



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES of June 23, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 23, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jim Stoffer, Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Ron Cameron, Patti Morris, Paul Pickett, Mark Hodgson, Ron Richards, Christy Holy, Rod Fleck, Chris Noble, Bill Benedict, Cathy Walde and Nina Sarmiento.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sarmiento requested to add the proposed amendment for water amendment to the business items section.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as modified

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes June 9, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Sarah Kincad, Sequim, provided a reading from a book
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on the tribal trust land proposed amendment
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on the agenda items, Commissioner Pickett, blogs, Commissioner Fisch, running a meeting, Commissioner Stoffer, committee members, ignoring comments from the community
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on tribal trust land proposed amendment, conflict of interest with Commissioners and NGO's, district voting, ethics committee, making comment
- Bonnie Bless-Boenish, Sequim, commented on all agenda items, public comment
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on the pledge, timing the public comment, sovereign land, water topic
- Dr. Sarah Huling, Forks, commented on her being a Doctor, Charter Review Commission meetings, voting by district, elected officials serving on boards that receive county funding
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on tribal trust land proposed amendment, Tribe commenting on Highway 110 road issues, water topic, coroner topic
- Norma Turner, Port Angeles, commented on voting by district

CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Commissioner Richards, Commissioner Cameron, Terri DiMartino, Janine Blaeloch, Commissioner Tozzer, Commissioner Holy, Dee Boughton, Shawn Hines, Administrator Mielke, Sarah Huling, Commissioner Sarmiento, Wendy Rae Johnson, and Duncan Fobes (see attached).

BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Coroner amendment resolution - Commissioner Cameron**

Cameron reported that the committee met to develop a resolution that was submitted to Attorney Duncan Fobes for review. He noted that Fobes had mentioned that the Prosecuting Attorney as representation for coroner office was also mentioned in the table of contents of the charter. Fobes originally recommended making a change in the table of contents but has since then withdrawn his recommendation. Cameron noted that this puts the coroner amendment back to the original resolution that was included as page 76 in the agenda packet.

ACTION TAKEN: Stoffer moved to approve the resolution proposing charter amendment regarding coroner duties and number as CRC Resolution 1, Holy seconded, motion carried

(15 voted yes)

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

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- **Tribal trust land proposed amendment - Commissioner Richards and Dee Boughton, CDPA**

Fisch commented that all the Commissioners should have received an emailed memo from Boughton regarding the tribal trust land proposed amendment. She reminded the Commission that the amendment is at step 2, when there was a motion to table it. The motion was to table and request review and advice from Boughton.

Boughton commented that he was not sure what questions were being asked of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in terms of input. He was directed to look at conversation in the May 27 meeting between the Commissioners and after his review he narrowed it down to 3 questions. He requested that in the future if the Commission was looking for input it would be helpful to know what specific questions the Commission had for him to response to.

Richards commented that he has objections with the advisor. He stated his concerns with the opinion. He has no problem keeping the amendment on the table and he will look at rewriting the amendment after he reviews the comments from Boughton.

There was no objection from the Commission to keep the amendment on the table and add it to the next meeting agenda.

- **Proposed charter amendment regarding district only voting for County Commissioners (Step 1) – Commissioner Tozzer**

Fisch comment that Tozzer has forwarded draft proposed amendments regarding district only voting and Elected Officials. Both the proposed amendments are at step 1.

Fisch reminded that step 1 is as follows:

Step 1: GIVE NOTICE TO COMMISSION: A member or Committee shall provide a draft of the proposed Charter amendment to the Commission at a meeting. The proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda at a subsequent meeting scheduled by the Commission.

Tozzer confirmed that he would like to move the amendments to the July meeting for step 2.

Fisch read the proposed district only voting amendment into the record as follows:

Proposed amendment:

"Each County Commissioner shall be nominated and elected exclusively by the voters of the commissioner district in which the candidate resides. No countywide vote shall be held for County Commissioner positions. This provision shall apply to all elections held after January 1, 2026."

Tozzer read the following into the record:

Clallam County is geographically and culturally diverse. From Forks to Sequim, Neah Bay to Clallam Bay, each region has unique priorities. Yet under the current system, a candidate running to represent one district must win a countywide election — meaning voters from other districts can override the will of the district's own residents. That's not representation. That's regional veto power.

In 2015, Clallam County voters approved district-only elections by a wide margin — 63%. They wanted each district to choose its own commissioner, just as voters in state legislative districts or congressional districts do. That system was clear and democratic: live in a district, vote in that district.

But in 2020, an amendment changed that, reverting to a system where commissioners are nominated by district but elected countywide — a confusing and arguably undemocratic hybrid. It means voters in Port Angeles (District 2) and Sequim (District 1) can effectively decide who represents the West End (District 3), even if District 3 voters support someone else.

This isn't hypothetical. In the 2022 commissioner race, there is concern that Districts 1 and 2 outvoted District 3 — potentially swinging the election outcome against the will of the very people that commissioner was supposed to represent.

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Meanwhile, the Charter Review Commission's 2025 community survey, with over 1,400 participants, found that 74% of respondents want district-only voting restored. That's not just a majority — that's an overwhelming mandate.

Common Myths — and the Facts:

- Myth: "Countywide voting ensures commissioners think about the whole county."
Fact: Commissioners already must comply with the county charter, budget processes, and public disclosure laws. Local priorities differ — and the best way to represent all of Clallam County is to let each district choose someone who understands their needs, not someone who appeals to voters 50 miles away.
- Myth: "It's like voting for the governor — everyone gets a say."
Fact: No one outside your district votes for your state senator or legislator. In fact, few counties in Washington State use this nominate-by-district, elect-countywide model — it's a relic from another era that most counties have moved away from.

The Fix is Simple:

Let District 1 elect its commissioner. Let District 2 do the same. And let District 3 — with its unique rural needs — choose its own voice without outside interference.

The voters have said it before. They're saying it again now. It's time to listen — and return to district-only voting.

- **Proposed charter amendment regarding Elected Officials and NGOs (Step 1) – Commissioner Tozzer**

Fisch read the proposed Elected Officials amendment into the record as follows:

Proposed amendment:

"No elected official of Clallam County shall serve as a board member, officer, or trustee of any nonprofit organization that receives direct financial compensation, contracts, grants, or in-kind benefits from Clallam County. If an elected official is selected, appointed, or elected to such a position, they must resign from either the nonprofit or their public office within 30 days. Failure to do so constitutes a disqualifying conflict of interest."

Tozzer read the following into the record:

County government must serve the public—not private boards. Yet under current rules, elected officials—including County Commissioners—can sit on nonprofit boards that receive funding or benefits from the very government they help control. That's a textbook conflict of interest.

This amendment fixes that. It would prevent county officials from serving on the boards of any nonprofit that receives county money, whether through grants, contracts, or in-kind assistance. Officials must choose: represent the public, or represent the nonprofit—not both.

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), which advises Washington governments, warns against this exact problem. MRSC notes that nonprofit board membership can trigger violations of conflict-of-interest laws, particularly when funding or contractual decisions are involved. It urges transparency, abstention, and, in many cases, avoidance altogether.

Likewise, the National Association of Counties (NACo) emphasizes that county leaders must avoid any situation that compromises their obligation to the public good. Even unpaid nonprofit board service can blur loyalties.

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This amendment isn't about punishing civic involvement—it's about drawing a bright ethical line. When commissioners vote on budgets, contracts, or grants, we must be 100% sure they're doing so without bias or split allegiances.

Imagine if a judge also served on the board of a law firm appearing in their courtroom. We'd call that unethical. The same logic applies here.

Good governance demands independence. This simple amendment ensures elected officials serve only one master: the people.

Fisch noted that step 1 is on the current agenda and step 2 will be at the next CRC meeting on July 14. Fisch reminded that step 2 is as follows:

Step 2: HOLD MEETING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT: The proposed Charter Amendment will be considered by the Commission for their vote. If the Commission approves a final draft of the proposed amendment, the Commission shall schedule a final vote at a subsequent meeting scheduled by the Commission.

Richards recommended that Tozzer look over the formatting and find a place in the Charter for his proposed amendments. He noted that regarding the district by voting Tozzer will need to double-strike out and underline language from the exact part of the Charter that he wants to amend.

Richards commented that a while back the Commission received a list of boards that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) served on. He had requested that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office provide a review to see which of the boards the BOCC must serve on. He feels that the Commission should know that information in order to work on this amendment. CRC Members held discussion.

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to ask the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to research which Boards the BOCC are required to serve on and those required by state law, Walde seconded, motion carried

(13 voted in favor of and 2 voted no)

CRC Commission recessed at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

• **Water Committee – Commissioner**

Fisch read the proposed water amendment into the record as follows:

Proposed amendment:

The position of Water Resources Specialist is hereby created. The Specialist shall be a senior hydrologist, hydrogeologist, water resources engineer, or someone who holds other equivalent qualifications. The specialist shall have relevant knowledge of data storage and gathering, water related technologies, and trends in water needs and availability relevant to all geographic areas of the county. This position shall serve as an independent contractor to analyze and quantify Clallam County's water resources for sustainability and availability, and would have absolutely no water resource management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Its sole purpose would be to make available to those entities that do manage Clallam County's water resources the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.

The specialist findings and reports shall be based upon sound data and science and shall be transmitted to others via publication on an internet site accessible to the public.

The Board of County Commissioners shall retain the specialist through a personal services bidding contract bidding procedure.

Sarmiento briefed the Commission on the proposed water amendment and changes that were made to the draft document. She also briefed the Commission on recommendations that Water Committee created.

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Fisch asked for clarification on what the step for the amendment. Sarmiento requested to move the water amendment to step 2 on the July 14 meeting.

Sarmiento read the proposed water recommendation into the record as follows:

Proposed water recommendation:

DRAFT

- Qualified bids received in response to that procedure shall be reviewed and ranked by an ad hoc Committee. That Committee shall include three county employees, one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Department of Community Development, and one from the Environmental Health section of the County Health and Human Services Department; and four members representing entities with significant stakes in water resources in Clallam County including two members selected by the Director of the Department of Community Development and two members selected by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Specialist's position need not be filled unless the submitted bid on an annual basis is for a cost less than the annual salary and benefits of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.
- The Specialist retained for the position must be among the top three bidders as ranked by the Committee. The contract period for this position shall have a term of three years, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring.

CRC Members held discussion regarding the water amendment and recommendation.

Fleck left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

• Ethics Committee

Cameron commented that the Ethics Committee will be meeting on June 24. Boughton will be attending the meeting to provide a presentation.

• Water Committee

Moved to the business item section.

REPORTS

• Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch

No Chair report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on water steward
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on water topic, CERN, North Olympic Development Council, NGO's water steward, ethics
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on proposed amendment regarding elected officials and NGO's
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on tribal trust land proposal, forming a committee, proposed amendment regarding elected officials and NGO's
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on Commission work, first amendment, funds to NGO's and nonprofits, Gate Foundation, Commissioner Richards doesn't speak clearly, Commissioners looking her in the eye
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on water topic
- Norma Turner, Port Angeles, commented on voting by district, getting item on the ballot

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- Jodi Dotson, Joyce, commented on water topic, collecting data
- Kathy Downer, Sequim, commented on water topic
- Patrice Johnston, Sequim, commented on voting by district, Commission work

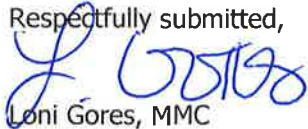
GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Tribal land trust transfer
- Voting by district
- Elected officials and NGO's
- Water topic
- Richards commented on water topic
- Board of County Commissioners town hall amendment

ACTION TAKEN: Hodgson moved to send an invitation to the BOCC to attend the next CRC meeting on July 14 to speak about the boards and committees they serve on, and how they fill those boards and committees best serve their constituents, Stoffer seconded, motion carried (13 in favor of and 1 voted no)

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved: 7/14/25

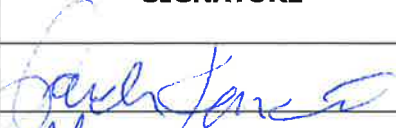
CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting – June 23, 2025
Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent

	Approve Coroner Resolution - Stoffer
Susan Fisch	Yes
Bill Benedict	Yes
Jim Stoffer	Yes
Jeff Tozzer	Yes
Alex Fane	Yes
Ron Cameron	Yes
Pattie Morris	Yes
Chris Noble	Yes
Paul Pickett	Yes
Ron Richards	Yes
Rod Fleck	Yes
Mark Hodgson	Yes
Christy Holy	Yes
Cathy Walde	Yes
Nina Sarmiento	Yes
Yes	15
No	
Pass or Fail	Passes

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

Public Comment on Agenda Items – 1st Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

Nº	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	SARAH KUCHAN		Sequim
2	JOHN WORTHINGTON		SEQUIM
3	ERIC REHMANOW		Sequim
4	Mark Curtis		Sequim
5	Bonnie Bless-Boenish		Sequim
6	Hein Cummins		Sequim
7	Sarah Huling		Forks
8	Ed Bowen		PO WERTEN
9	NORMA TURNER		PA
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

General Public Comment – 2nd Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

Nº	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Denise Lapio	Denise Lapio	Sequim
2	John Worthington	John Worthington	SEQUIM
3	Eric Fehrman	Eric Fehrman	Sequim
4	Ed Brown	Ed Brown	Westport
5	Kevin Cummins	Kevin Cummins	Sequim
6	Mark Curtis	Mark Curtis	Sequim
7	NORMA Turner	NORMA Turner	PA
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Public Comment

6/23/25

Bonnie Bless-Boenish

June 23, 2025

My name is Bonnie Bless-Boenish. I live in the Sequim area and my comments refer to all of the agenda items.

Good evening, Commissioners. As elected officials, you have both a responsibility and a valuable opportunity to take public comment seriously. It's one of the most direct ways constituents can participate in local democracy, and it often brings forward concerns or ideas that might not surface in other ways.

In listening to recent public comments on proposed amendments and committee reports, and reviewing past board packet materials, it's clear that there are strong and differing views on these issues. That's to be expected on matters with broad community impact.

Public comment should inform—but not dictate—decisions. When combined with research, input from staff, and thoughtful analysis, it becomes a powerful tool for balanced, transparent, and inclusive governance.

Once a decision is made—on any amendment or other matter before the Charter Review Commission—I believe all commissioners have a responsibility to support the process and stand by the outcome, even if they didn't agree with it. Undermining a decision after the fact can erode public trust and divide the community. It's absolutely appropriate to voice disagreement during deliberation, but once a vote is taken, the role shifts from debate to implementation. That doesn't mean pretending to agree—it means explaining the decision with respect and helping constituents understand how and why it was made. A commissioner can say, "I voted no, but the body voted yes—and here's why." That kind of leadership, grounded in honesty and professionalism, helps build trust and strengthens our democracy.

I hope to see this in action as the commission moves forward and I'm counting on you all to lead with integrity and clarity. Thank you.

Presentation to Clallam County Charter - June 23, 2025
Norma Turner, Port Angeles

Public Comment
6/23/25
Norma Turner

County commissioner currently are nominated at the district level then move to the county wide November ballot. In other words the rest of county only gets to vote on anyone approved at the primary level by the voters of each district. The same process is the same at Port of Port Angeles and Public Utility district.

The 32 non charter counties in Washington State elect three commissioners under state law RCW 36. **with nomination by district and election countywide.** Election by district is mandated ONLY when the county reaches 400,000 population — a long way from our 76,000 with an annual growth rate of about 1%

For charter counties there are variety of election processes, San Juan has a unique system - both nominates and elects county wide because of geographical issues and survived a court challenge. Other larger charter counties have a mix of council with an elected executive, a five commissioner board with four elected by district and one elected countywide. All are designed to create a balance of power. None elect by district only.

As mentioned before, electing county commissioners district only, was on the ballot in 1983 and 2003 and rejected. In 2015 it was again put on the ballot and passed. Then only five years later the electorate voted to return to nomination by district and election countywide. The driving force for the electorate to changing their mind was the fact that election by district resulted in commissioners elected by only 13% to 24% of the vote total yet they were empowered to make decisions for everyone in the county.

When commissioners are elected county wide everyone in the county is their constituent and if they want to be re-elected they need to listen to voters in all 3 districts. Thus each voter has three commissioners. District only means they have only one.

It does make it easier for candidates because they campaign only in their own district. They never have to step foot in the other two districts.

In conclusion remember the three strikes you are out rule. Votes have said no to district only elections three times.

Thanks

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Coroner Committee has scheduled a Coroner Committee meeting to be held on June 13, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center EOC Room 070 at 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss drafting a resolution for the coroner amendment.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on June 18, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 10TH day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on June 24, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on June 25, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Notice - June 18
Attachments: 06-18-25 CRC Water Committee Agenda packet.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Water Committee meeting notice for June 18:

- 1) Water Committee meeting notice on June 18 at 9 a.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

June 18, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- 9:00 Meeting called to order. Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.
- 9:05 Public Comments
- 9:15 Discussion and decisions on how to proceed with proposed Amendments.
- 10:00 Discussion and decisions on how to proceed with proposed Recommendations.
- 11:15 Public Comments
- 11:25 Next steps
- 11:30 Adjourn

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

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COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on June 18, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

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Dated this 10TH day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Water Committee Meeting Minutes

June 5th 2025

Commissioners in attendance: Ron Richards (online), Christy Holy, Paul Pickett, Nina Sarmiento.

- Call to order – 9:00 am
- Action - The agenda was adopted
- Action - May 29th meeting notes were adopted
- Public Comments provided by one attendee
- Discussion covered:
 - Clauses six seven and eight on the last draft amendment proposal.
 - How the position would be appointed.
 - Who the position would report to.
 - Time is needed for more feedback.
 - Another meeting is needed to bring the final draft to step 1 of official review for the board.
- Public Comments provided by one attendee
- Meeting adjourned – 11:30 am

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Coroner Charter Amendment Resolution
Attachments: Draft Coroner Proposed Amendment 3.docx

Hi Loni,

Attached is what I will propose on Friday to the Coroner Committee as the resolution to be voted on.

Ron

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Proposed Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that state law precludes him from serving as ex-officio coroner.
3. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
4. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
5. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
6. A state statute, RCW 36.16.030, only allows counties with a population exceeding two hundred fifty thousand to adopt a medical examiner system, therefore precluding that alternative from being considered for Clallam County.
7. When the Clallam County Charter is amended to remove the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, the responsibility for performing those duties, or having those duties performed, will fall on the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training to serve as the coroner, much as was being done under the Prosecuting Attorney, and is now being done under a District Court Judge. That would result in a satisfactory solution to the current situation.

DRAFT

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution and the Charter amendment hereby proposed is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

DRAFT

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

DRAFT

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: 6-10 Ethics committee notes

Loni, here's the notes from today.

Ethics Committee met at 1230 at the BOCC main meeting room. The following commissioners were present either physically or online:

Comm. Tozzer
Comm. Benedict
Comm. Walde
Comm. Fleck

Comm. Noble was out today.

We began with a detailed report on historical information as it relates to the evolution of the ethics code in Clallam County. The issue really came down to consequences as it related to elected officials. There is some evidence that this has been worked on before but that most of it was verbal and not written

Commissioner Fleck aided with a discussion that, should we address a change in the county code of ethics, who writes it? The answer seemed to be that it depends on the specificity of the charter amendment.

Discussion of Charter comparables with other counties was had and we seemed to focus on Clark County and their approach to the issue.

We discussed some strategy and direction of our committee should take, but it was decided that some tasks needed completed before that could be properly addressed.

Dee was actually assigned two tasks....tasks he felt were best conducted by him or his office. First, he will research if and how a county code of ethics applies to the "statewide significance" issue. The second was he would reach out to the Clark county civil division of the Prosecuting Attorney to discuss with them the development, implementation and work of the Code of Ethics process in their charter.

While there a couple folks that tuned in virtually to the meeting, none chose to speak.

Next meeting is on 6-25 at 1pm.

We adjourned about 1:45 pm.

Ron Cameron
Charter Review Commission District 2
Clallam County

**Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Ethics Committee
Meeting Notes June 10, 2025**

Ethics Committee met at 12:30 p.m. at the BOCC main meeting room 160. The following commissioners were present either physically or online:

**Comm. Tozzer
Comm. Benedict
Comm. Walde
Comm. Fleck**

Comm. Noble was out.

We began with a detailed report on historical information as it relates to the evolution of the ethics code in Clallam County. The issue really came down to consequences as it related to elected officials. There is some evidence that this has been worked on before but that most of it was verbal and not written

Commissioner Fleck aided with a discussion that, should we address a change in the county code of ethics, who writes it? The answer seemed to be that it depends on the specificity of the charter amendment.

