Team Members and Staff present: (from Attendance List)

Education            Pat Willits                        Sports Fishing  Eloise Kailin
Environment          Don Schuba                          Water Purveyors Cindy Kelly
Forestry             No Representative                   City of Port Angeles Brad Collins
Home/Land Owners     Bob Kajfasz                         Clallam County  Valerie Wilson
Industry             Dean Reed, Chair                    WA Dept. of Ecology Cynthia Nelson
Lower Elwha Tribe    Matt Beirne                        Civic          Not Represented
Recreation           Mike Langley, Vice Chair         Commercial/Econ. Dev.  Not Represented
Recreation           Bobbie Baldwin                    Commercial Fishing No Representative

Interested Parties Present:  (from Attendance List)  

Mike Haggen                  Environment Caucus  Mary Peck
Clallam County Natural Resources  Andy Brastad

Notes taken by:  
Nola Judd, Clallam County

Public Comments/ Announcements
None

Approval of Agenda
The scheduled presentation by Ecology has been postponed.

Approval of Minutes
Tapes for the September 28 meeting have not been reviewed. The minutes will be provided at a later meeting.

November Meeting Schedule
The November meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, November 30, due to Thanksgiving.

Homeowner Caucus Representation and Participation
Valerie gave a brief overview of the situation. Willie Burer has resigned her position representing Home/Land Owners caucus. The caucus met three weeks ago and none of the three present desired to be representative. Bob Kajfasz came to the meeting as a temporary representative. Interest in EMMT is waning. Forestry caucus and Commercial caucus also have no representatives at present. The Civic and Economic Development caucuses have not attended meetings recently. Mike Hagen, former Forestry representative, felt the community, forestry and general public, needs more outreach. Cynthia asked what issues might bring Forestry back to the table. Mike felt there were too many issues vying for their attention; however, consideration of sedimentation rules might be one issue to cause them to reconsider. He also felt that since the State is the largest forestry landowner, their presence might be more appropriate. Brad
commented that EMMT’s slow movement to date might be an issue. Building more interest by the public in water issues in separate meetings sponsored by EMMT was suggested.

Other issues that might prove of interest to the public were suggested by members: buffers, water conservation, water quantity, removal of Elwha dams, etc. Several EMMT members felt Water Rights would be a hot issue. Limiting Factors for salmon populations in WRIA 18 might be considered as topic of interest. Where Critical Areas leave off and Watershed issues begin might be another issue. Including the current month’s topics in the newspaper ad was suggested.

There was more general discussion of the reasons for low public involvement. It was suggested that no environmental management issues being discussed in the near term may be discouraging participation. One of the things that may appeal to the public might be a less formal structure in the meeting. Having a public meeting, for instance, in City council chambers, on the current topic under consideration was suggested. This will allow feedback to the EMMT in addition to the caucus meetings. Pat Willits expressed concern that when creating a Watershed Management Plan, the end product may not be of much value if the watershed residents don’t participate in the planning process. Concerned that public interest may only be generated when the plan is being finalized, Pat felt latecomers who are not up to speed might circumvent the learning process. EMMT is faced with creating a watershed plan with only a limited number of people involved. Another thought was that the public will wait until the product is developed (i.e., the watershed plan) in many cases and there is nothing that EMMT can do about it. Some people will come and go during the process.

EMMT is not unique in this challenge. Eloise Kailin indicated the DRMT has had a similar challenge. She indicated that the DRMT has had two or three public meetings that were quite successful. One of the better ones included a facilitator and broke up into small groups. Eloise enjoyed an exercise where meeting attendees were issued “play money” to explore options of what might be done and individual priorities. The Jefferson County Watershed Planning Unit has similar challenges. Andy Brastad suggested that Going to the community rather than expecting them to come to EMMT might be more successful.

Cynthia felt that some of the approach that EMMT has taken was due to the structure of the state watershed planning statute. If a caucus is not represented, they do need to be encouraged to attend EMMT meetings. Agendas with more issues of interest should be sought. Mike Langley expressed that we don’t need more work for ourselves but perhaps one meeting each quarter could be a public forum, with a separate EMMT business meeting following. Having bimonthly meetings, with one or two perhaps unrelated topics, to encourage broader interest was suggested. Having a presentation and breaking in smaller groups to encourage more communication was also suggested. Sub-basins could be addressed also. Mary Peck felt if the structure of the meeting invited more discussion and participation that people may feel more comfortable and more willing to participate.

Refreshments were suggested for the public forum. Whether to have a weekday or weekend meeting and the best time of day would need to be determined. A public forum would not require meeting at the regular EMMT time. Brad suggested that perhaps people might be readily available early in December. Dean felt that preparation for such an activity might require additional time. Cynthia felt January would be more appropriate. Dean suggested the Executive Committee give it further consideration with input from the Initiating Governments. Also, since the Education and Environment caucuses have been more successful in getting participation, their input might prove helpful.

