

Dosewallips River Collaborative

FINAL Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Remote Access Only

Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Trish Beathard (Brinnon School District Superintendent, Landowner), Lisa Belleveau (Skokomish Indian Tribe), Michael Dawson (Jefferson County Public Health), Alex Gouley (Skokomish Tribe), Randy Johnson (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Joseph Jones (US Geographical Survey [GS]), Scott Katz (Natural Systems Design), Brigitte Kaminski-Richardson (Department of Natural Resources [DNR]), Paul McCollum (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe), March McHenry (US Forest Service), Theresa Mitchell (WDFW), Alex Papiez (Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group), Joseph Pavel (Skokomish Indian Tribe), Tami Pokorny (Coordinator/Facilitator, Jefferson County), Michael Polenz (DNR), Laura Street (Jefferson and Mason Counties), Micah Wait (Wild Fish Conservancy), Chris Waldbillig (WDFW), Keith Beck (Land and Business Owner)

Additions to and Approval of the Agenda

None

Approval of the November 18, 2020 Meeting Summary

Postponed until February Meeting

Announcements

Micah Wait reported minor flooding on the Dosewallips River after recent storm events.

Old Business

None

New Business

An Earth Science Perspective on the Dosewallips River Valley

Michael Polenz, Washington State DNR, Washington GS

From his background with the Washington GS, including heading up a mapping project for the Brinnon quadrangle, Michael Polenz presented on the geology of the Olympic Peninsula, with emphasis on the Dosewallips watershed. He began with bedrock and tectonics, from old to young: a bedrock geology overview of the Peninsula, which is formed of a rim of 50 million year-old basaltic volcanic rock and sections of younger sedimentary rock. Michael directed viewers to the Washington GS Geology Portal website: <https://geologyportal.dnr.wa.gov/> for custom map queries that can be exported by PDF. Bedrock in the Dosewallips watershed captures pieces of both the sedimentary core rocks and the crescent terrain. Bed load gravel is made up of sedimentary rocks as well as basalt. He went on to provide some thoughts about faults, tectonics and uplift. The Olympic Peninsula is home to a number of mapped faults, but the fault activity level is mostly unassessed. The tectonic setting is active and there may be even more activity than meets the eye. The Peninsula has an ongoing uplift of about 2 mm per year. Michael went on to discuss glaciation and glacial deposits on the Peninsula, which are driven by

precipitation and temperature. Most precipitation occurs west of the Elwha River. Models show that at some point during the Pleistocene period, glaciers went much farther west and farther down the slopes than they do now. Models predict that ice flowed all the way down to the mouth of the Dosewallips River and into the Hood Canal, but there has not been much mapping of the glacial extent on the east side of the Olympics. This is partly because good access and exposures are hard to find, and partly as a reflection of there not being as much glaciation as there is on the west side. The form of the Dosewallips River Valley suggests that it was eroded by glaciers rather than by water. Studies show that alpine ice from the Olympics came most of the way down the valley to about 500 feet above the valley floor, and Cordilleran ice from Canada came up the valley to above 1600 feet above the valley floor. It is still uncertain whether the two ice flows ever met. Much of the Olympic glaciation occurred at different times, and was not necessarily coordinated with global glaciations. Michael described glacial advance, deposits, and recession, and glacier-formed outwash terraces, lakes, and shorelines around the Hood Canal and Dosewallips watershed. He concluded with some tidbits about post-glacial alluvial events and dynamics.

Questions and discussion followed on the impact of forest fires and sediment flows, the background geology gives for nutrient generation in the Dosewallips River, the shift climate change is causing on glacier melt in the Olympics, and fossilized fish remains found nearby in the Skokomish River Valley. *Michael will email Tami Pokorny with a list of his references for his presentation and any electronic copies of them that he has available. He suggested that the group contact the librarian at the Washington Geologic Library for additional copies of the theses and studies he referenced in his presentation.

Project, River and Community Updates

Scott Katz gave an update on the Lazy C/Powerlines Reach Project. Natural Systems Designs has started writing up the resiliency plan. Scott shared their goals and objectives: 1: Describe geomorphology of both reaches; 2: Describe current factors that limit the “normative river processes” needed to create and sustain salmonid habitat; 3: Determine opportunities to protect and restore riverine processes.

Next Agenda: WED, February 17, 2021 10:30 – noon (timeframe tentative): The next meeting will include an update on the Lazy C/Powerlines Reach Project. *Tami Pokorny will send out a link to Michael Polenz’s presentation.

Adjourn at 3:00 PM

Summary by Rebekah Brooks, Rebekah Brooks Contracting

Action Items:

****Michael Polenz will email Tami Pokorny with a list of his references for his presentation and any electronic copies of them that he has available.***

****Tami Pokorny will send out a link to Michael Polenz’s presentation.***