Discussion of Charter comparable with other counties was had and we seemed to focus on Clark County and their approach to the issue.

We discussed some strategy and direction of our committee should take, but it was decided that some tasks needed completed before that could be properly addressed.

Dee was assigned two tasks....tasks he felt were best conducted by him or his office. First, he will research if and how a county code of ethics applies to the "statewide significance" issue. The second was he would reach out to the Clark county civil division of the Prosecuting Attorney to discuss with them the development, implementation and work of the Code of Ethics process in their charter.

While there were a couple folks that tuned in virtually to the meeting, no one chose to speak.

Next meeting is on 6-25 at 1pm.

We adjourned about 1:45 pm.

**Ron Cameron
Charter Review Commission District 2**

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Re: Proposed Coroner Charter Amendment Resolution
Attachments: Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties.docx

Loni,

To save you the trouble of having to forward a second resolution to the Coroner Committee for consideration this Friday, I am attaching a slightly revised version to this email and copying all the members of the Coroner Committee, along with your warning that nobody should make comments about the language via emails. This is only being forwarded so we can discuss it at the Coroner Committee meeting on Friday.

The changes in this document all have to do with more accurately naming the document to help avoid any misunderstandings that might have occurred heretofore. Specifically, the document is now entitled Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties, and related language throughout the document has been changed in accordance with this difference.

Further, the language following the actual amendment contained in this resolution has been changed so that this form can be used for any charter amendment that might be proposed without any changes. I am hopeful the CRC will consider using this form for all future proposed amendments so as to make our job easier henceforth.

I'm sorry I've had to bother all of you with a second version, but I think these changes are important.

Ron Richards

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:40 PM
To: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Proposed Coroner Charter Amendment Resolution

Coroner Committee,

Forwarding as an FYI only for Friday. Please do not make comments about the language over email.

LG

“My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

Loni Gores

*Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Proposed Coroner Charter Amendment Resolution

Hi Loni,

Attached is what I will propose on Friday to the Coroner Committee as the resolution to be voted on.

Ron

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that state law precludes him from serving as ex-officio coroner.
3. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
4. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
5. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
6. A state statute, RCW 36.16.030, only allows counties with a population exceeding two hundred fifty thousand to adopt a medical examiner system, therefore precluding that alternative from being considered for Clallam County.
7. When the Clallam County Charter is amended to remove the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, the responsibility for performing those duties, or having those duties performed, will fall on the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training to serve as the coroner, much as was being done under the Prosecuting Attorney, and is now being done under a District Court Judge. That would result in a satisfactory solution to the current situation.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, of the Clallam County Charter be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

DRAFT

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Coroner Committee Meeting Notice - June 13
Attachments: Committee Notice Coroner 6-13-25 full copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Coroner Committee meeting notice for June 13:

- 1) Coroner Committee meeting notice on June 13 at 1 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center EOC Room 070 (Courthouse Basement)

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Coroner Committee has scheduled a Coroner Committee meeting to be held on June 13, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center EOC Room 070 at 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss drafting a resolution for the coroner amendment.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Coroner Committee

June 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Emergency Operations Center EOC Room 070, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Coroner Resolution
- Public comment
- Next meeting

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 863 1036 9465 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 12:49 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Meeting Notice - June 24
Attachments: Committee Notice Ethics 6-24-25.docx; 06-24-25 CRC Ethics Committee Agenda.docx

CRC,

Attached is the Ethics Committee meeting notice for June 24:

- 1) Ethics Committee meeting notice on June 24 at 1 p.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on June 24, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

June 24, 2025 at 1 p.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Report from Dee Boughton reference historical Clallam County ethics code evolution if available, and report on conference with Clark County Attorney's Office, Civil division
- Review and discussion of current Clallam County Ethics Code.
- Amendment discussion and strategy
- Task assignments if any
- Public comment
- Next meeting

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Gores, Loni

From: Terri DiMartino <girldog2007@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 6:48 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Terri DiMartino
Subject: Citizen comments on proposed water steward position

You don't often get email from girldog2007@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Clerk of the Broad:

I was not able to listen to today's meeting regarding a water steward position. Hence my email and comments about this position.

Would this role advocate for private water systems being sold to large corporations for profit centers? Would they act as a liaison with the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission?

I encourage the committee members to read the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission docket case #UW 240 151-Water Consumer Advocates of Washington vs Cascadia Water LLC. The website address is www.utc.wa.gov

This case has had an immense impact on rate payers in Clallam County and has the attention of the Mr. Tad O'Neill in the Washington State Attorney General's Office. It's a lengthy, complicated and non transparent business model crafted by NW Holdings located in Portland, Oregon. This case demonstrates pure greed and large profits for water, a resource no human can live without. Would a county water steward act as a lobbyist that prohibits companies outside of Washington to sell Washington water for profit?

I'm confused on this water rights issue given the changes to my private water system. I thought the State of Washington owned our water. Companies like Cascadia LLC and public municipalities deliver one's drinking water. Other players include the Department of Health Drinking Water that maintain water plans on file. The Utilities and Transportation Commission/UTC set rates based on water companies rate filings.

I want to make the committee aware that Representative Steve Tharinger wrote and sponsored HB 1906 with the support of Representative Adam Bernbaum that supports Increasing transparency and consumer protection in water system rates. It did not pass this last legislative session. Commissioner Ozias is aware of this bill, and the 4-year legal battle the Water Consumer Advocates of Washington have endured dealing with rate shock and the UTC's economy of scale business model.

It is my opinion that water issues and systems are extremely complicated and require litigation and legislation, not a salaried water steward.

Please share this email with committee members, and confirm receipt of this email via a return reply.

Respectfully,
Terri DiMartino

Sequim, Washington

Gores, Loni

From: Janine Blaeloch <blaeloch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 7:19 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: To the Charter Review Commission: Creation of a Water Advisory Committee

To the Charter Review Commission:

Given the copious amount of discussion about and interest in a "water steward," including comments I sent early on the CRC, I am sending this email that I submitted to the County Commissioners requesting their establishment of a Water Advisory Committee. Please enter this into the record. I hope the CRC will support this approach. Thank you all for the work you are doing for our county.

Janine Blaeloch
Sequim

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request that the Clallam BOCC use its authority to create a Clallam County Water Advisory Committee.

Commissioners are likely aware that the Charter Review Commission has discussed the concept of a Water Steward for the County, after many people attending the CRC meetings raised concerns about water supply and water quality. I know from discussions I have had with neighbors and acquaintances that this is a top-of-mind issue for many in our community, and one that will only become more acute as development continues and climate impacts accelerate. The CRC discussions have looked at various ideas for the scope of the steward's work, as well as whether it should be a paid or volunteer position. It is unclear how these questions will be resolved; whether the water steward concept will remain on the CRC's priority list; and if so, whether an initiative or referendum creating the position would pass.

I believe the CRC process presents too much delay and risk to be the appropriate avenue for considering water stewardship and that the issue would be most effectively overseen by an advisory committee. This is a structure that already exists, is familiar to citizens of the county, would provide transparency and accountability, allows citizen input, and could include a broad range of stakeholders.

Potential representation on the committee could include:

- One or more hydrologists
- Clallam PUD
- Clallam County cities
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Irrigators/irrigation districts
- Local water providers
- At-large citizen members

Questions and issues for the committee could include:

- Water quality
- Water supply
- Which water systems are imperiled

- Preparation and planning for changing conditions
- Water conservation and responsible use

The availability of water has been taken for granted and too easily assumed to be abundant, even infinite. Clallam County, with areas that have relatively sparse rainfall and many water supplies threatened by rapidly diminishing snowpack, needs to face our water future head on. A water advisory committee designed for that very purpose and calling on local knowledge and technical expertise would be an effective way to begin that process.

Sincerely,

Janine Blaeloch
River Road area
Sequim

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2025 4:04 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Charter Amendment: District-Only Voting for County Commissioners

Hi Loni, Could you please distribute to all 15? Thanks.

Dear Executive Committee. I would like to add this proposed charter amendment to the agenda of our next meeting. I'll need about 5 minutes to present it.

Thanks,

Jeff

Title: *Amendment to Elect County Commissioners by District Only*

Ballot Text (for submission to the Auditor):

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to require that County Commissioners be elected only by voters residing in their respective commissioner districts, rather than nominated by district and elected countywide?

Proposed Language to be Added to the Clallam County Charter (if adopted):

"Each County Commissioner shall be nominated and elected exclusively by the voters of the commissioner district in which the candidate resides. No countywide vote shall be held for County Commissioner positions. This provision shall apply to all elections held after January 1, 2026."

Argument in Favor of District-Only Voting

Clallam County is geographically and culturally diverse. From Forks to Sequim, Neah Bay to Clallam Bay, each region has unique priorities. Yet under the current system, a candidate running to represent one district must win a **countywide election** — meaning voters from other districts can override the will of the district's own residents. That's not representation. That's regional veto power.

In **2015**, Clallam County voters **approved district-only elections** by a wide margin — **63%**. They wanted each district to choose its own commissioner, just as voters in state legislative districts or congressional districts do. That system was clear and democratic: live in a district, vote in that district.

But in **2020**, an amendment changed that, reverting to a system where commissioners are **nominated by district but elected countywide** — a confusing and arguably undemocratic hybrid. It means voters in Port Angeles (District 2) and Sequim (District 1) can effectively decide who represents the West End (District 3), even if District 3 voters support someone else.

This isn't hypothetical. In the **2022 commissioner race**, there is concern that **Districts 1 and 2 outvoted District 3** — potentially swinging the election outcome against the will of the very people that commissioner was supposed to represent.

Meanwhile, the Charter Review Commission's **2025 community survey**, with over **1,400 participants**, found that **74% of respondents want district-only voting restored**. That's not just a majority — that's an overwhelming mandate.

Common Myths — and the Facts:

- **Myth:** “Countywide voting ensures commissioners think about the whole county.”
Fact: Commissioners already must comply with the county charter, budget processes, and public disclosure laws. Local priorities differ — and the best way to represent all of Clallam County is to let each district **choose someone who understands their needs**, not someone who appeals to voters 50 miles away.
- **Myth:** “It's like voting for the governor — everyone gets a say.”
Fact: No one outside your district votes for **your** state senator or legislator. In fact, few counties in Washington State use this nominate-by-district, elect-countywide model — it's a relic from another era that most counties have moved away from.

The Fix is Simple:

Let District 1 elect its commissioner. Let District 2 do the same. And let District 3 — with its unique rural needs — choose its own voice without outside interference.

The voters have said it before. They're saying it again now. It's time to listen — and return to **district-only voting**.

Gores, Loni

From: Tozzer, Jeff
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 2:34 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Charter Amendment: Elected Officials and NGOs

Hi Loni, Could you please distribute to all 15? Thanks.

Dear Executive Committee. I would like to add this proposed charter amendment to the agenda of our next meeting. I'll need about 5 minutes to present it.

Thanks,

Jeff

Proposed Charter Amendment: Prohibit County Officials from Serving on Boards of NGOs that Benefit from the County

Title:

Amendment to Prevent Conflicts of Interest by Restricting County Officials from Serving on Certain Nonprofit Boards

Ballot Text (for submission to the Auditor):

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to prohibit County Commissioners and other elected officials from serving on the boards of nonprofit organizations that receive direct funding, contracts, or in-kind support from the County, in order to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure impartial governance?

Proposed Language to be Added to the Clallam County Charter (if adopted):

“No elected official of Clallam County shall serve as a board member, officer, or trustee of any nonprofit organization that receives direct financial compensation, contracts, grants, or in-kind benefits from Clallam County. If an elected official is selected, appointed, or elected to such a position, they must resign from either the nonprofit or their public office within 30 days. Failure to do so constitutes a disqualifying conflict of interest.”

Argument in Favor of the Amendment: Protect Public Trust, Eliminate Conflicts of Interest

County government must serve the public—not private boards. Yet under current rules, elected officials—including County Commissioners—can sit on nonprofit boards that receive funding or benefits from the very government they help control. That’s a textbook conflict of interest.

This amendment fixes that. It would prevent county officials from serving on the boards of **any nonprofit that receives county money**, whether through grants, contracts, or in-kind assistance. Officials must choose: represent the public, or represent the nonprofit—not both.

The **Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC)**, which advises Washington governments, warns against this exact problem. MRSC notes that nonprofit board membership can trigger violations of conflict-of-interest laws, particularly when funding or contractual decisions are involved. It urges transparency, abstention, and, in many cases, avoidance altogether.

Likewise, the **National Association of Counties (NACo)** emphasizes that county leaders must avoid any situation that compromises their obligation to the public good. Even unpaid nonprofit board service can blur loyalties.

This amendment isn't about punishing civic involvement—it's about **drawing a bright ethical line**. When commissioners vote on budgets, contracts, or grants, we must be 100% sure they're doing so without bias or split allegiances.

Imagine if a judge also served on the board of a law firm appearing in their courtroom. We'd call that unethical. The same logic applies here.

Good governance demands independence. This simple amendment ensures elected officials serve only one master: **the people**.

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Richards, Ron; Walde, Cathy; Fane, Alex
Subject: Coroner meeting minutes

Loni

On 5-13-25 at about 1pm, the coroner committee met in the Clallam County EOC to review and discuss the resolution moving the coroner amendment forward to the auditor and legal. The meeting was "Zoomed" and recorded. No one remained online for comment.

Commissioners Richards, Fane and Walde were in attendance along with myself.

After discussing a draft resolution authored by Comm. Richards, the committee edited it some and voted unanimously to move the new draft forward to the CRC for a Commission vote.

We adjourned about 2pm.

Ron

Ron Cameron
Charter Review Commission District 2
Clallam County
223 E 4th St
Port Angeles WA 98362
ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov



**Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Coroner Committee
Meeting Notes June 13, 2025**

The Coroner Committee met on May 13, 2025 at 1p.m. in the Clallam County Emergency Operations Center Room 070. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the resolution moving the coroner amendment forward to the Clallam County Auditor and Prosecuting Attorney's Office legal. The meeting was held in person and virtually on Zoom. No one online made comment.

Commissioners Richards, Fane, Walde and Cameron were present.

After discussing a draft resolution authored by Commissioner Richards, the committee made some additional edits and voted unanimously to move the new draft forward to the Charter Review Commissioner for full Commission vote.

The meeting adjourned 2 p.m.

Ron Cameron - Charter Review Commission District 2

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 1:20 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Notice - June 25
Attachments: 06-25-25 CRC Water Committee Agenda full copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Water Committee meeting notice for June 25:

- 1) Water Committee meeting notice on June 25 at 9 a.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

June 25, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- 9:00 Meeting called to order. Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.
- 9:05 Public Comments
- 9:15 Review of the Charter Review Commission input
- 10:00 Discussion on how to proceed with proposed amendment
- 11:15 Public Comments
- 11:25 Next steps
- 11:30 Adjourn

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on June 25, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Holy, Christy
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 5:17 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Sarmiento, Nina
Subject: Notes from Water Committee Meeting 6.18.25
Attachments: Notes from Water Committee Meeting - 6.18.25.docx

Hi Loni,

Please distribute.

Thanks,
Commissioner Holy

Notes from Water Committee Meeting - 9 am, Wednesday, June 18, 2025

In Commissioner Pickett's absence, Commissioners Richards and Holy asked Commissioner Sarmiento to run the meeting. Commissioner Holy will take notes.

Call to Order – 9:01 am

Action – Motion to approve minutes – Commissioner Richards. Commissioner Holy seconded.

Action – Motion to approve agenda – Commissioner Richards. Commissioner Holy seconded.

Public Comment –

Laurie M. – The agenda states “regarding County water management” – Wanted to know what management they are to perform. Concerned if the committee wants the Dungeness Rule to apply to the entire county. Frustrated that she feels like she's getting no response to her concerns.

Business – Discussion on how to proceed

Commissioner Richards – confirmed that we will not be trying to enforce the Dungeness water rule county-wide. He added additional information to the amendment the committee was previously working on. He submitted it for discussion, review, and editing.

Commissioner Sarmiento – noted that one change Commissioner Richards made was to have the specialist submit info to the county administrator vs. the county commissioners.

Commissioner Richards – in order to keep this position apolitical, he came up with bidding process reviewed by 9 individuals who would rank bids and the commissioners would choose between the top 3 bids. This is a lot cheaper than doing nothing.

Commissioner Sarmiento – noted that the bidding process could have flaws, as the personal services contract could be awarded to the highest bidder.

Commissioner Holy – noted that the bidding process was a creative way to solve the problem, but it might be too complex to put in the charter.

Commissioners agreed to go back to the version created at our last meeting and work through it, per Commissioner Sarmiento's suggestion. They discussed the fact that the second version may be weakened by not including the hydrologist language, and that the biggest change is an ad hoc committee of 9 versus 7.

Commissioner Richards – favors 9, because he sees a need for an odd number, a need for a citizen who is a member of the tribe and reps from the West End. He ran it by Mr. Corrado for advice and additions.

The Commissioners decided that the bidding process was a fluid idea, which would solve the problems associated with making sure that this individual is someone who can act independently from political or biased oversight. They agreed to keep the hydrologist/description of expertise language from the version provided in the June 9th email from Commissioner Pickett, and to keep the second sentence from Commissioner Richard's version.

Commissioner Sarmiento – presented her research about how other counties handle the water steward issue. She will include her findings in the report made to the Commission at the June 23rd meeting.

Commissioner Sarmiento – stated that the committee now needed to discuss the bidding process and how many people we want on the committee

Action – Motion to strike the language about the specialist reporting to the BOCC – Commissioner Holy. Commissioner Sarmiento seconded.

Commissioner Sarmiento – suggested that we keep the number of ad hoc committee members at 7.

Commissioner Holy – suggested that we could take out the language about a person with knowledge of the forest industry and the person with fish and wildlife interests, because those are already represented by the DCD.

Commissioner Richards – suggested 7, with the DCD selecting two members and the BOCC selecting two members.

Action – Motion to strike words independent, nonpartisan – Commissioner Sarmiento. Commissioner Holy seconded.

The Commissioners discussed the need to keep this person independent, and ultimately agreed that the bidding process was a better option to having the BOCC hire the individual. Commissioner Richards reinforced the idea that the charter includes nine implementing ordinances already, and all the language he has written regarding implementation should stay in the amendment.

Commissioner Holy – suggested that in order to keep the charter language concise, we should present our charter amendment calling for a committee to approve the specialist, but that all the rest of the language in Commissioner Richards' version should be used to

draft recommendations to the county commissioners as to how they should implement the charter amendment.

Discussion of what to present at the Monday meeting

Action – Motion to strike the sentence after “through a personal services contract bidding procedure”, and put the rest into a draft recommendation to the BOCC – Commissioner Sarmiento. Commissioner Holy seconded. The vote was 2 to 1 in favor of the motion, with Commissioner Richards casting the dissenting vote, due to the fact that he wants to include the language creating an entity vs. an individual, and he thinks we need to specifically limit the cost.

Next Steps

Commissioner Sarmiento will present a report to the CRC on Monday, June 23rd, including presenting Draft 1 of the amendment to create a water specialist, a draft of a recommendation to the BOCC with the remaining language from Commissioner Richards’ version, and a report about how other counties handle similar issues. She will create the drafts, making sure to underline everything and have no strike-outs. She will also welcome feedback from the rest of the CRC as to ideas about the bidding process and language which should be included in the actual charter amendment, and which should be better included as a recommendation to the BOCC.

Public Comment

CGH (Carrie) – Creating the amendment and then the recommendation is a bad idea. Not being intentional is like writing a blank check to the BOCC, and BOCC does not uphold the charter. She wants to hear more info about how to fund the position with no property tax increases.

Tony Corrado – Thinks the committee has come a long way. Agrees that we should keep the language in the charter about the ad hoc committee and how to implement it. He thinks the recommendations for bids will speak for themselves, and we will not need to state a cap in the charter.

Scheduling Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 25th at 9 am in Room 160

Action – Motion to adjourn – Commissioner Richards – 11:31

Gores, Loni

From: Shawn Hines <shines@jamestowntribe.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Paul Pickett
Cc: Richards, Ron; Gores, Loni
Subject: 6/11/25 DRMT Meeting Follow-up
Attachments: DRMT Cover Letter - WRTG Recommendations Summary.pdf; Dungeness Water Resources Planning Recommendations Summary Report_Approved.pdf; APPENDIX to Summary Report_Approved.pdf

Hello Paul,

The DRMT appreciated Mr. Richards' update about the CRC Water Committee at last week's DRMT meeting. Mr. Richards informed that the CRC Water Committee is considering a proposed charter amendment regarding a potential water resources specialist, and that many details are yet to be determined.

