

Dosewallips River Collaborative

FINAL Meeting Notes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
10:30 am - noon
Remote Access Only

Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Tim Abbe (Natural Systems Design), Lisa Belleveau (Skokomish Indian Tribe), Greg Brotherton (Jefferson County Commissioner), Michael Dawson (Jefferson County Public Health), Mark Downen (WDFW), Randy Johnson (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Scott Katz (Natural Systems Design), Brigitte Kaminski-Richardson (DNR), Torrey Luiting (Natural Systems Design), Theresa Mitchell (WDFW), Alicia Olivas (Hood Canal Coordinating Council), Tami Pokorny (Coordinator/Facilitator, Jefferson County), Laura Street (Jefferson and Mason Counties), Micah Wait (Wild Fish Conservancy), Chris Waldbillig (WDFW), Joseph Pavel (Skokomish Indian Tribe)

Additions to and Approval of the Agenda

None

Approval of the September 16 and October 21, 2020 Meeting Summaries

Accepted as written

Announcements

Chris Waldbillig introduced and welcomed Laura Street, a new addition to his team. The group had a brief discussion on the current state of the Dosewallips River in light of recent storms; it was not in flood stage as of yesterday morning.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dosewallips River: Powerlines/Lazy C Reach Resiliency Plan

Tim Abbe, Scott Katz, and Torrey Luiting, Natural Systems Design

Torrey Luiting gave an outline of the presentation from Natural Systems Design. Initial fieldwork and analysis had been completed for the project, and they were now ready to share some preliminary results. The presentation started with an overview of the geology of the Peninsula, covered some of the initial observations and findings from the fieldwork, went over their hydraulic model, and concluded with project next steps.

Tim Abbe presented on the Geomorphic Story of the Lazy C/Powerlines Reach, the geologic setting of the project site. The Lazy C Reach has bedrock outcrops at several locations; Tim displayed photo examples of clay deposits and erosion. The tectonics of the Olympic Peninsula result in a general uplift of about two inches per year, and make the area prone to earthquakes and landslides. Mass wasting events are relatively common along river valleys and lead to debris flows and the formation of natural dams. An overview of Peninsula hydrology described mixed rain and snowmelt, some glacial inputs, the

influence of the Olympic rain shadow effect, and the general patterns of more precipitation on the west side and less on the east side. Fluvial (river) hazards involve flooding, which is defined as the inundation of water getting on a surface, and is associated with sedimentation; and erosion, which is when land or structures are washed away. Washington State insurance is all geared toward flooding and not erosion. However, Washington was one of the first states to start mapping erosion to inform landowners of hazard exposure. Other states are now following Washington's lead on fluvial hazard work. Tim went on to show a series of historic and current maps that portrayed the two Lazy C and Powerlines reaches over time, comparing elevation, channels, forest structure, development, erosion, river migration, floodplain formation, and important habitat, especially as a spawning reach for multiple fish species.

Scott Katz then recounted the team's observations from floating the full length of the project site on 10/9/20: on channel morphology, habitat, channel migration, wood recruitment, bank erosion, homes and flood defenses, unstable slopes, riparian vegetation, and evidence of a historic floodplain. He reported more habitat complexity and more diverse vegetation downstream within the Powerlines reach. The group discussed habitat diversity and river gauges.

Next, Scott presented on Draft Hydraulic Model Results: Modeling Approach, with a request for feedback from the local community. The goal of the model was to assess the extent and frequency of flood inundation. The input requested from the Collaborative and local landowners would help to calibrate the model, which simulated 1-year, 10-year, and 100-year flows, and analyzed the probability of any of those events occurring in a given year. Since hydrology is uncertain, local accounts of flooding and flood patterns can be used to ground-truth the model results. The Duckabush River gauge record was also incorporated. Initial model results showed that an inundation of the Lazy C reach began around the 2-year recurrence interval flow; flow through relict channels across the Lazy C floodplain was predicted to occur around the 10-year event; and almost the full valley was inundated at the 100-year event. To test whether the model coincided with actual occurrence, local knowledge will need to be consulted. *Tami Pokorny will confirm with landowners, but she guessed that at least one of those years had the sort of flooding described by the model. Scott and Torrey emphasized that any information on flow paths and hydrology would help to refine the model and results. Discussion followed on other possible resources. *Michael Dawson offered to share photos and an Ecology study that modeled streamflow for ungauged streams in WRIA 17. *Christ Waldbillig will check for permits that were issued for emergency flooding needs. Tami cautioned that news articles featuring stories and photos of flood events often confused the Dosewallips and Duckabush rivers. *Scott and Tami will work together to formulate an approach to landowners, as their feedback would be the most helpful.

Scott and Torrey concluded the presentation by giving an overview of project next steps: seeking input for the hydraulic model, finalizing the habitat assessment, evaluating the channel migration zone, developing conceptual restoration actions, and creating a draft resiliency plan. The next reports will be Conceptual Restoration Designs, and a Draft Resiliency Plan. They asked for any historical photos available, which would help to construct the story and build a cohesive picture. Micah Wait suggested that the team reach out to Jen in their own office to see what she had on a related Salmon Recovery Funding Board project that she had overseen. Mark Downen mentioned the Meridian Habitat Survey

Project, the data for which had been collected and would probably be available for sharing with the Dosewallips River Project. *Tami will circle back on that. Torrey announced that the project is scheduled to be wrapped up in June. Discussion followed on historic dredging. *Tami will check in with Scott and Tim on follow up questions and an outreach plan.

River and Community Updates

None

Next Agenda: WE January 20, 2021 10:30 – noon (timeframe tentative): Tami Pokorny encouraged the core team from Natural Systems Design to draft up some goals to go over at the next meeting, addressing local landowner knowledge and restoration efforts. Discussion on project goals followed.

Adjourn at 12:00 PM

Summary by Rebekah Brooks, Rebekah Brooks Contracting

Action Items:

- *Michael Dawson offered to share photos and an Ecology study that modeled streamflow for ungauged streams in WRIA 17.**
- *Christ Waldbillig will check for permits that were issued for emergency flooding needs.**
- *Scott Katz and Tami Pokorny will work together to formulate an approach to landowners.**
- *Tami will circle back on the Meridian Habitat Survey Project data.**
- *Tami will check in with Scott and Tim on follow up questions and an outreach plan.**