



## Steering Committee Meeting

### FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 9am-noon

DNR Olympic Conference Room

411 Tillicum Ln., Forks, WA

#### 9:00 Welcome/Introductions

Approximately 16 people attended including several local landowners, residents, and business owners. Staff present were: Wendy Largent, Hoh Tribe Natural Resources; Luke Kelly, Trout Unlimited; Jill Silver, 10,000 Years Institute; Bridget Kaminski-Richardson, DNR Aquatic Lands; Theresa Powell, WDFW Region 6; Tami Pokorny, Jefferson County Public Health (project manager).

During introductions, Tami asked participants to share their expectations, questions and concerns. Bridget Kaminski-Richardson noted that the main stem Hoh River is State-Owned Aquatic Lands. Landowners noted some homesteads were established before 1892. The Fletchers at Owl Creek have lost about 30 acres of land to erosion in last two years. Steve Allison noted that there have been a lot of studies/assessments on the Hoh, but it seems like the majority of actions are reacting to road emergencies. The group noted the need to be proactive vs reactive. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAP) is a good example of proactive. Generally, those in attendance wanted to more information on what the project is about.

#### Agenda Changes

None

#### 9:15 Project Overview

Tami Pokorny presented background information about the project, its geography (Oxbow Canyon to ONP Boundary) and funding source. Deliverables include a Resiliency Plan, often also called a Floodplain Master Plan, a computer model of the river, and three engineered conceptual designs for specific projects. The Steering Committee is open to all; please let her know the names of people invested and knowledgeable about the river who are important to invite. Workshops for the general public will come later. Funding is through the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRI) and is uniquely flexible to meet community resiliency priorities. Tami noted there is no set definition for 'resiliency'— the planning process will contribute data and expertise to the process. One definition to consider: **Resilience** is the capacity of individuals, communities and systems to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of stress and shocks, and even transform when conditions require it. - Rockefeller Foundation

#### 9:30 Resiliency Planning: Background and Small Group Conversations



## Hoh River Resiliency Plan PHASE I

Tami mentioned that the UW Olympic Experimental State Forest considers “Ecological Resiliency” to be a combination of Community and Environmental Resiliency. In other words, community wellbeing and interactions with the landscape influence long-term ecological health. The group was divided into four smaller groups for an exercise in collaboration called the “Marshmallow Challenge” (“Build a Tower; Build a Team [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0\\_yKBitO8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0_yKBitO8M)) with instructions from Tom Wujec TED Talk to: “Use 18 minutes to build the tallest, free-standing structure using the materials supplied to each group. The marshmallow must be attached to the top of the structure you build. After 18 minutes, I will measure the height of each structure that remains standing with the marshmallow on top. The winner is the team whose free-standing structure is the tallest.”

She also mentioned a judge, Jim Tamm, with long experience mediating employer/union disputes whose take away is, “Defensiveness is the main obstacle to collaboration” (for more info, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjSTNv4gyMM>).

The group came back together to watch and discuss the TED talk video. A second exercise focused on community wellbeing was scrapped in favor of open discussion. Tami acknowledged that, at this point, the outcomes of the project may seem vague. For now the project provides structure and expertise to work with the community to determine the best path forward. Concern was expressed that this project not reinvent the wheel – so many studies have been done.

The big challenge, as expressed by several participants, was, “How do we take a holistic approach when focusing on the Middle Hoh?” Infrastructure (particularly roads) are important for several reasons, including wildfire access. Two big clay banks behind the Peak 6 store slid in 1980. Infrastructure, culverts, roads, rip rap, the need to know what is happening upstream (e.g. glacier retreat), and other relevant topics were discussed. Comments included: Olympic National Park really needs to participate in this project and these meetings; Engineered Log Jams (ELJs) installation must get an easement (with DNR) and have insurance; What did we learn from the Oso Slide and how do those lessons apply here? Jill Silver noted channel spanning log jam at head of Spruce Canyon. Also noted the large natural log jam at ~MP 5. This jam deflects flow to the north and the Upper Hoh Rd (leading to emergency fixes and rip rap). A schematic map show who is already trying to do what where would be helpful.

Tami noted that the County’s Request for Qualifications for the primary consultant will be distributed soon [it went out on January 31<sup>st</sup> and is due by February 28<sup>th</sup>]. She has inquired if the Bureau of Reclamation is available to update relevant portions of its 2004 Hoh River Geomorphic Assessment. Several studies and reports pertaining to the project reach and/or surrounding areas will made available on thumb drives. She will contact the DNR about landslide hazards and Federal Highways about their project.

A subcommittee was formed to discuss plans for site visits next month [now scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10am-3pm].

11:00 Existing Resources

11:30 Check-ins and Announcements

11:45 Future Agendas and Speakers



## Hoh River Resiliency Plan PHASE I

Next SC Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 ~~9am-noon, DNR, Forks~~ 10am-3pm Site Visits

12:00 Adjourn

Meeting summary by Luke Kelly and Tami Pokorny.