During the update and discussion, the DRMT recognized that the information and recommendations in our 2022 water resources assessment are relevant to the CRC Water Committee's deliberations. On behalf of the DRMT, please find attached a related cover letter, *Dungeness Water Resources Planning - Recommendations Summary and Appendix*, developed by the DRMT's water resources committee and approved by the DRMT in 2022. Please share with the CRC and Water Committee.

The DRMT welcomes related future updates from the CRC Water Committee.

Thank you,

Shawn Hines
DRMT Agenda Coordinator
shines@jamestowntribe.org



Dungeness River Management Team

Cooperative Management of Our Watershed's Resources

Coordinated by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County 1033

Old Blyn Highway • Sequim, WA 98382 • (360) 683-1109

August 29, 2022

Dear Dungeness Friends and Community,

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) is pleased to share the attached *Dungeness Water Resources Planning – Recommendations Summary (2022)* and *Appendix*, as recommended by the Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group (WRTG) on June 3, 2022 and approved by the DRMT on August 10, 2022. These documents are the culminating effort of the WRTG, a temporary committee formed by the DRMT to identify and discuss existing and needed tools for planning for the effects of climate change, which are already impacting our water resources.

Basically, this six-month collaborative process involved the committee meeting twice per month to address the question of: *What planning tools and information do we need now to prepare for a relatively near future with increasingly vulnerable water availability for humans, fish and wildlife in the Dungeness Watershed?*

Community members, local and regional groups and/or governments are all encouraged to continue the WRTG's momentum by reading the recommendations and acting on any that call to you personally or align with your organization's Mission. If you do begin work on any of the priority recommendations, the DRMT would appreciate monthly updates to help us maintain a community bulletin board of progress. The DRMT also has some volunteer "Resource Team" members available to answer questions, share resources and help further the progress on these priorities.

For further information, please consider attending the monthly DRMT meetings (2:00pm, second Wednesdays) at the Dungeness River Nature Center or via Zoom. Updates on the 13 topics identified within the report will remain as a "standing item" for discussion on future DRMT agendas.

The Dungeness River needs you and we need it!

Sincerely,

*Dungeness River Management Team
Dungeness River Management Executive Committee
Dungeness Water Resources Work Group*

"Climate change is real."

— Ron Allen, CEO/Chair, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Speaking at Earth Day Celebration
Port Angeles City Pier, April 23, 2022



Dungeness Watershed, Summer 2019 Drought
Photo Credit: Washington Department of Ecology

Dungeness Water Resources Planning Recommendations Summary

Prepared for:
Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT)

Prepared by:
Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group
June 2022

Approved by DRMT: August 10, 2022

1. Introduction

On January 12, 2022, the Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) formed the Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group (WRTG), a new Committee of the DRMT. The DRMT Executive Committee (EC) recommended this action¹ based on the need to identify and discuss priority water resource management topics in the context of current and future effects of climate change in the DRMT's Focus Area. The initial timeline suggested for the WRTG's effort was four to six months, in which members would research and propose relevant topics, meet regularly for related discussion and deliberation, seek expert opinion/review when possible, and culminate with a set of agreed-upon² recommendations to be provided to the full DRMT for potential further action.

The WRTG is comprised of the following membership and representations as nominated or volunteered during the DRMT's January 12, 2022, monthly meeting:

Member	Affiliation	Member Status
Chitwood, Scott	Former Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe NR Director Former DRMT Chair	Active
Corrado, Tony	Protect the Peninsula's Future Chair, Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group	Active
Creasey, Carol	Clallam County Water Resources Program Manager/Hydrogeologist	Active
Hals, Hansi	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Director, DRMT Chair	Active
Hines, Shawn	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Watershed Planner	Active
Holtrop, Joe	Clallam Conservation District Former Executive Director	Active
Knapp, Robert	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Environmental Planning Manager	Active
Martin, Tom	Clallam PUD #1 Water and Wastewater Systems Manager	Active
Scagliotti, Alex	Graysmarsh Wildlife and Natural Resource Manager	Active
Soule, Ann	City of Sequim Hydrogeologist, Resource Manager	Active
Vail, Lance	Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society Hydrologist	Active

¹ Per the DRMT's Operating Procedures (2018).

² Ground Rules, established at WRTG's first meeting, January 28, 2022, state that voting requires a quorum (defined as 50% + 1), and that in the absence of a consensus, a majority vote prevails.

These eleven members, many of whom have extensive planning and/or technical experience working in the Dungeness or other watersheds, were designated as **Active**, voting members³. The WRTG appointed Tony Corrado, of Protect the Peninsula's Future, to be the group's Chair.

An additional six members were designated as **Technical/Advisory** members, from whom the WRTG sought review and commentary on specific topics relevant to their areas of expertise:

Member	Affiliation	Member Status
Gallagher, Mike, LHG	Washington Department of Ecology Water Resources Program Section Manager	Technical/Advisory
Lea, Jolyne	Natural Resource Conservation Service Hydrologist	Technical/Advisory
Miller, Ian, PhD	Washington Sea Grant/University of Washington Coastal Hazards Specialist	Technical/Advisory
Murphy, Ryan	Point No Point Treaty Council Climate Change Action Analyst	Technical/Advisory
Schwartzman, Peter	Mott Macdonald Principal Hydrogeologist	Technical/Advisory
Smith, Ben	Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association President	Technical/Advisory

Comments provided by Technical/Advisory members were either incorporated into the Recommendations in this summary report (and in the Topic pages in the Appendix) or added to the WRTG Comments sections in the Topic pages of the Appendix.

Following a collaborative process, including nine Zoom meetings attended by the Active members approximately every other week between January 28 and June 3, 2022, the Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group now presents this record of their methodology and culminating recommendations to the DRMT for follow-up actions.

2. Context

Most comprehensive water resources studies within the Dungeness Watershed area were conducted at least 10 years ago. The Dungeness Water Management and Instream Flow Rule (Chapter 173-518 WAC) was adopted in late 2012 and went into effect shortly thereafter, in January of 2013 (Washington State Legislature, 2012). The Rule was informed by the Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Management Plan (2005), which was prepared over a period of several years prior to Rule adoption with data preceding that. Population growth, development, metering of new wells, piping of leaky irrigation ditches, implementation of shallow aquifer recharge projects, changes in the amount of impervious surface, and other landscape or land-use changes have the potential to significantly affect watershed hydrology and water supplies.

³ Note that the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) affiliations were limited to a single, collective vote representing JST.

Water demand due to population growth is expected to increase, and water shortages are possible, especially coupled with current and future climate change impacts. Recent modeling suggests that Olympic Peninsula glaciers will be completely melted by 2070 (Fountain, 2022). The accuracy of water supply and consumption predictions based on previous studies has not been validated; however, assumptions about parameters used in future predictions may need updating.

While the effects of climate change on the area's water supply are impossible to precisely predict, some are already evident. For example, 35 glaciers and 16 perennial snowfields in the Olympic mountains have disappeared since 1980 due to warming air temperatures (Fountain, 2022). Other effects manifest as changes in storm severity and timing; total precipitation and annual temperature extremes; lower and earlier peak summertime stream flows; and shifting growing conditions for farming. It is vital that these parameters and changing trends be better understood, that previous assumptions be checked and updated, and that monitoring be augmented so that we may better plan for watershed resiliency to both short- and long-term climate-related extremes.

The DRMT tasked the WRTG with identifying what is most needed to update our knowledge of the current and future state of water resources within the Dungeness Basin. Following a collaborative process, the WRTG presents this document summarizing the group's methodology and culminating recommendations to the DRMT for follow-up actions.

3. Objectives

The WRTG's Mission Statement, as refined at their second meeting (February 11, 2022), is as follows:

To offer recommendations to the DRMT regarding specific studies of water supply and water demand/streamflow needs for the purpose of updating water resource management tools in the Dungeness watershed.

The initial concept from the EC specified that the WRTG would identify the most relevant water management questions for our area that could be answered (with further research and/or study) within one to three years. The EC provided the WRTG an initial list of concerns (EC 2022) for consideration in bolstering future water resources planning. The initial list included the following main categories:

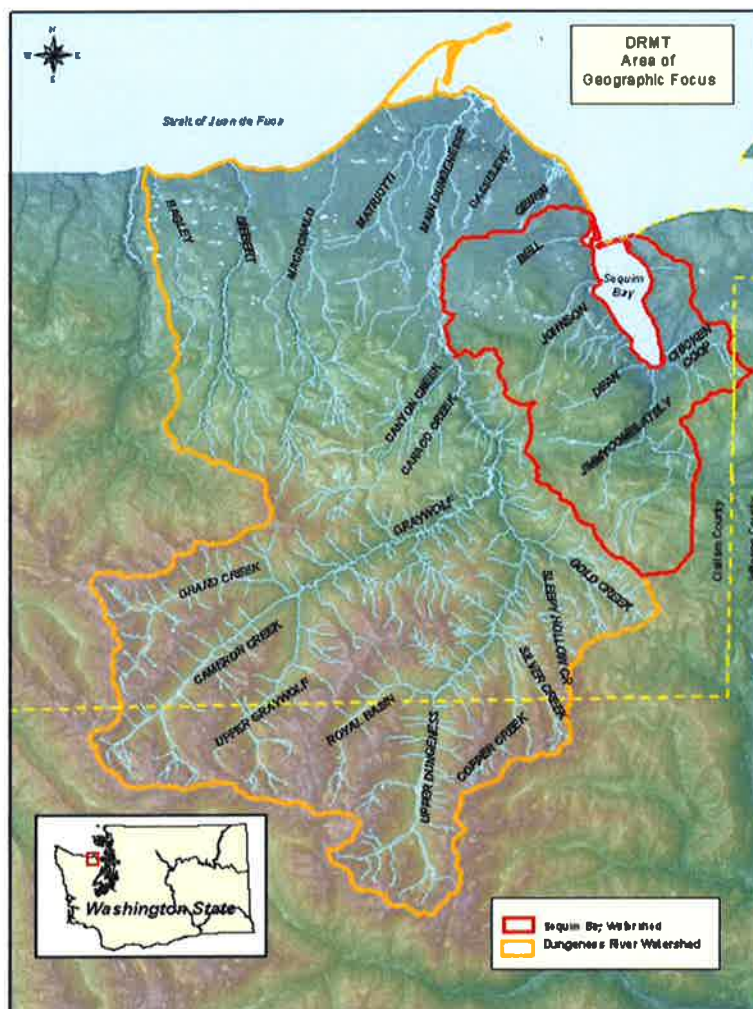
- 3.1 What is the most essential data/information to obtain?
- 3.2 What are the most essential technical studies?
- 3.3 What are the most essential management tools (new or updated)?

The WRTG used the list as a starting point and guide for discussing local water resources information, resources, and data gaps; and then formulated its own list of topics and recommendations for further action (see Section 6).

4. Spatial Domain

The spatial domain for the recommendations is the DRMT Focus Area (see Figure 1), which includes East Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 18 and the Sequim Bay drainage in West WRIA 17, as defined in the Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan (2005). This area includes the Dungeness River Watershed (or, the Sequim-Dungeness Watershed) and those waters influenced by it through the irrigation system, streams draining into Sequim Bay, and the groundwater and aquifers beneath these surficial areas. The impact on fish and wildlife dependent upon or affected by estuaries and marine areas receiving drainage from these watersheds or sub-watersheds is also an essential concern for this group.

Figure 1: DRMT Focus Area



5. Topics

The WRTG identified 13 water resources topics of focus, listed at right in the order they were discussed and as they were labeled by the group.

Categorization

Among the 13 topics, themes emerged around the availability and use of relevant hydrologic data; the status of or need for climate-related predictive tools and models; as well as some general interest concerns related to climate change impacts. These themes are represented as Categories alongside their associated list of topics in the following table.

WRTG topics of focus listed in the order they were discussed.

- 6.1 Updated Ground Water Characterization
- 6.2 Expanded Monitoring Programs
- 6.3 Characterization of 4th Aquifer
- 6.4 Updated Water Demand Projections
- 6.5 Climate Research on Impacts to Fish
- 6.6 Community Support through Public Outreach
- 6.7 Interactive Hydrologic Map
- 6.8 Comprehensive, Integrated Forecasting Model
- 6.9 Saltwater Intrusion Studies
- 6.10 Expanded Snowpack Study
- 6.11 Mitigating Potential Use of 4th Aquifer
- 6.12 Shallow Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness
- 6.13 Future Water Sourcing Studies

Category A Information and Data Enhancement	6.1 Updated Groundwater Characterization 6.2 Expanded Monitoring Programs 6.3 Characterization of 4 th Aquifer 6.4 Updated Water Demand Projections 6.10 Expanded Snowpack Study 6.11 Mitigating Potential Use of 4 th Aquifer 6.12 Shallow Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness
Category B Enhanced Models/Tools	6.3 Characterization of 4 th Aquifer 6.7 Interactive Hydrologic Map 6.8 Comprehensive, Integrated Forecasting Model
Category C General Interest	6.5 Climate Research on Impacts to Fish 6.6 Community Support through Public Outreach 6.9 Saltwater Intrusion Studies 6.13 Future Water Sourcing Studies

While all the topics/recommendations are considered crucial to both near- and long-term resource planning, some, such as those in **Category A**, may be near-term attainable and perhaps addressed by existing, local responsible agencies in conjunction with state and/or federal entities. These include increased monitoring, surveillance, and compilation of planning data. **Category B** topics include longer term tasks, such as improved and enhanced modeling, due to their required planning, funding, and determination of leadership and responsible agencies. It is considered essential that the recommended modeling tools be initiated as soon as possible, as

they may require years of effort and validation. The remaining recommendations fall into **Category C**, and as do all the recommendations, support the WRTG's objective to improve understanding about our water resources.

Urgency

The topics and associated recommendations are considered urgent due to the following factors:

1. Climate change induced events are already occurring. For example, watersheds in the Pacific Northwest have experienced peak streamflow (i.e., snowmelt runoff events) shifts to earlier in the spring (Snover et. al., 2013). WRTG considers the near-term period of 0-5 years to be critical.
2. These impacts could manifest as shortages in the availability of water for human consumption and other uses, for irrigation in farming and ranching; and as critical low stream flows affecting aquatic life, particularly spawning salmon.

Crews installing rock dams in the Dungeness River to help fish move upstream during the 2015 Drought.



The recommendations were developed in recognition of the fact that the DRMT Focus Area is dependent on local, annualized precipitation (occurring as rain and snow) for sustaining surface-water (streamflows) and recharging groundwater aquifers. Precipitation amounts are highly seasonal. Winter snowpack accumulation has historically provided the substantial portion of the annual sustaining water resource as it melts in the spring, and flows and percolates into summer. Figure 2 below, although representing 42-year-old (and earlier) data, illustrates the consistent and necessary summer “bump” in the hydrograph of Dungeness River flow, which coincides with months having little rain. However, already declining annual snowpack accumulations continue to diminish and melt earlier due to global warming. Annual rainfall, affected by the area's microclimates and the rainshadow from the Olympic Mountains, has supplemented this snow-melt resource, but annual patterns for rain are also changing. Studies anticipate rainfall to become more variable, and possibly decline, during the critical summer/dry season. As summarized in the local *Climate Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula* (Peterson, S. et. al., 2015): “Changing snowpack, frequent drought periods, and lower summer precipitation may decrease water supply and increase competition for water resources between in-stream flows and ecosystem needs, water access for vulnerable populations, industrial access, and agricultural use”.

Figure 2: Long-Term* Dungeness River Hydrograph and Average Monthly Precipitation

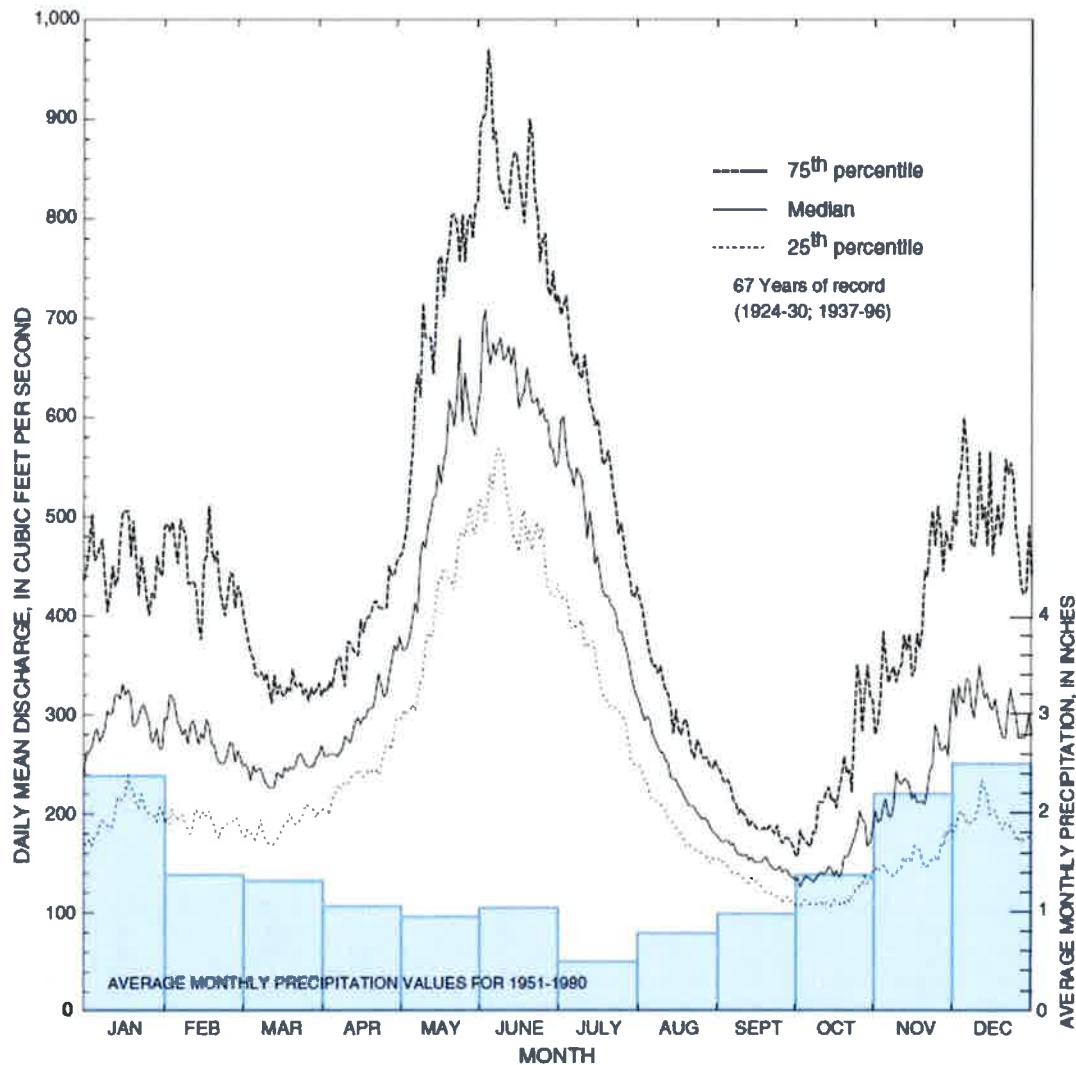


Figure Credit: Figure 5 in Simonds and Sinclair, 2002. Discharge data from U.S. Geological Survey stream-gaging station 12048000 and precipitation data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1982).

**Note, while Figure 2 is the most current such illustration, both the hydrograph and the average monthly precipitation graph should be updated with the most current available data. See related recommendations in Section 6 (Topics 6.1 and 6.2).*

The importance of updating our understanding and characterization of the area's water resources at this time derives from the need to: include new information about what we currently know about and anticipate for climate change in this area; incorporate population land use changes in recent decades; and update assumptions used in water management tools to plan for the near- and long-term future.

6. Recommendations

The topics and associated recommendations are summarized in the table below in the order they were discussed by the WRTG. The **Appendix** to this Recommendations Summary provides further detail on each topic, including the basis for each recommendation, individual WRTG comments, as well as topic references and additional resources.

A “*Volunteer Resource Team*” subject line is included underneath each topic header, the intent being to solicit volunteer expertise and interested parties to collaborate on advancing or implementing the recommended actions associated with each topic. Some WRTG members have already added their names to these lists, but additional volunteers are needed.

