

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: January 27, 2009, 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
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Other Agency Members Present:

Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver Dept. of Public Works
Jim Gladson	Clark County Dept. of Public Works

Project Management Team:

Phil Trask	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Sabrina Litton	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Mardy Tremblay	Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Agenda/Discussion Topics

Phil asked if there were any additions or modifications to the agenda. There were none.

Project Manager Update

Annual Report/Technical Foundation

Phil informed the Steering Group that the Annual Report and Technical Foundation had been mailed to all Partnership and Technical Group members and posted on the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership website. A link to the website and posting announcement was emailed by Loretta to the public who have signed up to get information about Vancouver Lake. Brian said he would send the document to the city council commissioners. The possibility of doing an update mid-year was discussed and Phil said work on the executive Summary for the Technical Foundation has begun.

Draft Flowchart/Timeline

Phil handed out a new draft of the Partnership timeline/flowchart. He said that Sabrina has researched other lake restoration projects of similar scale to Vancouver Lake, such as Capitol Lake and Klamath Lake, to see what sort of timescales they are working on. From doing so they observed that the pace of Vancouver Lake is comparable.

Phil said that the flowchart/timeline will be presented to the full Partnership at the February meeting. There have been many people who have expressed concern about how long the process might take and this document will help facilitate that conversation. Phil said he thinks the timeline as currently presented is realistic. Brian observed that the six main study components from the Technical Foundation are listed on the flowchart. He asked if we had to prioritize, is there one that is more important than the other? Ron said he didn't think there was necessarily an order. When the Technical Group met, they didn't feel that one discipline was more important to study than another.

The flowchart/timeline shows a ten to nineteen year span from start-up to completion of implementation. Phil said that the actual time the process will take depends on what the Partnership wants. Right now the flowchart is calibrated to encompass everything but can be narrowed accordingly. Ron added that if we had unlimited funds, it still might not be much shorter. Thom mentioned having an outside consultant look at the timeline. Patty asked where permitting was in the process and that it be added to the next draft. Sabrina also added that operations and maintenance was missing and will be added this to the next draft. The Steering Group was comfortable with presenting the flowchart to the Partnership.

Fruit Valley Neighborhood Outreach/involvement

Phil told the Steering Group that there is still a Fruit Valley neighborhood association seat on the Steering Group without regular attendance. He suggested that Sabrina or another Steering Group member attend one of their meetings and provide them with an update on what is happening at the Partnership. Patty noted that the Port regularly attends the neighborhood association meetings and it is possible Katy could provide the update.

PCTA Contract Update

Phil said he and Sabrina recently met with Ron to check in on their contract and go over tasks and deliverables. He said that overall they are on task and on budget. There may be some fine tuning adjustments to make, but nothing significant. Phil asked the Steering Group for feedback on his and Sabrina's performance to-date and if they thought there were additional tasks that should be accomplished that weren't currently being addressed. Ron added that in the original scope there are some tasks that might have been too ambitiously scoped and in reality it is not the right time for these tasks. For example, the scope says to identify and refine draft alternatives. This task is not fully possible until the diagnostic phase and research are further underway.

Another example is the task to refine the vision, as it still might be premature for this. Brian said he remembered how at a previous ad-hoc group meeting that it was decided that the vision should be left alone for now. Patty said she thought it was appropriate to revisit the vision, but not make changes unless something is not working. Ron said he thought that the vision could be refined as it is currently difficult to digest. Phil commented that if the Partnership has too broad of a vision, it makes it difficult to make decisions.

Technical Group Update

Grant Updates

Fresh Water Algae Program – Ron noted the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership was awarded a \$48,137 grant by the Washington Department of Ecology. He said that they are currently working on the grant agreement with Ecology and WSU Vancouver. The Partnership will match 25% (approximately \$15,000). This money will be used for continuing the plankton sampling and incubation experiments. It was asked if WSU would be providing an update on year 2 work soon. Ron replied that he will be updating the Partnership at the February 18, 2009 meeting. Thom expressed that he did not think WSU should have any new contracts until they fulfill the current contract.

Centennial Clean Water Program – Ron said the grant application had made the initial draft offer list for partial funding. If funded in the final list, the project would help fill a large data gap for the Partnership. A final decision won't be made until the Washington legislature adjourns in April or May. Patty asked when the funds would be available if we are awarded the funding. It was noted that it would not be until after July 1st.

Phil said that the Clean Water Program is part of the Governor's budget as bond money. Now is the time to make it known that the Partnership and its Steering Group member agencies support the Governor's budget and to hold the line for the Water Quality Account. Phil will revise the legislative sheet to reflect this development and send it out. Thom suggested sending it to the citizen members as well. Brian said we need to know specifically what part of the budget is it. Patty added there needs to be a collective voice and that the budget item number would be a good thing to get from Ecology. Phil said with respect to the legislative strategy, the Steering Group will need to guide this to make sure things are moving. Once the legislative fact sheet has been revised with the PIO Group, it can move quickly within the Steering Group.

Ron commented that we have spent a lot of time making sure the grants move forward for funding and Phil and Sabrina have done a great job helping with that.

U.S. Geological Survey

Phil reported that they have met with water quality program staff from the USGS Tacoma office to see if there are any opportunities for partnering on research at Vancouver Lake. From that meeting it was learned that there are cooperative water funds that could allow them to match a project at 50%. However they currently do not have funds available until the next fiscal year begins in October 2009. Phil and Sabrina gave USGS a tour of the lake and is currently working on a scope of work. Ron said that if we are successful with Ecology on the Centennial Grant, there is the possibility that USGS could be a contractor

for us. However if that doesn't happen, at the very least they will give the Partnership some ideas on how to study Lake River. Thom commented USGS has a good reputation. Patty said the Port of Vancouver has flow equipment on the flushing channel that may be redundant. We might want to move this equipment to Lake River.

PIO Group Update

Press releases

Jim commented that a press release had run regarding the Freshwater Algae Grant. He said we are continuing to tell people what we are doing.

Next Steps/Close

An update on Burnt Bridge Creek TMDL activities was discussed as an addition to the agenda for the February Partnership meeting. It was suggested an invitation be extended to Tonnie Cummings, Department of Ecology for this update.

February 18, 2009 Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership Meeting Agenda

- Flow Chart/Timeline
- Legislative Strategy
- Grants
- Flushing Channel Presentation
- Ecology Presentation

Phil thanked the group for attending and closed the meeting.

Next Meetings:

Full Partnership Meeting on February 18, 2009, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Steering Group Meeting on February 24, 2009, 3:30 - 5:00pm

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