

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: March 2, 2011

Steering Group Members Present:

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

Other Agency Members Present:

Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver
Brooke Porter	City of Vancouver
Rob Guttridge	Clark County Environmental Services
Jeff Schnabel	Clark County Environmental Services
Ron Wierenga	Clark County Environmental Services

Project Management Team:

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

Public in Attendance:

Ben Dennis	Citizen
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Not Present:

Lee McCallister	Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association
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Project Manager Update

Phil began the meeting with an overview of the agenda and reminded the group that there will be a Partnership meeting on March 16.

Summary of In-reach Themes

Eileen presented a summary of the In-reach effort that Eileen and Phil completed in December. During the individual meetings Partnership members gave positive feedback about the efforts for Vancouver Lake thus far. Everyone is glad to have the USGS research underway; moving more quickly would be desired, but it is understood that decisions need to be based on this critical research. The summary of themes did not include specific management techniques, as those are being saved for the exploration of management techniques.

Phil asked if the Steering Group saw the current in-reach theme summary as a good level of “lumping and splitting” of ideas, and the group concurred. The summary will be presented to the Partnership with some edits, including adding mention that the Partnership members are positive about the process.

Comments on the summary of in-reach themes: The group discussed the statement about “building support now” and what that means for the Steering Group: Building support for Vancouver Lake as a treasured resource of community; keep working toward/investing in improving the future of the lake. Don’t see “building support” for a specific lake management task at this time, but to continue to work toward deciding on specific management tasks. There was a comment on the Burnt Bridge Creek culvert – this seems a specific task; let Brian know who/what to follow up on. Ron commented that there are a lot of action items within the in-reach comments.

Phil spoke about a recent meeting with Lehman Holder and Kerry Crow of the Sierra Club and noted it was a positive outreach meeting.

Citizen Ben Dennis commented that he is the fish contact on the Sierra Club executive committee. Ben handed out a restoration concept for Lake River and information about an upcoming presentation on the acidification of the oceans, to be held on March 26.

Financial Update

Jeff Schnabel handed out the financial update for the Partnership. Jeff commented that he plans to give these updates on a more regular basis.

Technical Update

Technical Foundation

Phil laid out the plan to complete the current update of the Technical Foundation. Eileen will gather Steering Group comments from/after this meeting and send a new draft to the Partnership on March 9th. An overview of the Technical Foundation will be presented to the Partnership on March 16th. Partnership comments will then be incorporated into the document and the next draft will be sent out to the Technical Group and then the Steering Group for final review. Document will then be finalized for Steering Group approval.

Eileen summarized the substantive changes to the Technical Foundation. A similar presentation is planned for the Partnership meeting.

Comments: Salmon Creek Watershed map doesn’t include the entire watershed: this will be corrected. Andrew will check with Patty on the wetlands map and related paragraphs. Eileen commented that more information will be provided on what the wetlands map is and is not, as delineated wetlands don’t always function as wetlands and there can be some misunderstanding about that. Once the management techniques document is revised it will be added to the completed Technical Foundation as Appendix B.

Outreach Update

2011 Outreach Event Recommendation

Jeroen presented an overview of the Outreach Event Group ad-hoc meeting. An on-the water day was discussed. It is good idea to consider for 2012. It was recommended that we staff a booth at events that are already planned (Alder Creek kayak, REI outdoor festival). This makes sense for getting info out to those with interest in recreating at Vancouver Lake. Eileen will look into this with the groups.

For a specific Vancouver Lake-focused event, dovetailing with the Sept 17th SOLV event is recommended. The SOLV event is a good venue with an established date. The end of the recreational season is a good time to have cleanup in the area. The ad-hoc committee's recommendation is to also add an appreciation event at the end for the clean up volunteers. This can also bring in other SOLV volunteers from the area and promote Vancouver Lake to more people. Jeroen reserved the larger picnic shelter at Vancouver Lake Park for this event. Recreational activities are possible during the thank you, such as those through Parks and Recreation, and potentially local recreation businesses.

The group agreed to hold such a cleanup and thank you event. We could likely find a business to donate food for the thank you portion of the event. Brian will bring up partnering at the Vancouver Watershed Council meeting.

Andrew commented that the Public Information staff is working on a Partnership banner to have at tables for outreach events such as the cleanup and the Alder Creek/REI event booths.

Outreach Priorities for 2011

Eileen handed out an itemization of Outreach Priorities for 2011 based on the Outreach Plan and the ad-hoc committee's recommendations. The itemization includes potential costs of each outreach task and the general outreach budget. There are several groups identified for Partnership presentations. The Project Management Team could give all or some of the presentations, and/or other Partnership representatives could give some presentations.

Kevin commented that the Project Management Team should give the first presentation, and one or more Steering Group representatives will be present. A Steering Group representative can give future presentations depending on scheduling and budget.

Eileen will give presentation to the Salmon Creek Watershed Council and schedule the presentation to the Sierra Club. The Steering Group will be invited to each. A Steering Group representative may give the presentation to the Sierra Club and future meetings.

Partnership Handouts

Andrew gave a quick overview of a bookmark being designed to hand out at the Vancouver Lake Park entry booth as well as at Parks events. Two years ago a postcard was developed as a handout. Costs could be up to \$700 for 10,000 bookmarks. The Steering Group approved the expenditure.

Jeff handed out information about removing discarded metal objects that pose boating hazards in Vancouver Lake. Environmental Services has spoken to Clark County Marine Patrol, who will donate boat use and a two-person crew for the effort. The Sailing Club and Vancouver Lake Crew may be asked for assistance as well. The Steering Group suggested doing the cleanup on September 17th as part of the SOLV/ Vancouver Lake Day if boats can operate in the lake at that time.

Next Steps/Close

Agenda Planning

Partnership Meeting Agenda for March 16th: Topics will include suggested outreach event, outreach priorities for 2011, summary of in-reach themes, and Technical Foundation.

Phil asked about scheduling the next Steering Group meeting. Following our calendar of the third Wednesday it could be April 20th or May 18th. The items would include approving the Technical Foundation. Phil and Eileen will be working on the Funding Strategy, of which there will be more information in May than in April. If the meeting was in April there could be some discussion of the Alder Creek event. The next Partnership Meeting after that will be in June.

The group commented that approval of the Technical Foundation and Alder Creek planning can be by phone and email and not require a physical meeting. In order to have a substantive discussion about the funding strategy the next Steering Group meeting will be May 18th.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meetings:

The next meeting of the full Partnership is March 16th at 4 pm at the Port of Vancouver offices.

The next Steering Group meeting will be May 18th at 3:30pm at the Port of Vancouver offices.