6.1 Updated Groundwater Characterization <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Ann Soule (additional volunteers needed)</i>
1. An effort should be undertaken to assess the current status of groundwater aquifer levels within the Dungeness watershed area. This effort should include identifying optimal well measurement locations and frequencies, and implementing continuous, automated water level monitoring and reporting. 2. Data analyses, similar to those performed by the USGS (Thomas, 1999) and by Pacific Groundwater Group (2009), including a revised (current) water budget, should include the relationship between aquifer levels, precipitation, recharge from the upland watershed region across the southern boundary of the existing numerical model, other forms of recharge, ground-surface water interactions, imported/exported water, discharge to salt water, and withdrawals. 3. An analysis of available groundwater chemistry information should be compiled in a database to provide a snapshot of water chemistry and then evaluated over time to determine parameters and regions of concern.
6.2 Expanded Monitoring Programs <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Streamkeepers (suggested); (additional volunteers needed)</i>
1. A listing of historic data sources and current monitoring programs related to water resources should be created and be available online for reference and easy access. Key gaps should be highlighted and addressed. 2. An effort should be undertaken to create an historical graphical profile based on detailed measurements that show the trend lines for all forms of precipitation, including snowpack, rainfall along with streamflow. This information should be updated continuously as data becomes available and be provided to decision makers and include potential, near-term, weather impacts based on the historical profiles.

3. A standard format, collection time period and graphical interface should be established so this complete data set can be displayed as overlays of the selected display parameters.
4. Initiate an expanded groundwater monitoring program, according to results of groundwater status assessment and analyses (Recommendations in Section 6.1).

6.3 Characterization of Fourth Aquifer *Volunteer Resource Team: (volunteers needed)*

1. Compile any existing and new data from the Weyerhaeuser, Dungeness Spit, "Carlsborg Very Deep Well" (on Van Lan parcel), Graysmarsh, and any other deep wells drilled into or almost into Aquifer 4.
2. Define the geographical locations, geological character, predictive water quantity, recharge capabilities and expected demand requirements for the deep aquifer and incorporate data from Recommendation 1, above.
3. Guided by existing and new Aquifer 4 data and monitoring experience, design a combined study to monitor detectable impacts on all levels of the aquifer system to determine the interactions which may result when the 4th Aquifer is utilized as added supply.
4. An analysis should be undertaken to determine the permeability of multiple confining layers among all aquifers.
5. A study should be conducted to determine the nature of the water in the 4th Aquifer to determine its source age. The intent of such a study, possibly using carbon dating or nuclear isotope techniques, is to enable more accurate recharge predictions.

6.4 Updated Water Demand Projections *Volunteer Resource Team: Student volunteers (suggested); (additional volunteers needed)*

1. An effort should be undertaken to compile available data on current water consumption by all sectors (e.g., residential, agricultural, commercial/industrial) on a monthly basis, and population changes on a quarterly basis (or monthly, if possible).
A comparison analysis should be conducted of the actual data (from Recommendation #1) to that which was historically projected for water demand and population growth during the same timeframe.
2. Using results from the above analyses, and incorporating additional relevant information (e.g., metering data, climate change projections, land use changes, fish and wildlife water needs, etc.), updated estimates of future water demand (e.g., at 5, 20, 50 years) should be prepared for review.
3. Metering records should be aggregated and analyzed to determine the current volume of water used per dwelling and/or household and applied to any future demand projections.

6.5 Climate Research on Impacts on Fish <i>Volunteer Resource Team: (volunteers needed)</i>
1. The climate change impact research (stream modeling) efforts initiated by PNPTC to predict impacts of warming scenarios on fish habitat should be supported and continued, including proposed next phases incorporating riparian vegetation impacts on stream temperatures, and changes to peak streamflow events. 2. A study task should be added to determine the potential climate change impacts on birds and land-dwelling animals. 3. A study task should be added to include the addition of temperature sensing, ideally in a variety of different stream settings (e.g., riffles, pools, shaded vs. unshaded, etc.) to obtain data on more relevant stream flows.
6.6 Community Support through Public Outreach <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Ann Soule (Water Column Blog), Dungeness River Nature Center Staff (suggested), Clallam League of Women Voters (Story of Water Presentations, suggested); (additional volunteers needed)</i>
1. A coordinated effort, inclusive of the water manager community (CCD, City, County, JST, WUA, etc.) should be undertaken to intentionally improve and build upon community support within the Dungeness basin. Such efforts should include public education opportunities, volunteer outreach, public forums, events (e.g. booth at irrigation fest, short films about the Dungeness), as well as promoting previously successful outreach efforts (such as The Story of Water Lecture Series, The Water Column Blog, and the Dungeness River Nature Center's classes), etc. 2. Consider updating and redistributing Ecology's 2011/2012 Dungeness Water Watch series and Ecology's 2010 A Guide to Water and How We Use It in the Dungeness Watershed and establishing a designated program for new and continued public outreach on basic water resources topics relevant to this area. 3. Consider developing, as an outreach demonstration tool, a 3-D digital animation of the watershed that shows (and quantifies) changes to the amount of land surface area available for snow "storage" at different elevations (i.e., as snow elevation increases with global warming, there is less surface area for snowpack storage). 4. As part of an existing or new curriculum on climate change for elementary and middle school, add an element to convey changes in glaciers, rivers and other water resources in the Pacific Northwest due to global warming and relate these changes with the pace of human settlement in this area.

6.7 Interactive Hydrologic Map <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Alex Scagliotti; (additional volunteers needed)</i>
1. A groundwater database should be developed for the DRMT Focus Area. Using this data, an ArcGIS map should be created that displays, through a colorimetric scale, groundwater influent/effluent reaches of Dungeness basin streams and open irrigation canals. The tool should provide the capability of viewing a variety of layers, including at minimum one representative of typical irrigation season conditions, and one representative of off-season conditions. A map of the basin's recharge/discharge zones could then be referenced to support sustainable water management planning (see Data/Reference section for examples of such maps). 2. Well water depths in Aquifers 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be monitored continuously and the data included as a layer option on the ArcGIS map. The wells should be located across the Dungeness watershed, be equipped with pressure transducers and communicate wirelessly with a central data collecting entity. All available historic and current data, from as many wells as possible, should be included. Example of one use for this tool: • Relative elevations of groundwater could be compared to median background conditions based on current well monitoring plans (hopefully this will be expanded in the future) ○ Interpolations can be made for areas between wells to display a general groundwater elevation map of the basin ○ Baseline conditions are based on historic levels and not "the new normal" ○ If connected to a central database, these maps can be automatically updated with annual inputs of new data
6.8 Comprehensive, Integrated Forecasting Model <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Tony Corrado; (additional volunteers needed)</i>
It is recommended that a feasibility study be initiated to determine if an integrated, data-based, predictive model can be developed to provide a continuous, seasonally based forecast of Dungeness River streamflow correlated to climate effects.
6.9 Saltwater Intrusion Studies <i>Volunteer Resource Team: (volunteers needed)</i>
An effort should be undertaken to obtain additional information on the extent of seawater intrusion along the coastline; identify seawater intrusion susceptible lands; and use the data to plan/develop policies/programs to protect ecosystems and aquifer integrity. Specific tasks would include: a. Design and implement a coastal well sampling program for chloride (at minimum), salinity, and water levels in wells identified 0.5 miles inland from the coast.

- b. Use sampling results and climatic events (such as sea-level rise and/or storm surges) to identify location, extent, and severity of seawater intrusion impacts.
- c. Assess vulnerability of wells and septic systems in seawater intrusion susceptible areas and develop regulations and policies for new and old development that protect public health/drinking water and conserve/restore ecosystems.

6.10 Expanded Snowpack Study

Volunteer Resource Team: Lance Vail, Ann Soule; (additional volunteers needed)

1. An effort should be undertaken to quantify the year-round ice and permanent snowfields in the upper Dungeness watershed.
2. Produce a report on estimated water supply derived from ice and snow melt over time, as it relates to summertime streamflow in the Dungeness River. The expected pace of permanent ice/snowfield decline should be included as a basis of this effort.
3. Relate estimated future streamflow in the Dungeness River to volume of aquifer recharge - annually, seasonally, or monthly.
4. Establish an online, real-time reporting tool for snow/ice parameters useful to Dungeness water managers in the future.

6.11 Mitigating Potential Use of the 4th Aquifer

Volunteer Resource Team: (volunteers needed)

1. A new analysis, or adjustments to Ecology's current Mitigation Calculator ("Lookup Table"), should be considered to improve predictability of mitigation requirements⁴ for potential developers of water supplies from "Unit 6" (the undifferentiated unconsolidated deposits, which includes the 4th Aquifer).
2. The County and PUD proposed a new method to estimate the impacts of pumping from Aquifer 4. The method uses new data collected from the drilling and testing of the Carlsborg Very Deep Well (the "Van-Lan Well") and data from the existing Mitigation Calculator. This method should be considered in evaluating the [Draft Mitigation Plan](#) for the PUD's specific (2006) water right application for expansion of the retail service area of their Carlsborg Water System.
3. An analysis should be undertaken to represent the 4th Aquifer in the Dungeness Model (to the extent that its occurrence is understood to be an "uncertainty analysis" based on various possible configurations) and then the model should be used to estimate mitigation requirement(s)⁵ for pumping from the 4th Aquifer.

⁴ Any update to the current mitigation analysis should be considered along with the original guiding principles for managing water in the WRIA 18 East – Dungeness Watershed set for in the February 15, 2011, Cooperators' Agreement (Clallam County, WUA, Ecology, 2011) and supported by the Jamestown-S'Klallam Tribe (JST, 2011).

⁵ Ecology requires mitigation to be in compliance with WAC 173-518-070(3)(a)(i) and -518-070(3)(c).

6.12 Shallow Aquifer Recharge Effectiveness <i>Volunteer Resource Team: Joe Holtrop, Alex Scagliotti, Lance Vail (adaptive management perspective), Ecology EAP Program Staff (suggested); (additional volunteers needed)</i>
The shallow aquifer recharge (SAR) facilities installed over the past few years should be analyzed to determine how effectively they are achieving the intended objectives of mitigating the impacts of new well use and benefiting streamflows.
6.13 Future Water Sourcing Studies <i>Volunteer Resource Team: (volunteers needed)</i>
A study should be undertaken to consider future sources of water that can supplement existing sources. This study should include desalination, additional use of processed sewage effluent, and additional storage (above ground or underground) facilities.

Please see the **Appendix** to this **Recommendations Summary** for further detail on the **Background**, **WRTG Comments** (by individual members), and **References** related to each of the 13 topics.

7. References⁶

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DRMT. 2018. DRMT Operating Procedures.

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Fountain, Andrew. 2022. [Glaciers of the Olympic Mountains, Washington – the past and future 100 years](#). Journal of Geophysical Research, Earth Surface. Volume 127, Issue 4.

Petersen, S., Bell, J., Miller, I., Jayne, C., Dean, K., Fougere, M., 2015. Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula. A Project of the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council and the Washington Department of Commerce, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. Available: www.noprce.org.

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Washington Department of Ecology. June 6, 2019. Photo on Blog Post: *Olympic Peninsula classified as being in severe drought by federal drought monitor*). URL: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Blog/Posts/June-2019/Olympic-Peninsula-classified-as-being-in-severe-dr>

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⁶ Please see the **Appendix** for references cited in specific Recommendations, as well as for additional References/Resources relevant to the 13 topics.

APPENDIX
to the
Dungeness Water Resources Planning
Recommendations Summary
Approved by DRMT: August 10, 2022

This **Appendix** provides further detail on the topics and associated recommendations approved by the Dungeness Water Resources Technical Group (WRTG) in the Dungeness Water Resources Planning Recommendations Summary. The topics are organized in the order they were discussed by the WRTG. Each begins with related Recommendation(s) and is followed by three subsections: **Background**, **WRTG Comments**, and **References**. The **Background** subsections generally discuss the basis for the topics and related recommendations. The **WRTG Comments** provide individual member views related to anecdotal information or information for further research; or they represent either policy (which is outside of the WRTG's scope) or an opinion that did not elevate to a group recommendation. The **References** list the works cited in respective topic write-ups, as well as sources of further information, data, studies, or relevant websites for the potential volunteer action leads, or "Resource Teams".

A **Resource Team**' subject line is included for each topic, the intent being to solicit volunteer expertise and interested parties to collaborate on advancing or implementing the recommended actions associated with each topic. Some WRTG members have already added their names to these lists, but additional volunteers are needed.

6.1 UPDATED GROUND WATER CHARACTERIZATION

Volunteer Resource Team (additional volunteers needed):

Ann Soule

Recommendations:

1. An effort should be undertaken to assess the current status of groundwater aquifer levels within the Dungeness watershed area. This effort should include identifying optimal well measurement locations and frequencies, and implementing continuous, automated water level monitoring and reporting.
2. Data analyses, similar to those performed by the USGS (Thomas, 1999) and by Pacific Groundwater Group (2009), including a revised (current) water budget, should include the relationship between aquifer levels, precipitation, recharge from the upland watershed region across the southern boundary of the existing numerical model, other forms of recharge, ground-surface water interactions, imported/exported water, discharge to salt water, and withdrawals.
3. An analysis of available groundwater chemistry information should be compiled in a database to provide a snapshot of water chemistry and then evaluated over time to determine parameters and regions of concern.

Background:

Tracking trends and updating outdated information and assumptions about groundwater levels and movement within the basin is needed. This is especially true as irrigation efficiency projects, shallow aquifer recharge projects, forest management practices, reclaimed water reuse, off-channel storage, increased water usage through development, and other new developments continue to affect the hydrology of the Dungeness watershed. The last comprehensive water study, describing hydrologic conditions across the Dungeness Peninsula, incorporated data collected only through 2007 ([Pacific Groundwater Group, 2009](#)). Further, some of that report's findings may still be relevant today. For example:

17. Groundwater levels in the shallow aquifer have declined at most locations. The greatest declines occurred over several square miles near where Highway 101 crosses the Dungeness River. In this area, groundwater levels declined about 3 to 9 feet from the late 1970s through the mid-1990s and about 8 to 17 feet from 1997 to 2007....

18. Current groundwater level monitoring in the middle aquifer is limited to only 5 wells. Moderate declines between 1997 and 2007 occurred in two areas: 7.7 to 9.7 feet of decline was noted in three wells near Gierin and Bell Creeks (including at the City's Port Williams Wellfield); and 7 feet of decline is noted in a well near Agnew....

The paucity of updated data indicates the need for a new assessment; increased, and perhaps continuous, monitoring of an increased number of wells; and, a correlation analysis among

hydrologic factors to better inform planners about groundwater condition and investigate if trends can be linked to climate change and/or other effects.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Tom Martin]

- Clallam County has initiated a groundwater database, which includes well location, well parameters, and some water chemistry information.
- When Ecology developed the mitigation calculator, they mentioned during public meetings that all models are always wrong, but some are better than others. It is important to acknowledge this, yet always strive for continuous improvement. It may be worthwhile to revisit the historical efforts taken to upgrade the model and assess the incremental improvements of its accuracy and the expansion of its practical applications.

[Ann Soule]

- I would say that models are never perfect but meant to be approximations and neither right nor wrong but helpful in providing tendencies and therefore direction. When finished in 2008, after extensive calibration work and sensitivity analyses, the Dungeness groundwater model was considered by all accounts to be very robust.
- Another common quote used in 2011-12 as the model was becoming more and more embedded in the process for how the rule should require mitigation for new groundwater use was, "live by the model, die by the model." I.e., you have to accept the imperfections if you want to utilize the benefits.
- [5-20-22] I propose we add a feasibility study to conduct an Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey to 6.1 or 6.3. From one image of the data obtainable it appears to distinguish aquifer units, which would be important here. See related links:
 - <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem>
 - <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/upper-midwest-water-science-center/science/airborne-electromagnetic-aem-survey-2022>

[Peter Schwartzman]

- [Regarding #1] This is an entirely worthwhile effort. Is Ecology still monitoring the same network? The City of Sequim issues annual reports for Port Williams monitoring.
- [Regarding #2] Some of these analyses were included in the City's 2008 Hydrologic Monitoring Report. Note that this report was not limited to Sequim's monitoring networks but employed all available data.
- The model report has specific recommendations for further development and improvements, and notes limitations associated with its current design. One significant limitation is simulating the shallow aquifer SYSTEM as a single layer when in fact there are confining units between water-bearing units. There is also still more calibration to be done for inter aquifer connections. Agreed, we should strive for improvement, particularly in areas where we are trying to solve problems or answer questions. We may want to make a separate recommendations document for model improvements, but I will point out opportunities in these existing recommendation documents.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- [Regarding #3] Some of this information is being collected and included in a County GIS database. Our progress has been slow but is ongoing.
- PGG's 2009 report should be updated with the monitoring results from Ecology's well monitoring program and the results from USGS' well cluster at Idea Place in the Carlsborg UGA.

Data/References:

Drost, B.W., 1983, Impact of changes in land use on the ground-water system in the Sequim-Dungeness Peninsula, Clallam County, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 83-4094.

Elwha-Dungeness Planning Unit. 2005. WRIA 18 Watershed Plan. Section 3.1 Water Quantity Recommendations. http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/W18_3.1-WaterQuantity.pdf

Jones, M.A., 1996b, Delineation of hydrogeological units in the lower Dungeness River Basin, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations report 95-4008.

Krautkramer, F.M., 2018, Technical Memorandum Clallam County Department of Community Development hydrogeologic setting pertinent to processing water right application, prepared by Robinson Noble.

Krautkramer, F.M., 2020, Carlsborg Deep Test Well Construction and Testing Report, prepared by Robinson Noble.

Krautkramer, F.M., 2021, Technical Memorandum – Task 2E, Supplemental Testing, prepared for Carol Creasey, Clallam County by Robinson Noble.

Noble, J.B., 1960, A preliminary report on the geology and ground-water resources of the Sequim-Dungeness area, Clallam County, Washington: Olympia, Wash., Washington Department of Conservation, Division of Water Resources, Water Supply Bulletin No. 11.

Pacific Groundwater Group. 1995. Hydrogeologic evaluation and well yield analysis, City of Sequim Stone Well #1, Clallam County, WA.

Pacific Groundwater Group. 2009. City of Sequim 2008 Hydrologic Monitoring Report

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Robinson & Noble, Inc., 1974, Development of a Deep ground Water source for the Weyerhaeuser Seed Orchard at Sequim, WA.

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[Thomas, Blakemore E., et. al. 1999. Hydrogeologic Assessment of the Sequim-Dungeness Area, Clallam County, Washington. USGS Water Resources Investigations Report 99-4048.](#)

6.2 EXPANDED MONITORING PROGRAMS

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

Streamkeepers (suggested)

Recommendations:

1. A listing of historic data sources and current monitoring programs related to water resources should be created and be available online for reference and easy access. Key gaps should be highlighted and addressed.
2. An effort should be undertaken to create an historical graphical profile based on detailed measurements that show the trend lines for all forms of precipitation, including snowpack, rainfall along with streamflow. This information should be updated continuously as data becomes available and be provided to decision makers and include potential, near-term, weather impacts based on the historical profiles.
3. A standard format, collection time-period and graphical interface should be established so this complete data set can be displayed as overlays of the selected display parameters.
4. Initiate an expanded groundwater monitoring program, according to results of groundwater status assessment and analyses (Recommendations in Section 6.1).

Background:

While data related to precipitation has been generated for many years, continuous, integrated trends are not widely available. Most of this data is collected by different agencies and the lack of consistency in collection methods and reporting formats does not easily allow for overlay data comparisons. The data for our focus area are not available on a timely basis for managers to evaluate the criticality of specific conditions. The effects and timing of snowpack melt on groundwater and streamflow, as compounded by a change in seasonal weather patterns and average temperatures, are not firmly established.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Lance Vail] Installing a set of Hobo sensors in Dungeness from outlet to as far as I can drag myself up in basin to log stream temps. Will retrieve after a year recording at a fine time interval. Mostly just interested in temporal variability patterns and to help calibrate model.

[Hansi Hals] There are 5 Hobo sensors deployed by JST (soon to be 6). Can share map and data. Some analysis done in R (7 Day roll of Daily Average and Daily Max) for years 2001-2015.

[Shawn Hines] From 4/22 WRTG meeting: incorporate Streamkeepers involvement?

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- [Regarding #1] I suggest you look at Thurston County's water resources graphic interface and database as a possible start. I have discussed their system in the past. They are okay with

helping other communities and having other communities clone their system. Kitsap County might have something that could be used, as well.

- Once this is available, this could be used as a model for setting up in other county watersheds.

Data/References: The scope should include the geographic focus area of the DRMT, which includes both the Dungeness and Sequim Bay watersheds and adjacent streams affected by the irrigation system between Bagley Creek and Miller Peninsula. Most of this area is in WRIA 18; a portion is in WRIA 17.

