



## Steering Committee Meeting

### FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, March 16, 2020

1pm – 2:30pm

Jefferson County Public Health

Dabob Room

615 Sheridan St.

Port Townsend, WA 98368

### Welcome/Introductions

The meeting began at 1:05pm. Tami Pokorny attended in Port Townsend. The following people attended by phone: Alex Huelsdonk, PCSC; Eric Carlsen, NEC Construction Management; Theresa Powell, WDFW; Bridget Kaminski-Richardson, DNR; Jill Silver, 10,000 Years Institute; Frank Hanson, UW ONRC; Jamie Bass, TNC. At least one person, Jess Helsley, WCS, was prevented from attending by busy phone circuits.

### Approval of January 22, 2020 Draft Meeting Summary

This was postponed until a future meeting with higher attendance.

### Announcements

None other than that the River & Ocean Film Festival, originally scheduled for March 28, 2020 is being postponed.

### Old Business

#### Debrief of February 19, 2020 Presentations and Site Visits

Tami Pokorny asked meeting participants to comment on the site visits held February 19, 2020 at the Peterson's Elk Meadows Cabin #4, the JC Public Works Upper Hoh Road Shop, and the Fletcher Ranch along Owl Creek. The day began with presentations from geologists Kate Mickelson and Trevor Contreras of the DNR Landslide Hazard Team and Dan McShane of Stratum Group.

Theresa Powell commented that it was fascinating to learn about the landslide risks along the Upper Hoh Road. It was a great, productive day. Tami will share Kate and Trevor's field findings. Discussions around alluvial fan interactions with the channel migration zone were also very interesting. Several project ideas also emerged from the day:

1. *Examine and address PUD transmission line corridor at Fletcher Ranch:* A prominent low spot is visible on the John Richmond property that may be a potential site for avulsion. In the past, the had marked the corridor, but these have apparently washed away. There are many unknowns. The primary concern is additional loss of pastureland and/or threats to homestead buildings or features.
2. *Spruce Creek log jam:* This logjam broke up over the winter but had spanned the channel. A lot of wood is likely still present. There isn't a project here except to monitor. The same processes operate here as above Oxbow Canyon. These above-canyon areas are destabilized by the influx



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of sediment and high flows. Compare with 1983 aerial photos when the channel was a single thread. Now there are multiple channels. The situation is complicated by the presence of two deep-seated landslides on either side of the river at Spruce and Owl Creeks. The log jam is increasing flows to the north. If the jam continues to increase in size, it may activate the toe of the Canyon Creek slide.

3. *Lewis/Brandeberry log jam*: The flow here used to be directed east to west but now flows south to north, with the force of the flow hitting near the ONP boundary.
4. *Glacial retreat study*: Essential to understanding the sediment budget and trend lines for the reach also affecting floodplain morphology and low flows. Jill will send a media tool consisting of a series of aerial photos, going back as far as possible, to help visual changes over time [Hotlink opens a web application for Olympic Peninsula aerial imagery maps. Choose and slide between years: <https://gis.10000yearsinstitute.org/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ab064a858ccf4231b88d4e97917f8b48>].
5. *Assess and quantify alluvial fan/CMZ interactions*: How is the changing CMZ affecting alluvial fans, deep-seated landslides, and existing improvements?
6. *Slope above Upper Hoh Road*: There isn't much happening above the road and there may not be much to be done there to help stabilize the road. The slopes are largely TNC- and DNR-owned. The HCP precludes DNR harvest in the CMZ between the road and the river. TNC has lost acreage to the river recently. What can be done, if anything, about slow moving deep seated landslides. Debris flows may be a complicating factor.
7. *Aquifer characterization*: Better understanding of the watershed aquifer may have numerous benefits such as the feasibility of supplanting low flows or protecting wall-based springs.
8. *Spruce and cottonwood release on "Fletcher Island"*: Jill noticed an abundance of young spruce and cottonwood on this 30-acre island that are currently suppressed by a canopy of alders. These could be felled and arranged to protect the growing cottonwood trees.
9. *Documenting cultural and history, landowner contributions (ONP coastal strip and inland), and those of Wendy Marsh of WFC*: There is strong support for this.
10. *Keeping Upper Hoh Road (UHR) open all year*: In the spring months, Europeans arrive. Even in the middle of winter there are Park visitors and steelhead fishing season is crazy. It's likely that riprap will be needed long into the future at MP 8. An old, alder-covered log jam is directing the river's flow towards the UHR at MP 4. This is in "Peterson's Bottom", as Jill calls it (RM 21), upstream of Elk Creek and downstream of Linder Creek. The 1991-2017 USDA NAIP imagery (<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/aerial-photography/imagery-programs/naip-imagery>) shows a variety of channels flowing through there. Perhaps there's an opportunity to evaluate the condition of the log jam and to spread out the flow. More discussion is needed about pushing flows towards the center of the channel.
11. *County shop*: A large amount of alder has accumulated and is causing erosion to occur behind the shop. More analysis is needed about what's happening from upstream of this site. High bluffs prevent the river from moving off to the south.
12. [*Concern about boater safety*: Expressed at the site visits, but not discussed during the March 16 meeting, is the concern that engineered log jams present unacceptable risks to boaters.]



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### **New Business**

#### Resiliency and CoVid-19

Jill noted that everyone at 10,000 Years Institute has instituted new practices to prevent transmission. Employees have expressed their desire to keep working. The Nature Conservancy has closed their field offices. Employees are asked not to leave home and to do their part not to contribute to the problem. Many people are filing for unemployment. Potential impact to tourism were discussed. Discussion turned to the place names and activities map that Bridget Kaminsky-Richardson had suggested in January. It needs to include Township and Range and attribute table with Lat./Longs.

Delayed until the next meeting:

Open Public Meetings Act

Landowner Survey

### **Updates**

#### County Updates:

The hiring process for the primary consultant is still in progress as is the draft landowner survey.

#### Project Partner Check-ins

This item was skipped.

### **Next Agenda**

If conditions allow: Monday, April 20, 1-4pm DNR Olympic Conference Room. Otherwise, remote access hosted at JCPH.

Speaker will be: Scott Morrow, Western Federal Lands: Upper Hoh Road Project

Please note: send your questions for Steve ahead of time to Tami ([tpokorny@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:tpokorny@co.jefferson.wa.us)) or 360-379-4498.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting notes compiled by Tami Pokorny