

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership  
Work Program  
January 1, 2008- December 31, 2009

## Introduction

This program sets forth key work program elements for the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership (Partnership) from January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008. Major program elements include developing objectives to further articulate the vision, identifying and prioritizing data gaps, planning and coordinating additional studies, developing project funding, characterizing alternatives, and building and maintaining relationships. These tasks will be addressed in an interim Vancouver Lake Watershed Management Plan.

## Background

The Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership formed in 2004 to bring local, state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over and interest in Vancouver Lake together with citizens to explore issues and help create a vision for the future of Vancouver Lake. It is a vital regional resource that fulfills a variety of purposes including recreational activities (boating, bird watching, hiking, hunting) and environmental functions (wildlife habitat, wetlands, flood control). Some issues affecting Vancouver lake include but are not limited to: blue-green algal blooms and impaired water quality and hydrology, and siltation. In May 2007 a Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership project management team was retained to assist in the facilitation, planning, and management of Partnership efforts to address these issues.

## Work Program Elements

*January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009*

*The following Work Program elements encompass a two-year period for the Partnership and outlines the responsibilities and tasks to be accomplished for this time period. Some of these elements are on-going and efforts may result in draft products that will serve as a foundation that can be built upon as the project matures. The numbering of elements below does not indicate prioritization.*

- 1. Refine Vision and Develop Objectives** – This element will consist of multiple steps to help move the Partnership forward in a process that will refine the vision by developing objectives that more clearly describe desired potential outcomes.

*Vision:* Currently the Partnership has an unrestrained vision for the future of Vancouver Lake that describes the desired future condition for Vancouver Lake in terms of common ideals. The vision as currently stated by the Partnership is abstract and will help steer efforts and provide guidance for developing objectives for future management alternatives. In order to move forward towards attaining the vision, the Partnership will work through steps collaboratively to prioritize community values with respect to Vancouver Lake, identify constraints, and select achievable objectives.

*Objectives:* Once the Partnership has determined the range of feasible outcomes, objectives can be established. These objectives will be distinct, measurable statements that support vision elements, and are meant to guide alternative selection. Vision elements such as “fishable” and “swimmable” will be defined so that it is clear exactly what the Partnership is trying to attain. The objectives will be designed to direct, track and measure progress over time and become part of the Vancouver Lake Watershed Plan. Objectives will be refined by the current technical studies, priorities, feasibility, and cost.

*Deliverable:* Refined objectives informed by best available science, priorities, feasibility, and cost.

*Task Lead:* Full Partnership, Steering Group, Tech Group

*Schedule:* January, 2008 – December, 2008

- 2. Manage Questions and Information Needs**– Technical and management questions continue to emerge from the Partnership. This inventory of questions and topics has been collected in one place, organized, and binned according to category. The questions have been refined by an ad-hoc committee consisting members of the Partnership for additions and revisions to ensure the list is as complete as possible. This list will continuously evolve as the Partnership moves forward and will feed into the development of objectives, provide a basis for new studies, and guide information needs.

*Deliverable: Updated and revised Partnership question list.*

*Task Lead: Steering Group*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

- 3. Identify, Scope and Coordinate New Studies** – A technical study gap analysis will be conducted by comparing available technical information against the Vancouver Lake question list and research needs. It will examine existing studies and information against the range of questions held by the Partnership to determine which topics currently lack a sound technical basis. The technical group will identify and prioritize technical information needs and report to the Steering Group and Partnership. This evaluation will give direction to the biological and physical information needs.

Once a technical needs assessment and prioritization has been completed and additional studies have been identified to achieve Partnership objectives, the Steering Group will plan, fund and implement studies as appropriate.

*Deliverable: Technical needs assessment, identification of additional studies, implementation coordination.*

*Task Lead: Technical Group, Steering Group*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

- 4. Develop and Refine Draft Alternatives** – Suites of specific management actions will be organized to form different implementation alternatives for accomplishing Partnership objectives. The identification and refinement of these implementation alternatives will help guide new studies and also provide feedback for the vision and objectives. By refining these alternatives, and developing them with assistance from the Technical Group, Steering Group and Partnership, they can be evaluated against fiscal, technical, social and political feasibility. In time, feasible alternatives can be narrowed down for potential implementation.

*Deliverable: Identification, refinement and report on possible management alternatives.*

*Task Lead: Technical Group, Steering Group, Full Partnership,*

*Schedule: January, 2009 – December, 2009*

- 5. Develop Additional Funding**– The majority of funds to-date have been provided through Steering Group agencies and the Corps. Implementation success of future efforts will be tied to the Partnership's ability to secure additional funding sources. A large scale project with federal involvement will require local match and the Partnership will need resources for the project to proceed. This work program element will investigate and pursue funding opportunities.