6.3 CHARACTERIZATION OF 4TH AQUIFER

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

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Recommendations:

1. Compile any existing and new data from the Weyerhaeuser, Dungeness Spit, "Carlsborg Very Deep Well" (on Van Lan parcel), Graysmarsh, and any other deep wells drilled into or almost into Aquifer 4.
2. Define the geographical locations, geological character, predictive water quantity, recharge capabilities and expected demand requirements for the deep aquifer and incorporate data from Recommendation 1, above.
3. Guided by existing and new Aquifer 4 data and monitoring experience, design a combined study to monitor detectable impacts on all levels of the aquifer system to determine the interactions which may result when the 4th Aquifer is utilized as added supply.
4. An analysis should be undertaken to determine the permeability of multiple confining layers among all aquifers.
5. A study should be conducted to determine the nature of the water in the 4th Aquifer to determine its source age. The intent of such a study, possibly using carbon dating or nuclear isotope techniques, is to enable more accurate recharge predictions.

Background:

While the Water Resources Technical Group uses the common naming convention for the aquifer designations in the Dungeness watershed as "Aquifers 1-4," to avoid confusion in public discourse, the following narrative is intended to provide the scientific description of these systems.

The USGS survey of groundwater characterization in the Dungeness watershed (Myrtle Jones, USGS WRI 95-4008, 1996) indicates three groundwater aquifers: the upper (first), middle (second), and lower (third) aquifers. (These are also known as USGS Units 1, 3, and 5, respectively, with aquitards in between labeled as Unit 2 and Unit 4.) Below the lower, or third, aquifer is "undifferentiated unconsolidated deposits" (Unit 6) bound by bedrock (Unit 7). The data collected from wells drilled into Unit 6 show the presence of an aquitard and aquifer (Aquifer 4) underlying Unit 5 (third aquifer). Given the relatively sparse data on Unit 6 compared to Units 1 through 5, the east-west extent of Aquifer 4 is less certain than the extent of Aquifer 1 through 3 have been determined to be.

A test well (the "Carlsborg Very Deep Well") has been drilled into USGS Unit 6 and some testing has been conducted to examine additional supply capabilities in support of expected growth, including in the Carlsborg Urban Growth Area. As this aquifer level has not been fully studied, the extent, capacity and long-term recharge aspects should be determined scientifically to assess the

feasibility of sustainably developing this source to support future growth in the face of increasing climate instability.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Alex Scaglitti] Do we know how permeable the confining layer is between aquifer units 5 and 7? It may be that we put too much hope into the deeper aquifer but if the unit 6 aquitard is “leaky”, it may not be very beneficial - similar to the leaky layers in units 2 and 4.

[Peter Schwartzman]

- [Regarding #2] See the 2008 Model Report (section 3.2.1 and Table 3-1) for a description of 46 deep wells reviewed to interpret the occurrence of a deep aquifer. As of 2008, only 3 logs were interpreted as tapping water bearing sediments beneath the lower confined aquifer. How many new deep wells have been drilled since then? Note that testing the Weyerhaeuser Well suggested that the aquifer was not extensive as limited data suggested incomplete recovery. How did the Carlsborg very deep well do for recovery and suggestion of aquifer extent?
- [Regarding #3] Such a study could employ time-series water-level monitoring of deep wells and comparison with monitored trends in overlying aquifers (as done at Port Williams) and pumping tests in deep aquifer wells where lower confined aquifer monitoring wells are available nearby. Sustainability of water withdrawals from the deep aquifer should be a main focus, since the aquifer occurrence could be patchy (isolated zones) and recharge limited if sufficiently confined from above.
- [Regarding #4] One recommendation in the 2008 model report was looking at water level trends in all 3 aquifers (monitored at Port Williams) and calibrating the model to those trends to better estimate vertical permeability of confining units. Data from Port Williams can also be used to analyze drawdown in the middle aquifer from pumping in the lower aquifer (e.g. pumping test data)
- [Regarding #5] Such analysis has been performed for the Port Williams wells in the lower confined aquifer.

[Ann Soule]

- [Regarding #2] Ecology should have aquifer testing info for all water rights tapping the 4th aquifer. (all aquifers, for that matter)

[Lance Vail]: A resource protection well was drilled by Ecology on PUD (Idea Place) property in 2007 to a depth of 325 ft BG. It was screened for 10 ft down to 289 BG. In 2018 USGS started continuous reporting of water level data. Not surprisingly, there are pretty minor fluctuations, max 3 feet, but clearly some seasonal and interannual variability. But enough variation to suggest some possible connection to aquifers above it.

[Carol Creasey, 5/19/22]

- [Regarding #2] The “deep aquifer”, according to the Mitigation Calculator, is for the Aquifer 3. So, Aquifer 4 would be better called the “very deep aquifer”.
- [Regarding #3] This should also be done for Aquifer 3.

- [Regarding #5] From a water supply standpoint it would be better to evaluate the water chemistry.
- More study needs to be done regarding Aquifer 3, as well. All the aquifers need to be looked at for sustainability and water quality.
- [Regarding Alex's comment] This should also be done for leakage from Aquifer 2 to 3 and from Aquifer 3 to 4.

Data/References:

Drost, B.W., 1983, Impact of changes in land use on the ground-water system in the Sequim-Dungeness Peninsula, Clallam County, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 83-4094.

[Jones, M. A. 1996. USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 95-4008. Delineation of Hydrogeological Units in the Lower Dungeness River Basin, Clallam County, Washington.](#) U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations report 95-4008.

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[Krautkramer, F.M., 2021. Technical Memorandum – Task 2E, Supplemental Testing, prepared for Carol Creasey, Clallam County by Robinson Noble.](#)

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Pacific Groundwater Group, 2008, Dungeness Groundwater Flow Model Design, Construction, Calibration, and Results

Robinson & Noble, Inc., 1974, Development of a Deep ground Water source for the Weyerhaeuser Seed Orchard at Sequim, WA.

[Thomas, Blakemore E. 1999. USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4048. Hydrogeologic Assessment of the Sequim-Dungeness Area, Clallam County, Washington.](#)

Washington State Department of Ecology. 2006. Water Well Report for Graysmarsh deep well:

https://appswr.ecology.wa.gov/wellconstruction/map/WCLWebMap/WellLogSearchResult.aspx?imageName=00452173.pdf®ion=SWRO&folder=00454&xcoord=1014443&ycoord=1020369&search_scope=&result_num=0&welllogid=452173

6.4 UPDATED WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

Student volunteers (suggested)

Recommendations:

1. An effort should be undertaken to compile available data on current water consumption by all sectors (e.g., residential, agricultural, commercial/industrial) on a monthly basis, and population changes on a quarterly basis (or monthly, if possible).
2. A comparison analysis should be conducted of the actual data (from Recommendation #1) to that which was historically projected for water demand and population growth during the same timeframe.
3. Using results from the above analyses, and incorporating additional relevant information (e.g., metering data, climate change projections, land use changes, fish and wildlife water needs, etc.), updated estimates of future water demand (e.g., at 5, 20, 50 years) should be prepared for review.
4. Metering records should be aggregated and analyzed to determine the current volume of water used per dwelling and/or household and applied to any future demand projections.

Background:

The City of Sequim, PUD and other related agencies have prepared growth predictions based on the best available data. The validity of these predictions have not been assessed as to their accuracy or reliability. Climate change, coupled with the desirability of the Olympic Peninsula as a safe haven against extreme climate impacts, is likely to induce increased development beyond current growth projections as people choose the Olympic Peninsula as a climate-protected area to live. Water consumption data is available from the plethora of metered wells, but metered wells generally only apply to households on public systems or wells put into use since 2013. Under both scenarios, water demand for metered wells could be considerably less than for the unmetered wells. Well withdrawal data is inconsistent and sparse as to the locations, depths and groundwater impacts. Climate change impacts, as well as land use conversions such as from agriculture to residential, will affect the availability of water. Future water resources planning for human and fish (stream flows) and wildlife needs will depend on the most up-to-date growth projections and residential and agricultural/farming water demand projections.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Lance Vail] Establish 'trigger' tracking to see if actual population growth is running substantially outside the projections the County, City of Sequim, and PUD have developed in their resource planning. Could possibly be addressed by recommending that DRMT include an update of population and well permits, etc., on each month's agenda, similar to status updates on streamflow and SNOTEL numbers. Realtors could also inform on migration motivations. Motivation for topic was "resilience of water supply to meet future demands."

[Alex Scaglitti] I agree with Lance. Also in the same vein, what are the long-term implications for the land use change from ag to urban? I'm new to the area but old-timers tell me that the urban creep has reduced the amount of irrigated acres. To me, this means less GW recharge from irrigation, coupled with increased GW withdrawals for household use.

[Ann Soule] The net change to GW recharge from land use conversion is a good question to examine. There are many factors including radical changes in irrigation ditch leakage volume, more deep well withdrawals, more shallow GW recharge from septic, more impervious surfaces resulting in likely reduction in recharge/ increase in runoff, from incident precip. Joe Holtrop would have good input on this.

[Scott Chitwood] Rural sprawl is a big concern in eastern Clallam County. There are a lot of straws in the ground and our understanding of the relationship between growth, water use/consumption and supply is somewhat rudimentary. Thus, the purpose of our committee as I think about it is to improve our understanding of this complex relationship.

When ag lands convert to residential not only do we lose space to grow food but we place other pressures on the landscape (e.g., impervious surfaces). Ben can help with the water question but if memory serves I recall him saying irrigation water use/consumption does not change dramatically when residential property takes over ag lands. What has always bothered me is that with our water laws, irrigation does not change regardless of this conversion. I can understand ag lands needing large volumes of river water to grow food but I do not understand or agree with large volumes of river water keeping new lawns green in August.

[Hansi Hals] I agree with Scott's comment that if/when acreage/property is converted to residential, that irrigation water right purpose has been translated to residential use. Could probably calculate the conversion by acres through today, and ac/feet of water/yr just for our information. I understand water law accepts the change to residential, but it is something to think about in consideration of climate exacerbated low flows.

[Ben Smith, 5/18/22] I would like to rescind my previous statement that acres converted from ag to residential utilize the same amount of water. I do not have an accurate use volume to report. This might be a good topic to add to your list to gain a more accurate number on.

[Robert Knapp, 5/20/22] This group did not explicitly discuss water conservation, but it could be mentioned here and in other topics, if not made a stand-alone topic of its own with related recommendations.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- [Regarding #1] The county has a first cut on estimated water needs for buildout in WRIA 18. Once our method is worked out, we will be using it for buildout in the entire County.
- [Regarding #4] We could also compare this to the Group A system water usage in an area.
- Also need to consider financial trends such as housing prices and inflation/deflation, which will have an impact on growth.

- [Regarding Lance's comment] The County gets updated growth projections from the Office of Financial Management on a yearly basis that then can be verified by the decal Census data.
- As they are finding out in Arizona, crops use more water than people. Phoenix at least 5 years ago was able to keep up with increasing population because ag was being converted to housing.

Data/References:

For residential/municipal data: Use City and County Comp Plans, and City and PUD Water System Plans.

For metering data associated with new mitigated water uses: (Washington Department of Ecology).

For data on irrigation water diversions, water rights, and other restrictions: (Washington Department of Ecology, and Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association).

For WRIA 18 Plan recommendations on land use:

http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/W18_3.6-LandUse.pdf

Climate change/migration (journal article): https://www.wired.com/story/as-climate-fears-mount-some-are-relocating-within-the-us/?utm_source=on-site-share&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=on-site-share&utm_brand=wired

NOLT's presentation on their Land Resilience Study: <https://northolympiclandtrust.org/land-resilience-study-findings-presentation/>

NOLT's maps from Land Resilience Study showing projected stream flow and temperature changes with climate change:

<https://northolympiclandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Climate-Resiliency-Maps.pdf>

6.5 CLIMATE RESEARCH ON IMPACTS TO FISH

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

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Recommendations:

1. The climate change impact research (stream modeling) efforts initiated by PNPTC to predict impacts of warming scenarios on fish habitat should be supported and continued, including proposed next phases incorporating riparian vegetation impacts on stream temperatures, and changes to peak streamflow events.
2. A study task should be added to determine the potential climate change impacts on birds and land-dwelling animals.
3. A study task should be added to include the addition of temperature sensing, ideally in a variety of different stream settings (e.g., riffles, pools, shaded vs. unshaded, etc.) to obtain data on more relevant stream flows.

Background:

The Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) has begun to study the climate change induced effects of increasing stream temperature beyond safe levels for fish reproduction. The data and models indicate increasing possibilities of such events into the future. The most current study is referenced herein: [Effects of Forecasted Climate Change on Stream Temperatures of Fish-bearing Streams in Western Washington State Final Project Technical Report](#)¹.

Excerpts from that report are included in the following narrative:

....Low-elevation portions of the affected area watersheds are likely to still have the warmest stream temperature magnitudes, as the air temperatures are warmer than at higher altitudes. However, many fish-bearing stream reaches in both low-lying and high relief watersheds are likely to regularly exceed safe migration and spawning temperature thresholds. By the end of the 21st century, the amount of stream habitat that annually exceeds safe temperature thresholds for salmonids is likely to more than double under a moderate warming RCP 4.5 scenario and more than triple for the high warming RCP 8.5 scenario. The projected warming has the potential to greatly reduce the amount of fish habitat available to migrating and spawning salmonids throughout the region....Adult migrating Pacific salmonids often experience health problems and increased risk of disease when weekly temperatures exceed 16°C, and temperatures above 21°C can be lethal depending on acclimation times (Table 3; Richter and Kolmes 2005; McCullough et al. 2001; Hicks 2000). Bull trout, which are usually found in the higher reaches of the watersheds, often require considerably cooler temperatures to thrive (McCullough et al. 2001). Spawning temperature requirements are lower still, with salmonids (including Steelhead) and bull trout generally requiring water temperatures less than 13°C and 9°C respectively (McCullough et al. 2001; Hicks 2000)

¹ Note, each study stream, including the Dungeness River, has a separate report, which can be viewed upon request to PNPTC.

Stream temperature is affected by many factors, including air temperature, snowpack, riparian shading, water velocity and volume, groundwater influence, slope, and aspect (e.g., Constantz 1998; Lisi et al., 2015). Fish habitats in complex mountainous watersheds such as the Dungeness can be particularly vulnerable to climate warming, as the snowpack plays an important role in supporting dry season stream flows and moderating stream temperatures. A reduction in snowpack (or simply a reduction in late spring and summer precipitation, such as is projected in lower-lying tributaries) can yield lower stream volumes during the warmer summer months, lowering the stream's heat capacity and making it more susceptible to atmospheric temperature changes (e.g., Brown, 1969). This, in combination with the already warming air temperatures due to climate change, can cause habitat loss for cold water fish species during critical migration and spawning life stages.

Because the Dungeness is a relatively fast-draining and high-relief watershed, the warming that exceeds safe temperature thresholds is likely to be mostly constrained to lower-elevation reaches and low-lying tributaries. Much of Matriotti Creek, for example, is likely to regularly exceed safe habitat temperature thresholds for much of the summer months by the end of the 21st century.

Regional stream temperature studies have found that warming in lower-elevation stream reaches can potentially be offset by stream restoration efforts and/or improvements in riparian vegetation (Lee et al., 2020; Seizas et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2015). PNPTC has initiated a new modeling project to test the sensitivity of stream temperatures with relation to riparian vegetation coverage in the Dungeness River (and other watersheds in the eastern Strait and Hood Canal areas). This study will assess stream temperature changes under a variety of riparian vegetation scenarios examining different tree types, heights, canopy thicknesses, buffer widths, etc. and comparing them to a baseline.

Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the research include Riparian vegetation impacts on stream temperatures and Peak streamflow event changes, respectively. These phases would include recalibrating the associated model, running multiple riparian coverage scenarios, incorporation of improved climate projections to assess riparian effectiveness under various possible warming scenarios, and determining which reaches are most susceptible to warming, determining which riparian scenarios are most resilient against impacts from moderating warming, determining if peak flows are likely to increase in magnitude, and studying how recurrence intervals of historical flood types change.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Ryan Murphy, PNTPC]

- [Regarding #1] If there are specific riparian scenarios that the WRTG would like to see, please let me know. I am finishing up calibration and will start testing scenarios within the next few months. If there are specific stream reaches that the WRTG would like examined in more detail, please let me know.

Data/References:

Dungeness Specific:

- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe DO/Temp Data: JST places temperature and dissolved oxygen sensors in Dungeness River as staffing allows. JST has this data.
- <https://northolympiclandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Climate-Resiliency-Maps.pdf> (NOLT's maps from Land Resilience Study showing projected stream flow and temperature changes with climate change)
- PNPTC Projects relevant to Dungeness: <http://climate.pnptc.org/our-research/reports-and-publications/>
- PNPTC's Phase 1 and Phase 2 research:
 - http://climate.pnptc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PNPTC_StreamflowModeling_Phase1_TechnicalSummary_FINAL.pdf
 - http://climate.pnptc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PNPTC_RBMstreamTempModeling_TechnicalSummary_FINAL.pdf
- R2 Resource Consultants, Inc. May 31, 2007. Technical Memo: Task 4 Dungeness River Aquifer Recharge Habitat Technical Memorandum. Prepared for Clallam County EHS. Prepared by Ron Campbell. http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/R2_Habitat_Tech_Memo_5-31-07.pdf
- Washington State Department of Ecology Data: Ecology has a telemetry temperature gauge at RM 0.75 and data is available online.

Other References:

Beechie, T., Imaki, H., Greene, J., Wade, A., Wu, H., Pess, G., Roni, P., Kimball, J., Stanford, J., Kiffney, P., & Mantua, N. (2012). Restoring Salmon Habitat for a Changing Climate. *River Research and Applications*, 29(8), 939-960. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rra.2590>

Brown, G. W. (1969). Predicting Temperatures of Small Streams. *Water Resources Research*, 5(1), 68-75. <https://doi.org/10.1029/WR005i001p00068>

Constantz, J. (1998). Interaction between stream temperature, streamflow, and groundwater exchanges in alpine streams. *Water Resources Research*, 34(7), 1609-1615. <https://doi.org/10.1029/98WR00998>

Ghoussoub, Michelle. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/marine-animals-climate-change-1.6430745>

Lee, S.-Y., Fullerton, A. H., Sun, N., & Torgersen, C. E. (2020). Projecting spatiotemporally explicit effects of climate change on stream temperature: A model comparison and implications for coldwater fishes. *Journal of Hydrology*, 588, 125066. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2020.125066>

Lisi, P. J., Schindler, D. E., Cline, T. J., Scheuerell, M. D., & Walsh, P. B. (2015). Watershed

geomorphology and snowmelt control stream thermal sensitivity to air temperature. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42(9), 2015GL064083. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015GL064083>

Murphy, R. D., and Rossi, C. (2019). Modeling the Effects of Forecasted Climate Change on Fish-bearing Streams in Western Washington State – Final Project Technical Report. Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC). Technical Report 19-1. http://climate.pnptc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PNPTC_StreamflowModeling-Phase1_TechnicalSummary_FINAL.pdf

Murphy, R. D., and Rossi, C. (2020). Effects of Forecasted Climate Change on Stream Temperatures of Fish-bearing Streams in Western Washington State – Final Project Technical Report. Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC). Technical Report 20-1. http://climate.pnptc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PNPTC_RBMstreamTempModeling_TechnicalSummary_FINAL.pdf

Ohlberger, J. et. al. 2018. *Effects of past and projected river discharge variability on freshwater production in an anadromous fish*. *Freshwater Biology*. Volum 63, Issue 4. [Effects of past and projected river discharge variability on freshwater production in an anadromous fish - Ohlberger - 2018 - Freshwater Biology - Wiley Online Library](#)

Seixas, G. B., Beechie, T. J., Fogel, C., & Kiffney, P. M. (2018). Historical and Future Stream Temperature Change Predicted by a Lidar-Based Assessment of Riparian Condition and Channel Width. *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 54(4), 974–991. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.12655>

[Taking the temperature of salmon | Encyclopedia of Puget Sound \(eopugetsound.org\)](#)

Wade, A. A., Beechie, T. J., Fleishman, E., Mantua, N. J., Wu, H., Kimball, J. S., Stoms, D. M., & Stanford, J. A. (2013). Steelhead vulnerability to climate change in the Pacific Northwest. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 50, 1093-1104. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.12137>

6.6 COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH PUBLIC OUTREACH

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

Ann Soule (Water Column Blog), Dungeness River Nature Center Staff (suggested), Clallam League of Women Voters (Story of Water Presentations, suggested)

Recommendations:

1. A coordinated effort, inclusive of the water manager community (CCD, City, County, JST, WUA, etc.) should be undertaken to intentionally improve and build upon community support within the Dungeness basin. Such efforts should include public education opportunities, volunteer outreach, public forums, events (e.g. booth at irrigation fest, short films about the Dungeness), as well as promoting previously successful outreach efforts (such as [The Story of Water](#) Lecture Series, [The Water Column Blog](#), and the Dungeness River Nature Center's classes), etc.
2. Consider updating and redistributing Ecology's 2011/2012 [Dungeness Water Watch](#) series and Ecology's 2010 [A Guide to Water and How We Use It in the Dungeness Watershed](#) and establishing a designated program for new and continued public outreach on basic water resources topics relevant to this area.
3. Consider developing, as an outreach demonstration tool, a 3-D digital animation of the watershed that shows (and quantifies) changes to the amount of land surface area available for snow "storage" at different elevations (ie, as snow elevation increases with global warming, there is less surface area for snowpack storage).
4. As part of an existing or new curriculum on climate change for elementary and middle school, add an element to convey changes in glaciers, rivers and other water resources in the Pacific Northwest due to global warming and relate these changes with the pace of human settlement in this area.

