

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: February 7, 2008, 3:30 pm

Steering Group Members Present:

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

Partnership Members Present:

Thom McConathy	Citizen
Vern Veysey	Citizen
Chris Hathaway	Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (alternate for Debrah Marriott)

Other Agency Members Present:

Katy Brooks	Port of Vancouver
Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver Dept. of Public Works
Jim Gladson	Clark County Dept. of Public Works
Andrew Ness	Port of Vancouver

Public in attendance:

Jacquelin Edwards	Citizen
David Page	Citizen

Project Management Team:

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

Agenda/Discussion Topics

The project manager introduced the agenda and asked if there were any modifications. There were none.

Partnership Business

Project Manager Update

Legislative Update

The project manager brought the Steering Group up to speed on recent fundraising efforts. Since developing and sending out the one-pager in conjunction with the Steering Group, Phil scheduled time with state legislators recommended by Steering Group agency lobbyists. Of the four legislators contacted, three, fifteen-minute time slots had been scheduled for February 6. Phil and Ron spent the day in Olympia meeting with Senator Pridemore, Representative Fromhold, and Representative Moeller. Overall, the project manager felt like they were well received. All of the legislators reiterated the fact that their budget was tight and that while they supported the project and would move it forward where they could, the likelihood of receiving funding this year was slim. Phil is scheduled to meet with Representative Wallace next week.

The project manager told the Steering Group that while the funding request might not be successful this year, they are in a good position for next year. This effort is the first step towards a long-term funding strategy that he and Sabrina would be developing this year. It was suggested that the project manager get in touch with additional legislators such as Senator Zarelli from the 18th district.

Data Management

The project manager discussed that with technical studies moving forward the need for organized data management is important. Currently the Partnership does not have a definitive system for storing or managing data and it can sometimes be difficult to search for specific information related to Vancouver Lake. Ron and Loretta agreed and noted that people often come to them looking for Vancouver Lake

information and they have a difficult time telling them how to access that information. Options for hosting the website should it expand were discussed and whether it makes a difference if the City, County, Port or third party hosts the website. Currently the City of Vancouver hosts the Partnership website and Loretta makes additions and modifications.

Patty asked if there was a specific recommendation coming forward to the Steering Group on this subject and the project manager said not at this time. He said that the discussion on this topic however had been helpful in brainstorming ideas on how to take the data management issue further.

Tech Group Update

Ron Wierenga reported on behalf of the Technical Group. He told the group that the Corps is currently underway with their bathymetry survey which will provide useful information to the Partnership as well as feed into the Corps' 2D hydraulic model. It was asked if Lake River was included in this survey, and Ron replied that yes he thinks so, but to what extent is not known at this time.

Ron reported that the Technical Group had met on January 30th. The first hour of the meeting was focused on the Question Matrix and the group discussed a strategy for moving it forward. It was decided that the group would work on the Question Matrix as a homework assignment, send it to the project management team to compile and summarize, and meet again on February 28 to go through the questions and have an in depth discussion. Through this process it is hoped that the technical group can prioritize needed technical work at Vancouver Lake and make recommendations to the Partnership and Steering Group. It is important for the Partnership to identify its technical priorities while also refining its social objectives.

The second part of the meeting was a presentation on the Vancouver Lake Lowlands Groundwater Model. The model was created by a technical team hired by the Port of Vancouver and Clark Public Utilities. The presentation provided an overview of the methods, modeling approach, and some of its initial results. Ron noted that this presentation was very helpful describing the geologic layers beneath the Vancouver Lake Lowlands and helped paint a picture of groundwater movement in the area.

Thom thought it would be a good idea to bring in outside expertise to evaluate the model. He noted that actual amounts of water entering Vancouver Lake via groundwater were not specifically calculated and that the modelers were not focused on answering Vancouver Lake specific questions. It was agreed that this might have been the case because the model was not designed explicitly for Vancouver Lake. Patty mentioned that now that the model is set up and running, it would be relatively easy to query the model to help answer questions. Ron said before doing so it would be important to determine the right questions to ask and that is something the Technical Group is currently working on.

Brian added that having the Port and Clark Public Utilities come together in developing this model has vetted the model pretty thoroughly in his opinion.

Public Information Update

Jim Gladson reported that the PIO group had met with volunteer organization SOLV and Chris Hathaway from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP) to discuss volunteer opportunities around Vancouver Lake and how future partnerships with these organizations might look like. The PIO group is currently thinking about partnering with SOLV for their May 17 "Down by the River" clean-up event. Details are being determined on who the coordinator would be and what this partnership would look like.

Jim handed out criteria the PIO team had developed for selecting Vancouver Lake cleanup projects. Some of the mandatory criteria included: be on readily-accessible public land, show clear environmental benefit, and be sustainable over time. It was asked who the coordinator would be for future volunteer efforts and the PIO group noted that Brian Potter or an Americorps volunteer could play that role. It was noted that the Lake and adjacent habitat should be the focus, not highway roads. The group will decide next week whether or not to participate and report back to the Steering Group.

Loretta Callahan reported that the application period for the vacant Partnership seat is currently closed. Three applications had been received which she distributed to the Steering Group. It was decided that the

Steering Group would review the applications and at the next meeting a decision would be made on who would fill the vacant Partnership seat.

Next Steps/Close

The project manager told to the Steering Group that there were no significant topics to discuss with the Partnership at the February meeting. The Steering Group discussed postponing the Partnership meeting and it was determined that it would be rescheduled for March 19th and the next Steering Group meeting set for March 5th. Agenda items for the March Partnership meeting will be discussed at that time.

Agenda for March Partnership Meeting

March 19, 2008 Full Partnership Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome/Agenda Review
2. Partnership Business
 - Project Manager Update
 - Tech Group Update
 - Public Information Group Update
3. Corps Update
4. Next Steps/Meetings

Next Meetings:

Steering Group Meeting – March 5, 2008, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Full Partnership Meeting – March 19, 2008, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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