

# Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

## **Steering Group Meeting Summary**

Meeting date: May 07, 2008, 3:30 pm

### **Steering Group Members Present:**

Patty Boyden	Port of Vancouver
Ron Wierenga	Clark County Dept. of Public Works (alternate for Pete Capell)
Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver Dept. of Public Works (alternate for Brian Carlson)

### **Partnership Members Present:**

Jacquelin Edwards	Citizen
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### **Other Agency Members Present:**

Jim Gladson	Clark County Dept. of Public Works
George Medina	Army Corps of Engineers
Andrew Ness	Port of Vancouver

### **Project Management Team:**

Phil Trask	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Sabrina Litton	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.

### **Agenda/Discussion Topics**

The project manager welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda. He asked if there were any additions. There were none.

## **Partnership Business**

### **Project Manager Update**

#### **Technical Foundation Paper**

Phil told the group about a new document he, Ron and Sabrina have been working on called the Vancouver Lake Technical Foundation. It began from a white paper Phil asked Ron to write last year and concentrates on weaving current questions held by the Partnership together with known information about the Lake. The purpose of the paper is to capture what is known about the Lake and lay a foundation for where the Partnership is going in the future. The intent of developing this document is to help the Technical Group advance a technical strategy for the Partnership and Steering Group's consideration. Phil passed around a current rough draft of the document.

Patty asked if the paper will help define study priorities in a way that if there is only a small amount of money available, the Partnership will know how to best invest it to advance technical knowledge. Phil said that yes, it will be set up so that projects can be chipped away at one piece at a time.

Phil explained that the intended audience for this paper is the Partnership, Steering Group and Technical Group. He said that the document will be great for someone just becoming involved with the Lake and wants to be brought up to speed quickly. Phil said that the currently the plan is for this paper to be a Technical Group document. He hopes to bring it to them in the next few weeks for review and comment. It will be a living document and should help identify where there is agreement and where it is lacking. In that way, we can learn where to focus efforts on building a shared understanding of what we know or need to know.

Patty added that there are multiple studies occurring at the Port's wildlife mitigation bank adjacent to Vancouver Lake. They are creating wetlands and songbird habitat and conducting studies in conjunction with that.

## **Funding**

Phil mentioned that he and Sabrina are setting up a meeting with Tammy Riddell and Tonnie Cummings of the Department of Ecology to discuss Water Quality program funding at Ecology. The meeting should be helpful and take place later this month.

Phil also said that he is working on a budget request to Fish & Wildlife to have them perform a habitat assessment at the lake. Fish and Wildlife Staff could collect valuable information about lakeshore habitat in a relatively short period of time.

Phil also described that now is the time for ramping up legislative efforts for the 2009-2011 biennial budget. He hopes to get things started this month by arranging a meeting with Steering Group members and city, county, and port lobbyists to discuss an appropriate strategy. Beginning sooner rather than later will be important in this effort.

Andy asked if he was working with legislators again. He said he thought it would be a good idea to bring them out to the lake and put an image and experience on the Vancouver Lake issue.

Patty gave Phil the name and contact information for Addison Jacobs, the Public Affairs Director at the Port. She said that Addison is willing to help set up a meeting with the lobbyists to form a legislative strategy. She said that getting the project in the Governors budget should be a top priority and starting now is essential for success. Phil thanked Patty for the help.

Loretta added that tying in the benefits to local citizens will be critical and added that the City, County and Port lobbyists are pros. They will ensure we have answered the critical questions that any legislator might have such as: Why is this project important? What benefit will it deliver? Patty also added that Senate days will be taking place in September right here in Vancouver.

Discussion ensued about how it will be important to elevate Vancouver Lake on a legislators list of projects. Marketing will be important as well a coordinated focus on the project by the City, County and Port. It was noted that Steering Group agencies are good at supporting each other's projects.

Ron noted that we actually know quite a lot about the lake. Maybe not all of the specifics, but enough to speak pretty knowledgeably about the lake and answer basic questions people might have. However, getting more detailed technical info will be important to further understanding the problems and coming up with a solution.

## **Objectives Continuum**

Phil said that he and Sabrina are in the process of scheduling the Objectives Ad-hoc Group meeting. He noted that the meeting had not taken place yet due to scheduling conflicts in April but it likely will take place in late May or early June.

## **Tech Group Update**

Phil said that he had recently spoken with Dr. Steve Bollens and he and Ron are working on coordinating a meeting with WSU soon. WSU expects to have a final report ready for the Partnership by June or July. Loretta asked that when WSU is ready to release information, they inform the Partnership in advance.

## **Corps Update**

George Medina reported on behalf of the Corps. He said that his team is currently working on the model and will be ready to report to the Partnership by the latter part of June. He said that the 2D model will be able to provide a better idea of hydraulic dynamics in the lake and what might happen if dredging occurs in the Lake or if flushing channel culverts are modified. He said that the possibility of the Corps conducting additional biological studies has not yet been ruled out but would be predicated upon the results of the model.

George also reported that Vancouver Lake ranked low in a comparison with other Corps General Investigation (GI) study requests. It had recently been evaluated with the other potential projects and will

not be submitted to Congress. It was pointed out that no new projects received GI funding and only past continuing projects will receive limited funds.

Phil said that a GI study would be a long term investment and operate on a time scale of 15-20 years. The social urgency of a project like Vancouver Lake might make a GI study less of a viable option because of the long-term nature of GI studies. George recommended that the Partnership continue to talk with the Corps about other potential opportunities and funding sources.

#### **PIO Update**

Loretta and Jim announced SOLV's Down by the Riverside cleanup on May 17<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 30 people registered and they are hoping for about 80. Recognition was given to the Parks and Recreation Department for taking the lead on managing much of the details. Notices have been sent out to the community and will be going out to the Partnership soon. David Judd will welcome volunteers at the beginning of the event. Loretta added that it would be great to have someone there with a camera to get pictures of the community helping out at Vancouver Lake. Phil agreed to take pictures to document the event.

Loretta went on to say that with the many other things on her plate at this time, reorganization of the website has not taken place yet. However, in order to help get it taken care of, she told the group of a contractor who has worked with the City before and may be available to help. She asked the Steering Group for permission to spend \$500-\$1000 on this contractor to help with the major updates to the website. There was agreement from the Steering Group to authorize spending of these funds for this purpose.

#### **Next Steps/Close**

Phil thanked the group for attending and closed the meeting.

#### **Next Meetings:**

Full Partnership Meeting – May 21, 2008, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Steering Group Meeting – June 18, 2008, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Port of Vancouver Administrative Offices.