Background:

The increased pressures of urban development, climate change and sustainment of healthy riverine ecosystems requires community understanding and involvement for the long-term sustainability of water resources within the basin. Research indicates that in areas that have management agencies actively investing in raising public awareness about community/environmental issues (building social capital), there is increased support for restoration, improved post-disturbance recovery (e.g., wildfire, floods) and more community involvement. Conversely, under-promoting or lack of community awareness about water projects and ordinances can lead to misinformation and backlash that may undercut future efforts to address water management challenges.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Shawn Hines] Dungeness River Nature Center has done Ecology/Watershed outreach courses with various topics of focus. Could possibly incorporate some of the above themes into the River Center's work.

[Alex Scagliotti] Basically, the idea is acknowledging that there are multiple types of capital (financial, political, social, natural etc.) and that the success or support for a water management project will be in part based on social capital within the community. So intentionally improving social capital between relevant groups through outreach, stakeholder inclusion, events, dialogue etc. will build community support for future projects and hopefully reduce misinformation and backlash. One of my instructors in grad school was really big on this idea and he specialized in Water Conflict Management, so I thought I'd include it here!

Data/References:

Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir Workgroup. 2014 - present. URL and video:

<http://www.clallam.net/publicworks/DungenessOCRProject.html>

Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. 2020. [Puget Sound's 'warm snow' makes region vulnerable to climate shifts | Encyclopedia of Puget Sound \(eopugetsound.org\)](https://eopugetsound.org/2020/03/15/puget-sounds-warm-snow-makes-region-vulnerable-to-climate-shifts/)

Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. 2022. [The retreating glaciers of Puget Sound | Encyclopedia of Puget Sound \(eopugetsound.org\)](https://eopugetsound.org/2022/03/15/the-retreating-glaciers-of-puget-sound/)

League of Women's Voters of Clallam County. December 2019 - June 2020. *The Story of Water Lecture Series* (recorded). URL: [The Story of Water Lecture Series](https://www.lwvclallam.org/the-story-of-water-lecture-series)

Soule, Ann. 2015-present. *The Water Column Blog*. URL: [tps://watercolumnsite.wordpress.com/](https://watercolumnsite.wordpress.com/)

Washington Department of Ecology. October 2011 - August 2012. *Dungeness Water Watch*. Monthly newsletter series. URL:

http://wsldocs.sos.wa.gov/library/docs/ecy/dungenesswater/dungenesswater_home.aspx

Washington Department of Ecology. June 2010. *A Guide to Water and How We Use It in the Dungeness Watershed*. Ecology publication #10-11-018. URL:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1011018.pdf>

Washington Water Trust. May 2022. "Restoring the Dungeness" Storymap:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bfd4c8ca9cee493a9dac9b1cfa0f0798>

Example of idea related to the 3-D animation recommendation, but new idea would show elevation levels and amount of snow or SWE at different levels:

<https://videohive.net/item/rocky-mountains-terrain-map-3d-render-360-degrees-loop-animation/34023870>

6.7 INTERACTIVE HYDROLOGIC MAP

Volunteer Resource Team (additional volunteers needed):

Alex Scagliotti

Recommendations:

1. A groundwater database should be developed for the DRMT focus area. Using this data, an ArcGIS map should be created that displays, through a colorimetric scale, groundwater influent/effluent reaches of Dungeness basin streams and open irrigation canals. The tool should provide the capability of viewing a variety of layers, including at minimum one representative of typical irrigation season conditions, and one representative of off-season conditions. A map of the basin's recharge/discharge zones could then be referenced to support sustainable water management planning (see Data/Reference section for examples of such maps).
2. Well water depths in Aquifers 1, 2, 3 and 4 should be monitored continuously and the data included as a layer option on the ArcGIS map. The wells should be located across the Dungeness watershed, be equipped with pressure transducers and communicate wirelessly with a central data collecting entity. All available historic and current data, from as many wells as possible, should be included.

Example of one use for this tool:

- Relative elevations of groundwater could be compared to median background conditions based on current well monitoring plans (hopefully this will be expanded in the future)
 - Interpolations can be made for areas between wells to display a general groundwater elevation map of the basin
 - Baseline conditions are based on historic levels and not "the new normal"
 - If connected to a central database, these maps can be automatically updated with annual inputs of new data

Background:

The PGG (2009), Thomas et al. (1999), Simonds and Sinclair (2002), and Aspect/PGG (2004) (ditch leakage study) reports are useful tools, but some include outdated information or do not include existing new data; and some of the reports lack sufficient detail for the basin. For example, they do not include recent and former changes within irrigation conveyance systems, new infiltration chambers, as well as land use changes from agricultural to residential. An updated Hydrologic Monitoring Report (similar to the 2009 report) would provide the updated data necessary to develop the recommended ArcGIS product.

The creation of a groundwater database for the DRMT focus area would enable water managers to access the current status of groundwater on a continuous basis. In addition to providing water resource managers and citizens with reliable and current data, it would also identify the spatial data gaps and monitoring needs which can be applied to enhance and improve the model itself. The hydrologic map would also serve to eliminate confusion and anecdotal perceptions which currently exist. This information would be similar to what is included on Figures 16-29 in the

1999 Thomas et al. USGS Hydrogeologic Report. However, it would be significantly enhanced and result in a more user-friendly interface.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Alex Scaglitti] Additional thoughts: the tool would allow for toggling on and off aquifer depths, natural recharge, groundwater movement, soil type, etc., and have the ability to view multiple layers at the same time, especially if there is updated data. Ideally, if ArcGIS Online could be updated periodically, as new data comes in, we could be sure that we'd always have the most up-to-date info to reference any time from a single website. As far as cost, I envision it using currently available and hopefully future data (6.2 and 6.1) but I'm not proposing additional studies necessarily.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- [Regarding #1] This section could be combined with 6.2. Use software similar to Thurston county's, which has an interactive database.
- The County's GIS groundwater database could be combined with the interactive map ideas.

Data/References:

Aspect/PGG (2004). Ditch Leakage Study.

Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. 1997. Effects of Irrigation Ditch Shutdown on Graysmarsh Hydrology.

See Figures 4 and 6 which illustrate a recharge/discharge map possible for the Dungeness basin:
<https://www.esri.com/news/arcuser/0408/groundwater.html>

PPG (2009). City of Sequim 2008 Hydrologic Monitoring Report:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zMzWeuneQFSCOQYxKFE2xbMKDhuzc3Vy/view?usp=sharing>

Perch, John. Ecology. Ecology's well data/database.

Simonds and Sinclair (2002)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qpT2zIlf86fUHKoLwuQUrOuR6_sSMiyc/view?usp=sharing

Thomas, et. al. (1999)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WtqR4sZzoluosOQCq2TMuooOezbuJKFX/view?usp=sharing>

6.8 COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED FORECASTING MODEL

Volunteer Resource Team (additional volunteers needed):

Tony Corrado

Recommendation: It is recommended that a feasibility study be initiated to determine if an integrated, data-based, predictive model can be developed to provide a continuous, seasonally based forecast of Dungeness River streamflow correlated to climate effects.

Background:

The Dungeness River is 28 miles long. It rises near Mount Constance in the Olympic Mountains within the Olympic National Park, flows through the Buckhorn Wilderness, passes by the town of Sequim, and empties into the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Dungeness Bay.

It is the primary surface water source in Dungeness watershed and provides water for aquatic wildlife, recreation and both potable as well as irrigation water for residential use, farms and ranches. It is a significant river for spawning and rearing salmon populations and provides habitat for birds and animals.

Precipitation, both snow and rainfall, patterns are changing in the Dungeness watershed. Winter snow accumulation is critical to the core baseline streamflow of all surface streams within the watershed. It appears that annualized snowfall amounts are decreasing with climate change. A comprehensive, integrated, model is required to enable predictive watershed impacts prior to critical events becoming manifest in diminished streamflow and higher stream temperatures.

The US government has remote sensing capabilities that can be used to collect, analyze and predict surface water impacts. These resources include multiple satellite sensed parameters. These sensors are multi-spectral (microwaves of different frequencies, infra-red and possibly, LIDAR, and others), and are available for data collection on a timely, repetitive basis. While it is not obvious which agencies collect specific data, NASA, NOAA and NRO all operate satellites with remote sensing capabilities. In addition, the [National Snow and Ice Data Center \(NSIDC\)](#) is one such agency that is currently collecting snow data. NOAA is also seeking an enhanced model, as referenced in <https://water.noaa.gov/documents/wrn-national-water-model.pdf>

The Dungeness watershed's geographic land surface can be surveyed, by satellite, during the summer season to determine the land area topography. During winter snowfall, this same area can be scanned with multispectral sensors to determine the area extent, depth and water equivalent content of the snow accumulations. Each scan can be used in a predictive model to update the streamflow impacts.

The Dungeness River flow is highly erratic as precipitation and snowmelt have a direct impact on flow. The river also has a longer period of sustaining inflow which appears to be the result of a longer-term percolation of both snow and rainfall. A parallel analysis should be conducted to characterize the time factor and primary flow path by which the accumulated snowfall melt transitions to river inflow over time. A similar analysis should be conducted for rainfall.

A predictive model would also include daily weather impacts and predictions in order to generate a best, most likely and worst-case scenario of river streamflow as the precipitation enters the river. Over time, the precision and ambiguities would be refined to reduce predictive errors.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Tony Corrado] If an integrated model could be developed it would provide advanced notice of potential problem issues for all responsible agencies associated with water resources. i.e., if snowpack and rainfall were lower than normal and reduced earlier than normal, then such a model would suggest that increased awareness needed to be focussed on the potential impacts. Snowpack in particular needs a modern, satellite-based analysis tool.

[Jolyne Lea, NRCS National Water and Climate Center] Overall, this sounds like a good plan moving forward. Identify your needs as to the timeframe of the water supply you need and operational forecasts for daily water management. In addition, you need to determine climate scenarios and extremes that may increase severe storms in the area and assess the risk of those events. Regarding the *“parallel analysis to characterize the time factor and primary flow path by which the accumulated snowfall melt transitions to river inflow over time”*, I agree this needs to be done to see if there are major groundwater storage or latent flow to find out the baseflow components and timeframe of water released.

[Ann Soule] For seasonal info, water managers get this info from NRCS and NOAA, who forecast streamflow for summer based on relative snow/ice volumes. I think their measurements are taken from Snotels, etc., not satellites.

<https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/snow-drought-current-conditions-and-impacts-west-4-7-22>

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22] This recommendation might be helpful in the management of the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir.

Data/References:

Basis for recommendation:

NOAA, 2016. Factsheet on National Water Model, Improving NOAA’s Water Prediction Services.
<https://water.noaa.gov/documents/wrn-national-water-model.pdf>

NRCS forecasting tool:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/forecastCharts/#state=WA&basin=Olympic%20Penninsula&year=2022&pubDate=4-1&period=all&chartWidth=800&normalType=AVG&labelUnit=VOL&forecastLabels=ALL&showForecast=true&showForecastLabel=true&showObserved=false&showObservedLabel=false&showNormal=false&showNormalLabel=false&showMax=false&showMaxLabel=false&showMaxYear=false&showMin=false&showMinLabel=false&showMinYear=false&showNumberObservations=false&hideEmpty=true>

Data sources:

The primary source of measured snow data is derived from the SnoTel site # 943 located at approximately 4,010' altitude: <https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/nwcc/site?sitenum=943&state=WA>

The primary source of measured Dungeness River flow data is from the USGS upper flow gage (USGS 12048000) at River Mile 11.8: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=12048000 (sample graph from USGS data below)

NIDIS. Snow Drought Current Conditions.

<https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/snow-drought-current-conditions-and-impacts-west-4-7-22>

Other references:

Ohlberger, J. et. al. 2018. *Effects of past and projected river discharge variability on freshwater production in an anadromous fish*. Freshwater Biology. Volum 63, Issue 4. [Effects of past and projected river discharge variability on freshwater production in an anadromous fish - Ohlberger - 2018 - Freshwater Biology - Wiley Online Library](#)

Ward, et. al. (2011). NASA North Olympic Peninsula Solutions Network - Performance Evaluation, 2006-2011. Final Report. Battelle Pacific Northwest Division. Richland, WA. 99352. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y-cE5ao-SsR31Gf6spB002qTTJd26Y-T>

Western Snow Conference Bibliography Database. There may be other references of similar studies in here: <https://westernsnowconference.org/biblio>

Wigmosta, M. et. al. 2007. Hybrid Model Development in the Dungeness Watershed. North Olympic Peninsula Solutions Network Report 07-02. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory/

6.9 SALTWATER INTRUSION STUDIES

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

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Recommendations:

An effort should be undertaken to obtain additional information on the extent of seawater intrusion along the coastline; identify seawater intrusion susceptible lands; and, use the data to plan/develop policies/programs to protect ecosystems and aquifer integrity. Specific tasks would include:

- a. Design and implement a coastal well sampling program for chloride (at minimum), salinity, and water levels in wells identified 0.5 miles inland from the coast.
- b. Use sampling results and climatic events (such as sea-level rise and/or storm surges) to identify location, extent, and severity of seawater intrusion impacts.
- c. Assess vulnerability of wells and septic systems in seawater intrusion susceptible areas, and develop regulations and policies for new and old development that protect public health/drinking water and conserve/restore ecosystems.

Background:

In a changing climate, governmental entities need to consider the effects of salt water intrusion on existing and planned coastal development in order to protect public health by ensuring the availability of potable water and restoring or maintaining healthy ecosystem conditions. Further detailed information about the impacts of seawater intrusion are needed in order to plan for future and existing development with respect to the expected sea level rise and storm surges ([Puget Sound Partnership, NTA Proposal #2018-00223](#)). Seawater intrusion into Sequim Bay and Neah Bay/ Makah areas are anticipated. In 2014 the PUD's supply well was moved upland in response to sea water intrusion. A need exists to determine the levels in wells along the coast and to determine the location, extent, and severity of sea water intrusion in comparison to prior and future studies. It is imperative to identify those areas that are particularly susceptible to rapid climate change events.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Peter Schwartzman] Regarding the well sampling program, the Island County model is one worth looking into! All new wells near the coast are sampled for chloride. Where elevated chloride concentrations are evidenced, more data collection may be required - such as surveyed wellhead elevation. Some wells are voluntarily incorporated into a saltwater intrusion monitoring network and fitted with water level data loggers. Full common ion analysis is used to better understand saltwater intrusion processes. Perhaps you could get former Island County hydrogeologist Doug Kelly to describe this program to the group.

[Ann Soule]

- I think Mike Gallagher would know who else to ask if we need additional details.
- Collecting chloride data from county building permit applicants near the shoreline is a very easy way to start collecting data, and also to alert the new well user to the potential issue.

[Lance Vail] Well at the lighthouse may be a possibility for continuous head and salinity monitoring.

[Ben Smith, 5/18/22] There was a saltwater intrusion study done ~25 years ago, so there is historical data to compare any new work to (See Forbes, 1993 in Data/References).

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- Recommend adding to recommendations: *Should also compare the latest round of coastal water chemistry monitoring to the several studies in the past to see changes and trends.*
- There is also a lot of useful information on salt water intrusion methodologies from the California coast.

Data/References:

Cusick, Daniel. March 17, 2022. [Where Rising Seas Threaten Drinking Water, Scientists Look for Affordable Solutions](#). E&E News.

Dion, N.P. and S.S. Sumioka, Seawater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers in Washington, 1978 Water-Supply Bulletin 56, WA Ecology, 1984.

Forbes, R.B. and CH2M-Hill, Preliminary Assessment of Seawater Intrusion in Coastal Water Wells in Eastern Clallam and Eastern Jefferson Counties, 1993.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Tkbqz_bFxTV2VtKMWDoeWAS_GvDmcx01/view?usp=sharing

Puget Sound Partnership 2018. Clallam County Submittal: NTA #2019-0223. [Clallam County Seawater Intrusion Assessment, Planning, and Implementation](#)

Walters, K.L., Reconnaissance of Seawater Intrusion Along Coastal Washington, WA Ecology Supply Bulletin #32, 1971.

WRIA 18 Watershed Plan (2005). Water Quantity Recommendation 3.1.4 B3 in the WRIA 18 Plan: http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/W18_3.1-WaterQuantity.pdf

Example Technical Tools for Project Managers:

- Standard simple saltwater intrusion equations:
<https://inowas.com/tools/t09-simple-saltwater-intrusion-equations/>
- This is the model Dharma Water Institute is planning to implement on Dungeness Basin this summer. We selected it in part because it can easily handle salinity explicitly. I've used it on simulations of freshwater and hypersaline systems in South Florida.
<https://www.pnnl.gov/projects/stomp>

Possible references for consideration:

- [California regulator rejects desalination plant despite historic drought | Reuters](#)
- California Coastal Commission meeting pg for May 11; includes video and agenda: [Cal-Span –](#)
- California Coastal Commission staff report: [Th9a10a-5-2022-staffreport.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

6.10 EXPANDED SNOWPACK STUDY

Volunteer Resource Team (additional volunteers needed):

Lance Vail, Ann Soule

Recommendations:

1. An effort should be undertaken to quantify the year-round ice and permanent snowfields in the upper Dungeness watershed.
2. Produce a report on estimated water supply derived from ice and snow melt over time, as it relates to summertime streamflow in the Dungeness River. The expected pace of permanent ice/snowfield decline should be included as a basis of this effort.
3. Relate estimated future streamflow in the Dungeness River to volume of aquifer recharge - annually, seasonally, or monthly.
4. Establish an online, real-time reporting tool for snow/ice parameters useful to Dungeness water managers in the future.

Background:

Snowpack in the Olympic Mountains is in decline according to monitoring as well as all visual accounts. Snow melt has been the driver of the evolution of the Dungeness Watershed ecosystem and aquifer system. Water managers and concerned citizens should study the potential impacts on streamflow and aquifer recharge resulting from progressively diminished summertime snowmelt volumes in the Dungeness River over coming decades.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Jolyne Lea, NRCS National Water and Climate Center] This sounds good. One thing I would like to point out is that snow may be declining, but total precipitation may be the same or could be changing as well. It would be good to add in a look at the impact of the change in precipitation falling as rain. Rainfall would reduce the water in storage in the basin as snow in the winter. It would also impact reservoir operations to store or release water to consider any changes in winter atmospheric rivers as warm rainfall. Trends on snowpack decline should be considered, but other impacts should be considered (i.e., increase in severe storms, persistence of weather patterns). We could look into this further with you on historic changes at the snow courses/SNOTEL sites.

[Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant] Comments from Ian Miller are incorporated, and Ian offered to refer interested parties to individuals within Climate Impact Group or elsewhere for further exploration in the future. Potential contacts at CIG include Guillaume Mauger and/or Matt Rogers.

[Ann Soule] For a hydrogeologist, Sequim is one of the most fascinating watersheds anywhere – and it is a privilege to work here. For most of the 20th century, every summer the prairie was drenched with mountain snowmelt - raising the water table during the dry season. As people

became aware of the need to conserve, shallow wells and springs dried up. Now that we're aware of the planet's warming our fascination becomes an urgent need to learn and adapt.

Data/References:

- UW CIG reports (see below) and NRCS info on snowpack trends, including ONP and North Cascades NP info
- Snow coverage data from satellites

Bumbaco, K.A., et al. 2021. [2020 Pacific Northwest Water Year Impacts Assessment](#). A collaboration between the Office of the Washington State Climatologist, Climate Impacts Group, Oregon State Climatologist, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and NOAA National Integrated Drought Information System.

Mauger, Guillaume. 2020. [UW Climate Impact Group \(CIG\). Shifting Snowlines and Shorelines: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere and Implications for Washington State](#).

