

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: January 19, 2010

Steering Group Members Present:

Patty Boyden	Port of Vancouver
Brian Carlson	City of Vancouver
Kevin Gray	Clark County Environmental Services
Jeroen Kok	Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation (alternate for Pete Mayer)

Other Agency Members Present:

Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver
Brooke Porter	City of Vancouver
Rob Guttridge	Clark County Environmental Services
Andrew Ness	Port of Vancouver
Ron Wierenga	Clark County Environmental Services

Project Management Team:

Phil Trask	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Sandra Coveny	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Eileen Stone	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.

Not Present:

Lee McCallister	Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association
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Project Manager Update

Phil started the meeting with an overview of the agenda.

Outreach update

Eileen gave an overview of the changes made to the Outreach Plan since the last circulation. Kevin asked for qualification on what possibilities are outlined in the plan vs. what are definite. Eileen commented that the document is a road map for moving forward, but not an exact plan. It will be adaptively managed based on costs, resources, and priorities. The plan and the chart of tasks state this as well.

What is the feasibility of implementing all the ideas mentioned? The costs of each event would need to be looked at, but the costs are highly dependent on if the project management team is to coordinate/participate in each event or how much the Steering Group, Public Information staff, and Partnership take part in the identified tasks.

The Steering Group asked for the project management team to have a recommended implementation plan/prioritization of the outreach tasks for 2011 for the Steering Group at the February meeting.

Outreach Event Group: The goal of the upcoming meeting is for the group to recommend a specific type of event as well as recommend some specifics for the event. Eileen explained that although there are a range of possibilities the group will consider, in this first year starting small seems a good idea. Gary Bock of Vancouver Watersheds Council has contacted Eileen and recommends starting with a cleanup event and he offered Vancouver Watershed Council assistance. Gary has planned many public involvement events.

Patty commented that the budget is certainly a constraint on what type of event can be chosen. The event should include public involvement and heighten awareness about the lake.

Discussion of outreach budget needs:

VLWP-SG-011811 Meeting Notes

REI event: would be a low cost for the Partnership, essentially staff time and a printing budget for a fact sheet. Other potential Outreach/Public Information items: a banner for REI event (and other events) – would require some design time. There would also be costs if a sign was to be installed at the park.

If outreach event is a clean-up event, costs would be low. SOLV could help with some publicity; there would be some printing costs. There would also be some disposal costs. Kevin stated that Environmental Services would be able to work out disposal costs with the Partnership.

Eileen will coordinate with Jeroen regarding the Outreach event meeting.

Closing on outreach:

Phil asked if the Steering Group approves the Outreach and Involvement Plan in its current form. The Port, County, City, and Parks all voiced approval of the plan pending information the Port will provide regarding Port efforts that benefit Vancouver Lake.

Technical Foundation

The Project Management Team is in the process of updating the Technical Foundation, which was developed late in 2008. The Technical Group met yesterday, including Rob Zisette of Herrera to look at gaps in the document.

Rob has started a conceptual model that will be included and helps describe what we currently know, priorities, and how we move to decision making. We are developing more data for the text of the document, describing how identified research will lead to decision making, more on model, and possibly an executive summary.

The last chapter will include the 2009 five year research plan. The team is working on prioritization of research as well, starting with a conversation the group had with Rob Zisette last October. In the future (after November) the Algal Control Techniques will be merged with the Technical Foundation.

The next draft will be completed in 10-14 days. Another meeting with the Technical Group will then take place.

Phil asked the Steering Group about having the target audience as a technical person or a lay person – the Steering Group requested that it still be written for a lay audience.

Patty asked about when techniques can start getting narrowed down.

Phil: The Algal Control Techniques report is scheduled for updating in November. There is some work to narrow down to 3-5 things that can be done starting now. From USGS work we will have better idea of what will work, even after one year we should have some understanding of water balance. It will help us understand the main nutrient drivers behind the cyanobacteria blooms in the lake and how we should focus our energy for solutions.

Right now there are 23 techniques identified. We will be going through an evaluation process of the techniques at the same time as the USGS research is delivering information so that the techniques can be narrowed down. At the end of 2013 we should have 3-5 techniques at maximum identified that then can be further refined and evaluated.

At that point there will be a menu of techniques to choose what the Partnership can afford/implement. Permit approval is a separate process that will start then. Data gaps will be better defined when scoping for a permit.

At that time it will be a different focus for the Partnership: what to do with the techniques and how to implement.

2011 Planning

In addition to the Technical Foundation and outreach work described above, the Algal Techniques report update is due November. A new version can be developed by then, but the examination of the techniques will continue on both the technical and social sides. The document will continue to flow, and a truly "finished" product will be further out.

Another piece to consider is how to involve the full Partnership at this stage so that there is buy in and discussion. There is a potential for more frequent Technical Group meetings with quarterly updates to the Partnership.

Andrew asked if other studies will be considered within the next 2-3 years. This is based on managing expectations: different people have different ideas about how much research does or doesn't need to be done to make decisions.

Phil explained that the Technical Group is prioritizing the research needs and will continue to do so as more is learned about the lake. If more research will be done (and may need to be done) it will need outside financing.

The Project Management Team will be developing a Funding Strategy by June, which will be more formalized than the 2008 version.

Kevin commented that while we will continue to look for funding for continued research, in the current climate he doesn't see anything coming through in the next two years. In research prioritization it will be good to identify what research we absolutely need to have.

Technical Group Update

There was no Technical Group update to add to the Technical Foundation discussion.

Public Information Staff Update

Phil noted that on the outreach front, he and Eileen will meet with Lehman Holder of the Sierra Club on Feb 7th.

Andrew introduced Rob Guttridge as the new Public Information staff contact from Clark County.

Close

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.