

# Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

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## Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: January 3, 2007, 3:30 pm

### Attendees

Executive Committee: Patty Boyden, Brian Carlson

Partnership Members: Thom McConathy, Jennie Ju, Iloba Odum

Staff: Katy Brooks, Loretta Callahan, Jordan Lerner, Jeanne Lawson, Kalin Schmoltdt, Phil Trask, Ron Wierenga, George Medina, Gail Lovell, Tonnie Coummings, Kim McKee, Dept. of Ecology

Public: David Page, Jacquelin Edwards

### Opening Notes

George noted that Martin has taken a position with the division office and will be in a good position to support the project. He also noted that Curt Loop has retired. George introduced Gail Lovell, a Landscape Architect, who will be technical lead for the Corps. For now, George will be the point of contact for technical or political matters relating to the Corps.

### TMDL project for Burnt Bridge Creek

In response to questions raised at the last meeting about supporting a TMDL project for Burnt Bridge Creek, Iloba Odum from the Dept. of Ecology introduced Kim McKee to explain the request. Kim noted that various bodies of water within Washington are impaired, and a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) project is intended to bring the water body into compliance with state standards. While a previous proposed project included Vancouver Lake, Lake River, and Burnt Bridge Creek, Ecology was considering whether this proposed TMDL project should focus on Burnt Bridge Creek exclusively, with the understanding that a focus on all three would exceed available resources. Kim explained that they were looking to gauge local commitment and support, as well as the resources available to Ecology. He noted that they felt they were due for a TMDL project, and added that Vancouver Lake and Lake River could be considered again in two years.

Kim said that there were no requirements that specific water bodies undergo a TMDL. Brian noted that the WRIA planning process had prioritized other projects over Burnt Bridge Creek, and asked whether support for the proposed BBC TMDL project would push back other locally prioritized projects. Brian emphasized that the City did not oppose a TMDL project for BBC, but was questioning as to whether it should move ahead of other watersheds and he would defer to those who have set priorities. Kim responded that they would be satisfied doing Lacamas Creek or any other water body, and said that they were looking to gauge support for any local TMDL process.

There was some discussion of the expectations for implementation. Kim said that outside of funding from Ecology, there would be TMDL obligations finding their way into local permits, as well as the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. He added that because there wasn't much money, they wanted local input on available resources.

Jeanne asked Ron if he could provide a reminder of how the TMDL fits with the technical program. Ron noted that the TMDL could study various factors such as bacteria and temperature. Kim said he would check to see whether pH was included. Kim added that there were so many elements associated with Vancouver Lake, Lake River, and Burnt Bridge Creek, that it would not be feasible to examine them all within the scope of the available resources.

Ron said that there was much more technical work to be done to determine the specific importance of the tributaries flowing into the lake. He also noted that there was no guarantee that another TMDL will be conducted in Clark County if support for Burnt Bridge Creek were to be withheld.

Thom said that the TMDL should be driven by community support as well as the WRIA. He asked that the letters of support for the previously proposed Burnt Bridge Creek TMDL be considered and noted WSU and USACE as resources to widen the scope of the project and make it more useful to the community.

Ron said that a TMDL might help with implementation, but said that they would have to see how it affects local priorities before it can be incorporated into the technical report.

There was support for taking the discussion to the full Partnership. Ron will address how the TMDL fits with the group's technical strategy. Phil will address his experience with the WRIA process and those priorities. Patty asked Kim to articulate what "support" means. In order to provide some structure in asking the full Partnership for a recommendation, Jeanne recommended the following issues be addressed:

- A description of the statewide TMDL program.
- What would be required of the Partnership.
- How priorities would be affected by supporting a TMDL.
- What would be required locally.
- How a TMDL fits with the technical report.
- How support would advance the goals of the Partnership.

Thom recommended downloading reports on the state of Vancouver Lake from the TMDL website and distributing them at the Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Project Manager Update**

Phil's contract is imminent and is dependent on Pete. Introducing Phil will be a large part of the agenda for the January 17<sup>th</sup> Partnership meeting.

### **Corps Update**

There has been nothing to report since the last meeting.

### **Tech Group Update**

Ron said that they were still working on the contract with WSU. He added that the WSU grant proposal he had mentioned at the last Steering Group meeting had been denied, however, there is a higher likelihood of approval next year, after the work proposed for 2007 is completed.. Ron also said that Ecology's Toxics Report was not yet completed. He said that Salmon Creek Watershed Council will be on the agenda for the March Partnership meeting.

The group opted to make the TMDL update a standalone agenda item.

### **Public Information Update**

Loretta distributed copies of the summary statement of the Corps support for the full Partnership meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that the website has been reviewed and one link was fixed. Some issues with past presentations were remedied. An agenda item for the discussion meeting minutes was added.

### **Changes to Agenda for January 17th Partnership meeting**

1. Welcome/Agenda Review
2. Partnership Business
3. Project Manager Update – Introducing Phil
4. Funding Update
5. Corp Update
6. Tech Group Update
  - Presentation on the DOE Tissue Study – *Ron will present if they are not ready.*
7. Update on TMDL Process
8. PIO Update

Upcoming meetings:

- Partnership meeting, January 17th, 4:00 pm
- Steering Group meeting, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:30 pm