NRCS Snow Survey information/data:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/snow/>

Other UW CIG Special Reports: <https://cig.uw.edu/resources/special-reports/>

Other UW CIG Publications: <https://cig.uw.edu/resources/publications/>

6.11 MITIGATING POTENTIAL USE OF THE 4TH AQUIFER

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

Recommendation:

1. A new analysis, or adjustments to Ecology's current Mitigation Calculator ("Lookup Table"), should be considered to improve predictability of mitigation requirements² for potential developers of water supplies from "Unit 6" (the undifferentiated unconsolidated deposits, which includes the 4th Aquifer).
2. The County and PUD proposed a new method to estimate the impacts of pumping from Aquifer 4. The method uses new data collected from the drilling and testing of the Carlsborg Very Deep Well (the "Van-Lan Well") and data from the existing Mitigation Calculator. This method should be considered in evaluating the [Draft Mitigation Plan](#) for the PUD's specific (2006) water right application for expansion of the retail service area of their Carlsborg Water System.
3. An analysis should be undertaken to represent the 4th Aquifer in the Dungeness Model (to the extent that its occurrence is understood to be an "uncertainty analysis" based on various possible configurations) and then the model should be used to estimate mitigation requirement(s)³ for pumping from the 4th Aquifer.

Background: Public water system managers use the Mitigation Calculator tool required by WAC 173-518 (Dungeness Instream Flow Rule) to determine the volume and location of mitigation associated with development of new well water supplies. The Mitigation Calculator was created in 2012 by running the 2008 Groundwater Model for withdrawals on each parcel⁴ in the modeled area from each of four model layers: the shallow (first), middle (second), deep (third), and bedrock aquifers.

Users of the calculator find their parcel of interest and determine which layer their well should be assigned to, so a review should be completed of how the layers are defined in the model and how they are utilized in the calculator. If this review does not result in a solution to applying the calculator to wells between the "deep" and "bedrock" aquifers, a new tool or method should be pursued with assistance from Ecology that incorporates mitigation for use of the "4th Aquifer". The Elwha-Dungeness Rule, WAC 173-518, states: "If Ecology determines a better method in the future, then Ecology will apply the new method". WAC 173-518-070 (a) (i) also

² Any update to the current mitigation analysis should be considered along with the original guiding principles for managing water in the WRIA 18 East – Dungeness Watershed set for in the February 15, 2011 Cooperators' Agreement (Clallam County, WUA, Ecology, 2011) and supported by the Jamestown-S'Klallam Tribe (JST, 2011).

³ Ecology requires mitigation to be in compliance with WAC 173-518-070(3)(a)(i) and -518-070(3)(c).

⁴ Values based on the Steady-State version of the model, interpolation between modeled withdrawals, and adjustment of model uncertainty (Mitigation Calculator Parcel Table with Lookup Table, Explanation Tab by Dave Nazy, WA Department of Ecology).

states “drilling to the middle or deep aquifer is encouraged”. Presumably this applies to Aquifer 4 as well.

Without a new or updated tool, mitigation for water supply development of sources deeper than the 3rd (“lower confined”) Aquifer (as recommended in various plans and in the Dungeness Instream Flow Rule) involves time-consuming and unpredictable negotiations with Ecology. If drilling deeper than the 3rd Aquifer is in fact a strategy that improves the sustainability of water supply development and minimizes the impact to the streams thus benefiting the fish, then a reasonable percent mitigation for the 4th Aquifer should be considered. Otherwise, there is a disincentive to drill deeper, especially considering the added cost of drilling deeper. The existing Groundwater Model and existing Mitigation Calculator suggest that drilling deeper increases the benefits to the streams.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Mike Gallagher] Any new mitigation calculation tool or number representing the 4th Aquifer must be in compliance with WAC 173-518-070(3)(a)(i) and -518-070(3)(c) and WAC 173-518-075.

[Peter Schwartzman]

- [Regarding #1] The Mitigation Calculator for withdrawals from all 3 uppermost aquifers was based on model simulations at select locations in these three aquifers. For the 4th aquifer, the model should be run to obtain pumping impact estimates. However, the big caveat here is that such analyses should only be performed after the geographic extent and properties of the 4th aquifer are reasonably understood. Doing so before a reasonable understanding is available would not provide defensible results, though a variety of "realizations" could be run to provide "what if" analyses.
- The mitigation requirements should not lead the model, rather the model should lead the mitigation requirements. See prior comment about reasonable characterization of the aquifer before putting too much stock in model results, or acknowledging uncertainty to estimate range of pumping impacts.

[Tony Corrado] My concern regarding references to WACs is whether the team should be guided by any agencies' desires for compliance to what is in place instead of recommending a new look at these regulatory issues in view of climate change?

[Hansi Hals]

- Have to make clear that 6.3 analysis would precede 6.11.
- [Regarding #2] Agreed with Peter Schwartzman comment that it's Ecology's role to consider the proposed method to estimate impact.

[Tom Martin]

- [Regarding #2] The evaluation of this plan for this specific water right application should not be delayed by any need to upgrade the existing Mitigation Calculator that the WRTG may identify.

[Alex Scagliotti] Has there been any investigation as to where withdrawing from the 4th aquifer would be most beneficial? Or is there an area where using the 3rd aquifer water is particularly impactful and could benefit from reduced withdrawals? If not, it's worth finding areas that could benefit most from reducing 3rd aquifer pumping – areas where it directly affects the shallow and middle aquifers. Last, a longitudinal study of potential impacts to shallower aquifers would be beneficial so we're not "robbing Peter to pay Paul," so to speak.

[Ann Soule]

- [Regarding #1] The mitigation calculator only includes bedrock below the "deep" aquifer, but the groundwater model actually has layers below the 3rd/deep aquifer. But I agree we should do 6.3 to find out if the model as constructed is appropriate before running it with potential new pumping scenarios.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- [Regarding #3] This should occur only if there is enough data to reasonably calibrate the model to Aquifer 4.
- [Regarding Alex's comment about "*finding areas that could benefit most from reducing 3rd aquifer pumping*," this could also apply to 2nd and 1st Aquifer pumping.]

Data/References:

2008 Dungeness Groundwater Model Final Report:

http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/PGG_2008_Dungeness_Model_Final_Report.pdf

Mitigation Calculator:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vDCFFp5e0l1oRkjVwOB_QTTIDf3OXCbk/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116929143402295772623&rtpof=true&sd=true

Cover Letter for Draft Carlsborg Mitigation Plan:

[Martin, Tom. March 14, 2022. Clallam County PUD #1 Cover Letter to Michael Gallagher, WA Department of Ecology.](#)

Draft Carlsborg Mitigation Plan:

[Robinson Noble. March 2022. Revised DRAFT Carlsborg New Water Right G2-30364 Mitigation Plan.](#)

Technical Documents Related to Analyzing Carlsborg Deep Well:

Krautkramer, F.M., 2018, Technical Memorandum Clallam County Department of Community Development hydrogeologic setting pertinent to processing water right application, prepared by Robinson Noble.

[Krautkramer, F.M., 2020, Carlsborg Deep Test Well Construction and Testing Report, prepared by Robinson Noble.](#)

[Krautkramer, F.M., 2021. Technical Memorandum – Task 2E, Supplemental Testing, prepared for Carol Creasey, Clallam County by Robinson Noble.](#)

WAC 173-518, Dungeness Instream Flow

Rule: <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-518>

Pacific Groundwater Group, 2008, Dungeness Groundwater Flow Model Design, Construction, Calibration, and Results

Clallam County, WUA, Ecology, 2011, WRIA 18 East – Dungeness Watershed, Guiding Principles for Managing Water, Cooperators’ Agreement Among Clallam County, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association, Washington State Department of Ecology, February 15, 2011.

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. 2011. W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/CEO, Letter to Washington Department of Ecology, February 5, 2011.

Drost, B.W., 1983, Impact of changes in land use on the ground-water system in the Sequim-Dungeness Peninsula, Clallam County, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 83-4094.

Jones, M.A., 1996b, Delineation of hydrogeological units in the lower Dungeness River Basin, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations report 95-4008.

Noble, J.B., 1960, A preliminary report on the geology and ground-water resources of the Sequim-Dungeness area, Clallam County, Washington: Olympia, Wash., Washington Department of Conservation, Division of Water Resources, Water Supply Bulletin No. 11.

Othberg, K.L., and Palmer, Pam, 1980, Preliminary surficial geologic map of the Dungeness quadrangle, Clallam County, Washington: Olympia, Wash., Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources Open-File Report 79-18.

Robinson & Noble, Inc., 1974, Development of a Deep ground Water source for the Weyerhaeuser Seed Orchard at Sequim, WA.

Thomas, B.E., Goodman, L.A., and Olsen, T.D., 1999, Hydrogeologic Assessment of the Sequim-Dungeness Area, Clallam County, Washington: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4048.

WRIA 18 East – Dungeness Watershed, Guiding Principles for Managing Water Cooperators’ Agreement Among Clallam County, Sequim-Dungeness Water Users Association and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

6.12 SHALLOW AQUIFER RECHARGE EFFECTIVENESS

Volunteer Resource Team (additional volunteers needed):

Joe Holtrop, Alex Scagliotti, Lance Vail (adaptive management perspective), Ecology EAP Program Staff (suggested)

Recommendation: The shallow aquifer recharge (SAR) facilities installed over the past few years should be analyzed to determine how effectively they are achieving the intended objectives of mitigating the impacts of new well use and benefiting streamflows.

Background:

All new wells put into use since January 2013 in the Dungeness basin must mitigate their impacts on surface waters. SAR is the means by which new well use is mitigated. Several years of modeling resulted in the development of a “lookup table” to determine the impacts of wells on surface waters. This same table is also used to determine the benefits of SAR on these surface waters.

Washington Water Trust contracted with Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) in 2014 to conduct a screening level feasibility assessment of the infiltration/storage potential of sites under consideration in the Dungeness basin. Prior to the feasibility assessment, Clallam County contracted with PGG to conduct a study of the effectiveness of shallow aquifer recharge (PGG, 2009). This study was conducted in the Carlsborg area. The results were inconclusive, partly because the volume of water infiltrated was not sufficient to be detected. The first significant SAR facility was constructed in Carlsborg in 2015. Since then, eight more facilities have been installed. Seven of the facilities are located east of the Dungeness River, and only four of the facilities are specifically for mitigation purposes; five are for general recharge/restoration or to mitigate impacts to Graysmarsh resulting from the piping of irrigation ditches.

It has been postulated that water infiltrated in some locations does not benefit surface waters as the well-impact groundwater model indicates it will. The 2008 model report notes that representation of the “shallow aquifer system” as a single (uppermost) model layer does not reflect conditions where the system is divided into more than one water-bearing zone and includes intervening aquitards. Such complexities (e.g., as observed along Bell and Matriotti Creeks) will affect the accuracy of model predictions of the fate/transport of SAR.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Joe Holtrop] Another thing to take into account here is the groundwater impacts resulting from irrigation ditch piping. Considerable irrigation ditch piping has occurred over the past 20 years, mainly to reduce ditch losses, and thereby reduce withdrawals. A few of the ditch piping projects within the Graysmarsh “zone of contribution” (for its freshwater marsh created by a tidegate) have included aquifer recharge to mitigate for the lost ditch leakage water, but the vast majority of the projects have not included AR.

[Alex Scagliotti] Another note on this as far as mitigation. Gierin Creek has still lost out on flows over the past 3-5 years despite mitigation for piping leaky ditches. I think this underscores Joe’s

point as well - that a SAR reevaluation is probably warranted. Another potential issue with mitigation for piping is that the quantities infiltrated are supposed to mirror average summer loss, but it doesn't include off-season maintenance flows and stock watering flows that happen in the fall and winter. I imagine this issue isn't unique just to Gierin Creek.

[Peter Schwartzman, Hydrogeologist] The natural recommendation would be to update the model by adding layers that support representation of aquifers/aquitards within the shallow aquifer SYSTEM. It should be noted that this would require quite a bit of effort for characterization. However, if layers are added, they can retain the simplified depiction where no new data exist but incorporate complexity where data are available.

[Ann Soule] I suggest we ask Ecology's EAP research branch to respond to this - they may have done similar work elsewhere or be able to take it on here.

[Ben Smith, 5/18/22] More priority by DOE on river gauge accuracy, quicker repairs when system is wonky, will be critical to monitoring the effects of aquifer recharge on river flow. Possibly a similar system to what the irrigators are required to do. Visual reading of staff gauges weekly/bi-weekly through irrigation season to confirm or correct instantaneous flow data being recorded.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22] Could the recharge information be able to be used to modify/enhance the 2008 model? Also, use the results of the MAR to evaluate how effective the 2008 model and the mitigation calculator are for determining MAR benefits.

Data/References:

Pacific Groundwater Group. 2009. Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study. Prepared for Clallam County. <http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/DungenessARFSFinal.pdf>

Schwartzman, Peter (Pacific Groundwater Group). 2014. Technical Memorandum RE: Infiltration/Storage Screening Analysis for Dungeness River Augmentation. Prepared for Washington Water Trust. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ahFBxIWAeNQSgmtRogQZcTR4O_rallP0/view?usp=sharing

6.13 FUTURE WATER SOURCING STUDIES

Volunteer Resource Team (volunteers needed):

Recommendation: A study should be undertaken to consider future sources of water that can supplement existing sources. This study should include desalination, additional use of processed sewage effluent, and additional storage (above ground or underground) facilities.

Background:

The Dungeness Basin is completely dependent upon natural and local precipitation sources for water. The resulting streamflow from the Dungeness River and smaller streams, as well as the percolation and subsurface flow into the aquifer systems, constitute the totality of water resources. Dramatic temperature increases, decreased snowpack and decreased precipitation could have a near term impact on this supply system.

Clallam County has begun development of an off-channel reservoir that is intended to store winter seasonal river flow and runoff for use during the drier summer season. While such storage will provide near-term augmentation, the fundamental dependence on annual precipitation (including snowmelt) suggests that climate change induced weather extremes could threaten the sufficiency of water required to support the expected population growth on top of irrigation and fish/wildlife needs. Additional sources of supplementation would require additional governmental regulatory and funding support. Such planning and execution requires years before the necessary infrastructure can be established.

WRTG Member and/or Adviser Comments:

[Tony Corrado] A plan should be developed with responsible agencies that are located outside of WRIA-18 for determining the methodology for sharing water resources (inter-districts) in the event of natural shortages or localized disasters which may affect any of the individual agencies. . With advanced planning for such a contingency, water resources could be managed in an orderly and sustainable manner.

[Carol Creasey, 5/20/22]

- I would include in the study: “exploration of deep water bearing zones.”
- Research should be done to assess what other tools are used in water short areas such as Australia, etc.

[Robert Knapp, 5/20/22] This group did not explicitly discuss water conservation, but it could be mentioned here and in other topics, if not made a stand-alone topic of its own with related recommendations.

Data/References:

Elwha-Dungeness Planning Units. 2005. Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan (WRIA 18 Plan). Water Quantity Recommendations, 3.1 [Section 3.1.1 Future Water Supply Strategies for People and Fish]. <http://www.clallam.net/environment/assets/applets/W18 3.1-WaterQuantity.pdf>

Gores, Loni

From: Mielke, Todd
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Cameron, Ron
Cc: Gores, Loni; Richards, Ron; Fisch, Susan
Subject: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution
Attachments: Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties 3.docx

Hi Ron,

I'm responding to the DRAFT resolution proposed by the Coroner Subcommittee of the Charter Review Commission. In my conversations with Duncan Fobes, we believe there is a second section of the Charter that would require the removal of language pertaining to the Prosecuting Attorney serving as the ex-officio coroner. Specifically, that additional section is the "Table of Contents" referenced as the "Charter Summary" of the document. While some may argue that it is not actually a part of the Charter and only provides a summary of the contents of each Article of the Charter, I believe amending this section also would make the intent of the Charter Review Commission irrefutably clear.

Currently, in the Charter Summary under the fourth bullet "Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS", it reads:
Keeps Assessor, Auditor, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts as elected officials; outlines powers and duties; **notes that Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner.**

I'm attaching a copy of an edited DRAFT resolution (with tracked changes) for you to consider that addresses this issue. I'm also cc'ing Loni, Ron Richards, and Susan Fisch so they can also review these edits. My intent is not to interfere with the process of the Charter Review Commission – only assist where I can to assist the group in achieving its goals.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Todd

Todd Mielke

*County Administrator
Clallam County
223 E 4th St, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
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County Cell 360-477-1501
Email: todd.mielke@clallamcountywa.gov*

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. In both the CHARTER SUMMARY, Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, and Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that state law precludes him from serving as ex-officio coroner.
3. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
4. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
5. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
6. The Clallam County Charter Review Commission desires to amend the Clallam County Charter by removing the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, thereby removing the responsibility for performing those duties, or having those duties performed, to the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training and credentials to serve as the coroner.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the CHARTER SUMMARY, Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, and Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, of the Clallam County Charter be amended to read as follows:

CHARTER SUMMARY, Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Keeps Assessor, Auditor, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts as elected officials; outlines powers and duties ((; notes that Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner)).

Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, and Clallam County Code Section 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Clallam County Auditor; and
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Sarah <triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 7:56 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: 6.23.2025 Charter Review meeting: Correspondence Submission – Governance Improvements Not Yet Addressed in Clallam Charter

You don't often get email from triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Gores,

Please include the following as written correspondence for the June 23, 2025, Charter Review Commission meeting.

As a resident of Forks and a consistent viewer of the Charter Review Commission's work since January, I want to thank the commissioners for their time and service. I also appreciate the thoughtful amendments already put forward to address commissioner elections and nonprofit board conflicts, both of which I support.

As the Commission approaches its final opportunity to submit charter amendments by the August 5, 2025, elections deadline, I would like to respectfully highlight three remaining gaps in the current Clallam County Charter that are addressed in the Clark County Charter (2024 Update). These improvements could still be motioned and finalized in time and would strengthen Clallam's governance for years to come.

Gaps in Clallam's Charter Compared to Clark County:

1. No Ethics Enforcement Mechanism

- *Clark Charter Sections 9.2–9.3* establish an independent Ethics Review Commission.
- *Clallam's Charter (Sec. 12.60)* requires a Code of Ethics, but there is no specified enforcement process.
- Suggestion: Add a new Section 12.70 creating an independent ethics panel or designating enforcement authority to a neutral body.

2. Lack of Defined Governance Structure or Separation of Powers

- *Clark Charter (Articles 3–4)* distinguishes legislative (Council) and administrative (Manager) powers.
- *Clallam Charter* lacks this structural clarity and could benefit from long-term planning for modernization.
- Suggestion: Recommend a 2026 post-election workgroup to explore administrative role definition and organizational improvements.

3. No Transparency in Executive Hiring or Confirmation

- *Clark Charter (Sec. 4.2)* requires public notice and council confirmation for hiring the County Manager.
- *Clallam Charter* does not outline any process for transparency or public accountability in hiring top county officials.

- Suggestion: Propose a future amendment or ordinance requiring public posting, open process, and confirmation for key executive hires.

These additions would not duplicate any current proposals but would complement the Commission's work by addressing longstanding transparency and accountability concerns using tested frameworks from a comparable Home Rule county.

Thank you again for your leadership and for the opportunity to contribute to this process as a West End resident.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sarah Huling, MBA, EdD
Forks, WA

Gores, Loni

From: Sarmiento, Nina
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 12:18 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Edited Amendment, Draft Recommendation Document, and Correspondence Document
Attachments: Charter Amendment from Water Committee.docx; Correspondence about water related positions in other counties.docx; DRAFT Recommendations to the BOCC that may accompany the amendment proposal.docx

Hi Loni,

Can you forward this message and attachments to the rest of the Commission? This is important information for the Water Committee's business item at the meeting, Thank you.

Attached find the Water Committee Edited Amendment, Draft Recommendation Document, and a correspondence Document.

Nina

*Nina Sarmiento
Charter Review Commission
District 3*

2025

Clallam County Charter Review Commission
DRAFT – under review

Resolution Number _____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The above factors, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing ground water resources.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. Therefore, it has become increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Water data for the County is sparse, and often old and out of date; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfil existing water rights that exist on paper.
6. The cost of water planning with existing limited data is likely much greater than the cost of improving this information. Adequate and improved information is needed.
7. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do comprehensive water planning, but all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.
8. In 2018, Clallam County shifted its water resources science expertise from a general role to specific projects. This disrupted the continuity of the County's water resources data acquisition, analysis, and sharing. The County is the government authority in the best position to provide the expertise to address county-wide water data needs.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article _____, a Section _____: _____, to read as follows:

The position of Water Resources Specialist is hereby created. The Specialist shall be a senior hydrologist, hydrogeologist, water resources engineer, or someone who holds other equivalent qualifications. The specialist shall have relevant knowledge of data storage and gathering, water related technologies, and trends in water needs and availability relevant to all geographic areas of the county. This position shall serve as an independent agent ~~contractor~~ to analyze and quantify Clallam County's water resources for sustainability and availability, and would have absolutely no water resource management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Its sole purpose would be to make available to those entities that do manage Clallam County's water resources the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.

