on the Elwha Prioritization Tool. Randall showed the group how Excel and GIS can be used together to prioritize almost anything, from fish habitat to insect habitat.

TRG Member Keith Denton asked how close the scores were to each other, mentioning that the process seemed somewhat subjective.

Randall answered by stating, it is subjective by design to allow it to be used for different species.

Cheryl Baumann emphasized the importance of reminding people that it is subjective and can be changed based on the species targeted by restoration.

RCO Project Manager Kat Moore suggested that Randall picks one that is best for salmon, much like a fish prioritization, and tell people which one you are using and why, locking in on a weight for each species. Kat also mentioned that it is important to tell the audience about the connection of ground truthing or expert consultation.

Restoration Practitioner Robert Knapp, with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; gave his presentation on, Prioritizing Drift Cells for the Conservation of the Dungeness Spit. He emphasized the importance by linking cultural, economic, and environmental components as well as the salmon perspective.

TRG Member Coleman Byrnes asked about the consequences of losing the Dungeness Spit. Robert answered that he couldn’t give a percentage but stated, it would be a disaster for the great habitat that exists there and a disaster economically for the area.

TRG Member Mike Haggerty asked, how much of the area is armored?

Robert stated that the railroad is the armoring for west of Morse Creek.

Keith Denton asked about parcels in the area with houses, wondering about the county codes and setbacks.

Robert mentioned that the current code is 75 feet but the Draft Shoreline Master Program, SMP, (not yet adopted) calls for structures to be further back.

Comments from TRG on LIO Goals & Data Gaps

John Cambalik, LIO Coordinator, asked the TRG group for feedback on the LIO goal statements and data gaps in the Draft Ecosystem Protection and Recovery Plan.

Comments included:

Cheryl Baumann commented that the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan may have some numbers for the west side that could fill in some of these goal/data gaps for the Floodplains Priority Vital Sign.

Cheryl suggested that estuaries should be included in the Chinook Vital Sign and asked about the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan references.

John stated that the plan was referenced in an effort to avoid repeating.

Cheryl asked about the connection between the Vital Sign – Land Development and Cover and salmon recovery.

John mentioned that this vital sign is included to avoid aversion to development and to keep current agricultural land.

It was suggested that on page 2 of, Gaps, Barriers, and Needs, to add the need to update limiting factors. John agreed.

Cheryl referenced page 5 of, Gaps, Barriers, and Needs, and questioned the word use involved in the detailed description of eminent domain acquisition authority section.

The group discussed whether eminent domain should be able to be used for restoration projects. There was a concern about negative reaction the John will look at the wording and revise if necessary.

Project Funding & Capacity Funding Updates & Issues

RCO Project Manager Kat Moore reported that salmon is part of the governor's agenda and the budget is not final yet. Besides proposed funding for SRFB & PSAR, Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board, Estuary & Salmon Restoration Fund, etc. but looking through the proposed document there were also legislative earmarks for the Hood Canal and Nisqually regions. Kat mentioned that the President's Blue Print reduces NOAA's budget and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding (PCSRF) is zeroed out, however, former President Obama had proposed zeroing out PCSRF also, so it is not the end. Kat included that if congress grants the continuing resolution it will give us a grant round. Kat asked the group to look at the State of Salmon Report on the RCO website for the local Washington salmon stories that are posted, she mentioned that there is a need for more salmon stories. Kat reported that there is a SRFB retreat in May and they will focus on policy and media.

PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator Erin Ryan-Peñuela reported on the federal budget proposal, stating that, National Estuary Program (NEP) and other federal Puget Sound restoration funds have been zeroed out but PSP is looking at the status of a variety of funding sources. Erin mentioned that the EPA is working through 2017 by a continuing resolution and the budget for 2018 has not been decided yet. She reminded the group about the Puget Sound Day on the Hill, May 1-3, 2017, with information on their website about that.

Cheryl Baumann added that elected officials went to Olympia and met with local representatives recently to discuss restoration & explain how a variety of funding sources are used to implementing restoration and protection actions on the North Olympic Peninsula.

Field Trip Planning and Date Logistics

Cheryl Baumann asked the group to consider some changes in the field trip dates and locations, based on what sponsors & partners are available when. She suggesting that, Thursday May 18, 2017 be changed to the east side locations and June 1, 2017 be changed to west side locations. Cheryl expressed the need to change the Thursday, June 1st date to Wednesday, May 31, 2017. The group expressed the desire to change that date due to the possibility of halibut fishing then.. Cheryl stated that she will send out an email asking about the changes. There was also concern expressed about trying to avoid having field trips during set halibut fishing days since there are so few this year.

However, when all was said & done, no partners or project sponsors need to change so it was kept to the original proposal schedule of West End field trip on Thurs. May 18th & East End field trip on Thurs. June 1.

The group discussed completed project locations to visit and came up with the following:

1. Wood project on Pysht
2. 3 Crabs Restoration
3. Makah hatchery
4. Beach Lakes Acquisition
5. Robinson Phase Acquisition

Meeting adjourned 12:20 p.m.

Notes taken and prepared by: Shannon Weaver

Edited by: Cheryl Baumann