*2007-09 Legislative Supplemental Budget Process* – The state of Washington budgets on a biennial basis with the most recent legislative budget approved Spring 2007. Second year or supplemental spending and adjustments to the budget will be made when the legislature convenes in January of 2008. This work program element is intended to work with state agency lobbyists and Steering Group agencies to coordinate a legislative funding request.

*Grants* – Several grant opportunities exist for groups such as the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership. Further inquiries will be necessary and specific projects developed in order to determine eligibility and fit. Some example opportunities include: Centennial Clean Water Program and the Northwest Fund For the Environment.

*Deliverable: Funding for additional technical studies and implementation.*

*Task Lead: Steering Group*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

6. **Interaction with Capitol Lake Project and other Similar Lake Restoration Projects**– Research has shown that Capitol Lake in Olympia, WA shares similar traits to Vancouver Lake. Planning and restoration activities are currently underway and familiarization with their efforts provides an opportunity for the Partnership to gain insight about Capitol Lake’s approach, solutions and progress. These insights gained from other similar restoration projects will help advance the Vancouver Lake project.

*Deliverable: Insight into a similar lake-estuary restoration process.*

*Task Lead: Steering Group*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

7. **Develop an Interim Vancouver Lake Watershed Plan** – As the Steering Group and Partnership move through the work program elements described above, an interim Plan will be developed to document decision making and guide restoration efforts at Vancouver Lake. This will build upon current technical work as well as previous studies conducted on the lake and take on a 10-20 year planning horizon. This effort would not complete the plan, but could produce an initial draft pending study results and alternative refinement.

Development of the plan could include the following tasks:

- a. Develop a technical basis for the plan.
- b. Identify objectives to quantify and describe the degree to which conditions will be improved.
- c. Outline alternatives, funding approaches, timelines and milestones for achieving the various recommendations and actions listed in the watershed plan, including water quality, recreation, and habitat elements.
- d. Develop cost estimates for alternative implementation.
- e. Develop a monitoring and project evaluation program that will address management alternative effectiveness, status, critical uncertainties and provide a foundation for an adaptive management process.
- f. Develop a long-term maintenance and operations plan to protect the investment.
- g. Develop process to receive and integrate public input.

*Deliverable: Interim Vancouver Lake Watershed Plan.*

*Task Lead: Steering Group, Partnership, Technical Group, PIO Group*

*Schedule: January, 2009 – December, 2009*

8. **Enhance Relationships with Federal and State Agencies (e.g. USACE, DNR, Ecology and DFW)** – Funding for the Corps Feasibility Study came from the Section 536 water resource program and has a limited scope (focused on fish habitat) and limited budget. While the Feasibility Study is an important step forward, other agency involvement and other Corps authorities may be more appropriate to fully address lake water quality issues. The Partnership will need to coordinate with the Corps, State Agencies, Congressional members, and others to maintain and enhance relationships.

*Deliverable: Communication and relationship development.*

*Task Lead: Steering Group, PC Trask*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

9. **Increased Citizen and Interest Group Outreach** – This work program element will be on-going throughout the year and it includes implementing early actions, building interest, and increasing community support. Increased visibility and public engagement will be key to cultivating community commitment to the project. Keeping citizens and interest groups engaged in the process will help maintain momentum through implementation of the project.

*Deliverable: Increased citizen and interest group involvement.*

*Task Lead: PIO Group, Steering Group*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

10. **Continued Administration** –

- a. **Partnership** - The Partnership is guided by a Charge and Protocols document created in January of 2005 as well as an intergovernmental agreement between the Port of Vancouver, City of Vancouver, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and Clark County signed in late 2006. This work item will involve building upon these documents and identifying areas that may need additional structure. Other general administration duties include agenda distribution, meeting note-taking, and housekeeping items such as membership and meeting frequency
- b. **Steering Group** – Administration for the Steering group includes agenda creation and disbursement, meeting facilitation provided by the project manager, note-taking and summary write-ups.
- c. **Technical Group** - Technical group staffing is shared by Clark County staff and the Project Management team. Administrative duties for the project management team for the technical group are to provide miscellaneous support such as note taking and summary write-ups.
- d. **PIO Group** – The PIO Group consists of public affairs staff from Clark County, City of Vancouver, Port of Vancouver, and Port of Ridgefield. Administration for the PIO Group will involve providing support to the group as they work on strategies and implementation of ongoing public communications and involvement.
- e. **Ad-hoc Committees** - Ad-hoc committees will form and disband on an as-needed basis based on Partnership tasks that arise and need additional oversight. Administration of these temporary ad-hoc committees will include coordination of committee members and management of materials for meetings.

*Deliverable: General partnership administration.*

*Task Lead: LCREP, PC Trask*

*Schedule: January, 2008 – December, 2009*

# DRAFT Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership Strategic Flow Chart