~~The Specialist shall provide reports, updates and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and appropriate county departments in public meeting settings only.~~
The specialist findings and reports shall be based upon sound data and science and shall be transmitted to others via publication on an internet site accessible to the public.

~~The Water Resource Specialist shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners shall retain the specialist through a personal services bidding contract bidding procedure. Qualified bids received in response to that procedure shall be reviewed and ranked by an ad hoc Committee. That committee Candidates for the position will be recommended by an ad hoc independent nonpartisan hiring committee appointed by the County Commissioners. The Hiring Committee shall include three eCounty employees, one from the Department of staff one each from Public Works, one from Director of the Department of Community Development, and one from the Environmental Health section of the County Health and Human Services Department; and four members representing entities with significant stakes in water resources in Clallam County including . two members selected by the Director of the Department of Community Development and two members selected by the Board of County Commissioners.~~

~~The Specialist shall provide reports, updates and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and appropriate county departments in public meeting settings only.~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the

Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Correspondence about water related positions in other counties

Nina Sarmiento has followed up on this correspondence but so far this is all the information that has been provided. People may still email back with more info.

Skagit:

Good morning,

We only have one hydrogeologist on staff for the County who resides in our Public Works Solid Waste Division. When more expertise is needed, we tend to contract the work out. I hope that helps but let me know if you need anything else.

Best,
Jenn

Jenn E. Johnson, PhD
Natural Resources Division Manager

-

Hi Nina,

Since you had reached out to Margo about the hydrogeologist job description, I've attached mine. (ATTACHMENT BELOW)

I do not have management/supervisory duties, and most of my work revolves around the needs of the Public Works Solid Waste Division (a lot of landfill monitoring, groundwater/stormwater sampling, and permit compliance). So, although I've done a very small amount of review for our Planning Department, the scope of my work is fairly narrow as far as hydrogeology is concerned. I imagine that a position that works with multiple departments and has a broader scope would generally have a focus and range of responsibilities that differ a lot from my own.

Also, although our Planning Department does not currently have a hydrogeologist position, they do have a couple water resource planners who are involved in the type of work you talked about in your email. If you like I can provide their emails. Hope this is helpful!

Cheers,

Russell Thompson
Hydrogeologist
Skagit County Public Works

Pierce:

Nina,

Please see below. Let me know if you have further questions or can clarify.

Subject: RE: Natural Resource/Water inquiry

Tracie,

You could let them know there are 7 staff supporting a variety of storm water data collection. The person just wrote water. They could be asking about drinking water or ground water or all of it.

You might want to ask them a clarifying question. Is it surface water or something other/more? You might also want to ask them if they feel the position must be a licensed hydrogeologist or hydrologist. I'm not sure if we have any of those in SWM although certain engineering credentials cover the same skills.

It would be really helpful to them if you helped them clarify their question.

Thanks,
Maureen

Whatcom:

Nina,

Thank you for reaching out! Unfortunately we don't have any Hydrogeologists in the Planning Department. However, I believe that Gary Stoyka, in the Public Works Department is a licensed hydrogeologist. However, his position is the Natural Resources Program Manager so I don't believe he is actively doing hydrogeologist work.

If the County were to hire a hydrogeologist, Public Works would probably be the department to do it. I have cc'd Gary on this email. Feel free to contact him with any further questions.

Michael Kershner
Whatcom County Natural Resources

Hi Nina:

Whatcom County does not have any hydrogeologist or hydrologist positions. I happen to be a licensed hydrogeologist, but it is not a requirement of my position. We generally hire consultants whenever we need these services. Whatcom County does have a geologist position in the Planning Department and we do have licensed geologists in the Public Works Department that are mostly involved in geomorphology work. The Public Works Department also has several environmental scientists working in surface water quality, salmon recovery, marine resources, and watershed planning.

I was in a hydrogeologist position when I was at Skagit County. I believe that position still exists. I would contact Margo Gillaspie at Skagit County to find out more about their position. I don't have her email, but I'm sure it's available on their website.

Good Luck!
-Gary

Jefferson:

Nina,

We do not have a hydrologist or hydrogeologist employed in Jefferson County. We submitted an FPHS proposal with Clallam and San Juan counties for a shared Hydrogeologist in 2022, but the proposal was not funded.

We support your effort in securing a hydrologist or hydrogeologist in Clallam County as they are highly specialized and their work contributes greatly to protecting public health.

Our Water Quality Program has one manager and approximately 4 FTEs. This team does our Pollution Identification and Control Program and Hazardous Algal Blooms. We are in the process of setting up a lab to conduct our own testing for a limited number of analytes. We currently contract with a consulting firm for a hydrogeologist on an on-call basis.

Please contact the following staff for specific program questions:

- Pollution Identification and Control (PIC) Water Sampling program, Mike Dawson at 360 344-9301
- Hazardous Algal Blooms, Tim Weisman 360 379- 4485.

Sincerely,

Pinky Feria Mingo
Environmental Health and Water Quality Director

SKAGIT COUNTY
POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Hydrogeologist
Department: Public Works, Solid Waste Division
Report To: Solid Waste Division Manager
Occupation Code: 2402
Salary Range: 26

SUMMARY:

Management of the groundwater and environmental monitoring programs for the Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division. This work includes conducting specific technical hydrogeological and environmental investigations at solid waste sites as well as providing technical and regulatory assistance to other County departments including Planning and Development Services and Public Health Departments.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Responsible for the development, management, and implementation of environmental monitoring projects for the Solid Waste Section including:

- management of landfill gas system and gas monitoring program;
- development and management of environmental databases;
- preparation and/or approval of required environmental monitoring reports;
- coordination of site engineering and maintenance activities at closed/abandoned landfills including management of County staff and various subcontractors and consultants;
- solicitation of bids and preparation of contracts;
- serve as point of contact for State and local regulatory agency communications;
- coordination of other County staff and attorneys in the acquisition of property associated with closed/abandoned landfills;
- provision of technical expertise to Public Health Department in the environmental assessment of non-County abandoned landfills and other sites in County;
- Technical presentations to staff, Board of County Commissioners, other governmental agencies, and the public as necessary.

Manage permitting of County's pits and quarries.

Manage Industrial Stormwater Permit at Transfer Station.

Supervise, direct, and properly log drilling and construction of soil borings and groundwater monitoring.

Manage projects including management of subcontractors and consultants, budget management, and solicitation and preparation of contracts.

Assist in the development and management of environmental monitoring programs for the Department, as assigned, and conduct technical work related to the programs.

Assist other County departments with hydrogeological and environmental technical and regulatory expertise.

Assist with the development, management, and implementation of State instream flow rules (e.g., Chapters 173-503 and 173-505 WAC).

Coordinate outreach on environmental issues with local community groups and various governmental agencies.

Provide expertise to County staff and officials regarding geologic, hydrogeologic, and contaminant assessment issues.

Prepare technical reports and make technical presentations.

Assist in the development of long-range, County-wide hydrogeologic projects including hydrogeologic/chemical data base development/maintenance/implementation; identification/mapping of regional aquifers and aquifer recharge areas; modeling of groundwater flow and contaminant transport using the three-dimensional MODFLOW software.

Provide technical review of hydrogeologic assessment reports prepared by consultants for compliance with the County's Critical Areas Ordinance (SCC 14.24) and drinking water code (SCC 12.48). Activities may include conducting independent hydrogeological testing and analysis, groundwater modeling, and contaminant transport evaluation and/or modeling.

Supervisory:

This position has no direct supervisory responsibilities.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:

Performs related duties as assigned.

Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

- Ability to work independently.
- Fundamental knowledge of geologic and hydrogeologic processes including techniques and skills to conduct and evaluate technical hydrogeologic assessments and evaluations.
- Ability to research, collect, prepare, and analyze technical data pertaining to hydrogeology.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to gain knowledge of applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations.
- Ability to develop cost efficient Environmental Monitoring Programs.
- Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with Officials, other employees, and the public.
- Ability to prepare and deliver comprehensive technical reports.
- Ability to administer and manage environmental programs.

Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Geology or Hydrogeology with a Master's Degree preferred.
- A minimum of three years of professional experience in hydrogeology. Any combination of related experience and education that is sufficient to demonstrate thorough competency will be accepted.
- Valid Licensed Geologist and Hydrogeologist certification in the State of Washington or ability to obtain such within first year of employment.

- Valid Washington State Driver's License.

Physical Requirements:

Fieldwork may require walking on steep or uneven terrain in a variety of weather conditions. Ability to carry appropriate equipment necessary to perform duties of position.

Working Conditions:

Work performed will be a combination of office and field environment.

Recommendations to the BOCC that may accompany the amendment proposal:

DRAFT

- Qualified bids received in response to that procedure shall be reviewed and ranked by an ad hoc Committee. That Committee shall include three county employees, one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Department of Community Development, and one from the Environmental Health section of the County Health and Human Services Department; and four members representing entities with significant stakes in water resources in Clallam County including two members selected by the Director of the Department of Community Development and two members selected by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Specialist's position need not be filled unless the submitted bid on an annual basis is for a cost less than the annual salary and benefits of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.
- The Specialist retained for the position must be among the top three bidders as ranked by the Committee. The contract period for this position shall have a term of three years, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited in a manner to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring.

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
DRAFT – under review

Resolution Number _____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
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4. Therefore, it has become increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Water data for the County is sparse, and often old and out of date; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfil existing water rights that exist on paper.
6. The cost of water planning with existing limited data is likely much greater than the cost of improving this information. Adequate and improved information is needed.
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8. In 2018, Clallam County shifted its water resources science expertise from a general role to specific projects. This disrupted the continuity of the County's water resources data acquisition, analysis, and sharing. The County is the government authority in the best position to provide the expertise to address county-wide water data needs.

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Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article _____, a Section _____: _____, to read as follows:

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The specialist findings and reports shall be based upon sound data and science and shall be transmitted to others via publication on an internet site accessible to the public.

The Board of County Commissioners shall retain the specialist through a personal services bidding contract bidding procedure.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Clean copy

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 12:22 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #7493 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Wendy Rae
Last Name	Johnson
Email	Jwendyrael@gmail.com
Phone	831-818-0265
Subject	Hydrogeologist hire
Comments	Please approve the hiring of this vital non partisan position. We need to get on board with some hydrological expertise now. We were notified in May about phase 2 water restrictions and with climate change and logging things are only going to get worse. Please be proactive and approve this position.

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Re: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Hi Todd,

I think it would be a real mistake to change this resolution as Mr. Forbes suggests. First, the Charter Summary is not a part of the Charter. Second, an amendment to the Charter would without question be interpreted by any court as impliedly amending any charter summary. Third, this has never been a concern before. For example, the Charter Summary says the following:

Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Keeps Assessor, Auditor, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts as elected officials; outlines powers and duties; notes that Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner.

Is Mr. Forbes suggesting we do not now have an elected Director of the Department of Community Development because this Charter Summary was not changed when the elected DDCD position was created? To be consistent, this is the position he would have to take.

This suggestion would create a terrible precedent needlessly complicating future changes to the charter and calling into question, for no reason, past changes to the charter.

Ron

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Morris, Patti <patti.morris@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Forwarding as an FYI. I'll have copies available at the meeting tonight.

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Hi Ron,

I'm responding to the DRAFT resolution proposed by the Coroner Subcommittee of the Charter Review Commission. In my conversations with Duncan Fobes, we believe there is a second section of the Charter that would require the removal of language pertaining to the Prosecuting Attorney serving as the ex-officio coroner. Specifically, that additional section is the "Table of Contents" referenced as the "Charter Summary" of the document. While some may argue that it is not actually a part of the Charter and only provides a summary of the contents of each Article of the Charter, I believe amending this section also would make the intent of the Charter Review Commission irrefutably clear.

Currently, in the Charter Summary under the fourth bullet "Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS", it reads:
Keeps Assessor, Auditor, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts as elected officials; outlines powers and duties; **notes that Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner.**

I'm attaching a copy of an edited DRAFT resolution (with tracked changes) for you to consider that addresses this issue. I'm also cc'ing Loni, Ron Richards, and Susan Fisch so they can also review these edits. My intent is not to interfere with the process of the Charter Review Commission – only assist where I can to assist the group in achieving its goals.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Todd

Todd Mielke
County Administrator
Clallam County
223 E 4th St, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Ph 360-565-2670
County Cell 360-477-1501
Email: todd.mielke@clallamcountywa.gov

Gores, Loni

From: Duncan K. Fobes <dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Mielke, Todd
Cc: Cameron, Ron; Fisch, Susan
Subject: RE: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Ron,

Thank you very much for your insight on this. I was unaware of the history relating to the Charter Summary. Because there are implications beyond the change to the ex officio coroner issue, I would not make the deletion that I previously recommended to the Charter Summary. Without that history, the change to the Charter Summary would be fine.

I submitted a draft ballot resolution to Todd earlier today and will revise that.

Thank you, Duncan

Duncan K. Fobes,
Founding Principal
Patterson · Buchanan · Fobes & Leitch, Inc., P.S.

✉ dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com

DIRECT 206.462.6704 | TOLL FREE 800.722.3815

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 1:57 PM
To: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>; Duncan K. Fobes <dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com>
Cc: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

ATM and Mr. Fobes:
See email below from Ron Richards – Charter Review Commissioner.
Loni

“My email address has changed! The new format is **Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov** Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board

*Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Morris, Patti <patti.morris@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Re: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

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Ron

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:18 AM

To: Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Morris, Patti <patti.morris@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy

<cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: FW: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Forwarding as an FYI. I'll have copies available at the meeting tonight.

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 1:37 PM

To: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>

Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Potential Amendment to Coroner Resolution

Hi Ron,

I'm responding to the DRAFT resolution proposed by the Coroner Subcommittee of the Charter Review Commission. In my conversations with Duncan Fobes, we believe there is a second section of the Charter that would require the removal of language pertaining to the Prosecuting Attorney serving as the ex-officio coroner. Specifically, that additional section is the "Table of Contents" referenced as the "Charter Summary" of the document. While some may argue that it is not actually a part of the Charter and only provides a summary of the contents of each Article of the Charter, I believe amending this section also would make the intent of the Charter Review Commission irrefutably clear.

Currently, in the Charter Summary under the fourth bullet "Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS", it reads:
Keeps Assessor, Auditor, Director of the Department of Community Development, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prosecuting Attorney, and Judges of the Superior and District Courts as elected officials; outlines powers and duties; **notes that Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner.**

I'm attaching a copy of an edited DRAFT resolution (with tracked changes) for you to consider that addresses this issue. I'm also cc'ing Loni, Ron Richards, and Susan Fisch so they can also review these edits. My intent is not to interfere with the process of the Charter Review Commission – only assist where I can to assist the group in achieving its goals.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Todd

Todd Mielke
County Administrator

Clallam County
223 E 4th St, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Ph 360-565-2670
County Cell 360-477-1501
Email: todd.mielke@clallamcountywa.gov



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PATTERSON BUCHANAN
FOBES & LEITCH, INC., P.S.

1000 SECOND AVENUE, 30TH FLOOR
SEATTLE, WA 98104

To: Todd Mielke, Clallam County Administrator

ATTORNEY – CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Date: June 23, 2025

From: Duncan Fobes, PBFL

Subject: Clallam County - Coroner Issue

Draft Ballot Language and Explanatory Statement re: County Coroner Revisions

THIS IS A REVISE DRAFT

Proposed Ballot Measure:

Charter Amendment Regarding Coroner Duties

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the Clallam County Home Rule Charter, concerning the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney serve as the ex-officio coroner. This amendment would remove the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney serve as the ex-officio coroner, thereby removing the duties of coroner from the Prosecuting Attorney to the Board of County Commissioners of Clallam County, who would then have the responsibility to hire personnel with the appropriate credentials and training to serve as coroner. Should this amendment be:

Approved.....[]

Rejected.....[]

Explanatory Statement:

Commented [DP1]: Not to exceed 150 words

The Clallam County Home Rule Charter currently provides that the Prosecuting Attorney shall additionally serve as ex-officio coroner. The amendment, if adopted, would remove the Prosecuting Attorney as ex-officio coroner and place the responsibilities and duties of appointing a coroner to the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Article XI, Section 4 of the Washington State Constitution, which provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will become the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners.

1088893

PATTERSON BUCHANAN
FOBES & LEITCH, INC., P.S.

1000 SECOND AVENUE, 30TH FLOOR
SEATTLE, WA 98104

Under this amendment, the Board of County Commissioners would have the ability to hire personnel with the appropriate credentials and training to serve as the coroner.

This statement was prepared by Duncan K. Fobes, Attorney, Patterson Buchanan Fobes & Leitch; 1000 Second Avenue, 30th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104; (206) 462-6700.

Corresponding Change to Charter (if the amendment is adopted):

Section 4:20: Powers and Duties

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~ (Amendment proposed by the Charter Review Commission and approved by the voters November 7, 1989. Amendment proposed by the Charter Review Commission and approved by the voters November 4, 2025.)

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 4:43 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Tozzer, Jeff; Benedict, Bill; Noble, Chris; Fleck, Rod; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Fw: Analysis of County Code pertaining to Ethics

Loni,

as suggested by Comm. Tozzer, please have copies made for the meeting

I have an important appointment in Silverday in the morning. The chances are good that i will be back in time for our meeting, but i may have to call in. I'll talk with you folks at the meeting tonight.

Ron

From: Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Analysis of County Code pertaining to Ethics

Dear Ethics Committee members,

I've analyzed the County Code and prepared this report. Ron, if you want this printed for Tuesday, I'll let you forward it to Loni and ask for copies.

Jeff

1. The Existing Code Is Not Enforceable Against Elected Officials

- **Problem:** CCC 3.01.010 is an **ordinance**, not a Charter provision. Ordinances can regulate **employees, appointees, and volunteers**, but applying them to **elected officials**—who are independently elected and accountable to voters—requires a different legal standard.
- **Why it matters:** Unless specifically authorized by the **County Charter**, the BOCC cannot impose legally binding ethics rules or sanctions on fellow elected officials. Doing so risks violating separation of powers and undermining democratic accountability.

Evidence: CCC 3.01.010 states it is “**intended to serve as a guide for official conduct.**” That language suggests it’s **aspirational**, not enforceable. There's **no disciplinary mechanism** for elected officials.

2. No Clear Enforcement Authority or Independent Oversight

- The existing code **does not establish a board, officer, or process** to investigate or discipline ethics violations.
- The **Board of County Commissioners** (BOCC) would be in the position of overseeing or enforcing ethics rules on **themselves or other independently elected officials**, creating a conflict of interest.

In contrast, a Charter Amendment could:

- Establish an **independent Ethics Board**
- Define **enforceable standards**
- Outline **due process protections** for accused officials
- Create a **clear process** for investigation, findings, and sanctions

3. Elected Officials Are Only Removable by Voters Unless the Charter Says Otherwise

- Under Washington law, elected officials can generally only be removed through:
 - **Elections / recall**, or
 - **Procedures outlined in the County Charter**
- The **existing code of ethics**, as an ordinance, **cannot override this**.

Bottom line: Without a Charter provision, you cannot legally compel an elected official to resign, face censure, or be investigated by an ethics body just for violating an ordinance.

4. The Code Can Be Changed or Weakened by the BOCC Anytime

- Because CCC 3.01.010 is a standard **county code** adopted by ordinance, it can be:
 - **Amended**
 - **Suspended**
 - **Repealed**
- ...by a **simple majority vote** of the BOCC.

That makes it vulnerable to political shifts and unaccountable officials.

A Charter Amendment, by contrast, requires a **public vote to change**, making it more stable and transparent.

5. The Current Code Is Too General and Lacks Specific Standards for Public Office

- CCC 3.01.010 relies on vague principles like:
 - “Avoid the appearance of impropriety”
 - “Exercise sound judgment”
 - “Strive to avoid even the appearance of wrongdoing”

Those are not **justiciable standards**. You can’t discipline an official based on vague or subjective guidelines—especially when due process and First Amendment rights are involved.

Summary: Why a Charter Amendment is Necessary

Issue	Current Ordinance (CCC 3.01.010)	Charter Amendment
Applies to electeds?	Not effectively	Yes, if drafted properly
Enforceable?	No	Yes
Independent oversight?	No	Can establish a board
Protects voters’ interests?	Weakly	Strongly
Vulnerable to repeal?	Yes	No (requires public vote)

Recommendation:

If Clallam County wants a **credible, enforceable ethics system** that applies to **elected officials**, it should not rely on CCC 3.01.010. Instead, it should propose a **Charter Amendment** that:

- Defines ethics standards for electeds
- Establishes an enforcement process with an independent body
- Protects due process
- Is voter-approved and difficult to dismantle