Pat Willits asked Mary Peck to share an idea. Mary Peck had thought of a forum with a panel of four to five people, not necessarily from our watersheds; after the presentation, a dinner would follow and afterwards a question and answer opportunity for exchange and community participation.
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Pat recommended that we make a decision tonight to do it. Establishing a Working Group, rather than leaving it to the Executive Committee was suggested. Mary Peck, Mike Langley, Matt Bierne, Cynthia Nelson, Harriet Beale, Mike Haggen, Valerie Wilson and Pat Willits volunteered to meet to discuss this further. The proposed meeting time for the Working Group was November 16, 7:00 PM, with the place to be announced. It was suggested that the caucuses be asked for suggestions to be brought to the Work Group meeting.

Report on Valley Creek Restoration Committee
Valerie Wilson reported that there is a committee meeting regularly to discuss restoration, recreation and land acquisition in Valley Creek watershed. There is strong interest by the community in this project most likely because it is a hands-on project with definite goals. EMMT should pay attention to the activities of this group and work with them as needed. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, from 10:00-12:00 in the Vern Burton.

Ground Rule Revisions
The recommended revisions, as highlighted, were reviewed. A quorum was present and the consensus was to approve.

Sub-basin Subcommittees - Update on Progress
Elwha Sub-basin is waiting for BOR information. They will try to meet in November or December but do not anticipate output before January.

Andy reported that he had received a call regarding a dam removal project on the White River and relayed their expressed interest in how we are approaching a similar issue.

Dry Creek is almost done; they need some photos and review by others.

Peabody Creek. Brad Collins recommended Steve Spear of Port Angeles' Public Works for participation. Mike Hagen and Cindy are the other members of this sub-basin team.

Tumwater. Cathy Lear has volunteered to assist.

Lees Creek. There has been no progress in the past few months, but they are meeting.

Morse Creek has a good draft.

Individual Caucus Updates
Every month, two weeks after the EMMT meets a tri-caucus meeting is taking place, with participation from Education, Recreation and Environment (and some by Homeowners). Discussion of Water Rights was given by Cynthia which was well received. Last month, Brian Winter spoke about dam removal. The next meeting has been advertised in the utility bill which may increase participation.

Announcements/Communications
Mitigation meetings regarding Elwha Dam removal are underway. A tour was taken of the Elwha. Different alternatives for protecting drinking water wells and diversions are still being considered. The city's Regional Water Plan has not been discussed. The Bureau of Reclamation has estimated the amount of sediment that they expect to be released when the dams are removed.

Valerie Wilson reported that John Cambalik wanted everyone to see the final ranking for the proposed projects for the North Olympic Peninsula. The LEG, because of concern that the land would not always be available for acquisition, moved Item 5 (Morse Creek land acquisition) up the priority list. It still has to go to the SRF Board where competition will be among 21 other LEGs for funding resources will be fierce.
A flyer for the Watershed Planning Conference was passed to members. If caucus members wish to be reimbursed for conference expenses, there are funds to cover that expense. The deadline is tomorrow to sign-up.

Valerie announced an effort to do water quality monitoring of stormwater inputs to some candidate streams within our management area. Streamkeepers volunteers would go out during a storm event and take water quality samples. The samples would be sent to a lab for analysis to learn what oil, metals, pesticides may be coming into the stream. This has been identified as a data gap, meaning that currently we have no information on the impacts of stormwater on our streams. The Initiating Governments were asked for $5,000 to fund this project. EMMT agreed to support this project. NMFS is very interested in this for Salmon Recovery. This approach would be relatively inexpensive because of the use of Streamkeeper volunteers.

DOE has agreed to provide support for stream gauges. Ecology’s EAP program will come out on November 8 and 9 to scout out stream gauge sites and install one or two. Potential stream gauge locations include:

- Ennis: 2 gauges: one by Rayonier and the other in the National Park by the Heart of the Hills entrance.
- Lees: 1 stream gauge towards the mouth
- Little River: 1 stream gauge towards the mouth
- Peabody: 1 stream gauge; location uncertain

Valley Creek has a continuous stream gauge in place, from Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), so EMMT won’t need to put a gauge there. WDFW’s gauge has been in place for about a year. The location and flows will be forthcoming. Other stream gauge locations need to be identified; e.g., a good location at Dry Creek and Tumwater Creek have not been identified. Little River may be an appropriate option: there are several water right requests there. It was suggested to check Black Diamond Water district to see if they have a gauge in place. A Streamkeeper’s stream team is organized and ready to go out.

Brad Collins asked about the Phase 2 budget. Valerie replied that Ann Soule tracks funding. Valerie can provide updates on status of Phase II money at one of the business meetings.

Cynthia commented that drafting of the work plan, brainstorming what issues and questions EMMT wants for a schedule is needed. WRIA 18 are working on hiring a consultant and outreach facilitator. This may be completed by the end of the year. The Governor’s Salmon Recovery office is working on Watershed issues, and wondering if 2514 could be used to implement 2496. Guidelines may be out for review next month. It was felt that further efforts on the work plan should be delayed until that happens due to the possible impact.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Brad suggested a Progress report from the Bureau of Reclamation. Cynthia offered a General Report of the whole water budget from DOE. A report of Water Balance from Tom Perry was suggested. Cynthia will get someone to address the 102 presentation with case law focus. She will furnish hardcopy for both and a live person for one. The Budget should be an agenda item and the Minutes for September 28 if possible. It was suggested that brief reports from the Public Forum Work Group and from anyone attending the Watershed Workshop also be included in the next agenda.

**Adjournment**

8:45 PM