

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: September 19, 2007, 3:30 pm

Steering Group Members Present:

Patty Boyden	Port of Vancouver
Brian Carlson	City of Vancouver Dept. of Public Works
Pete Capell	Clark County Dept. of Public Works

Partnership Members Present:

Thom McConathy	Citizen
George Medina	US Army Corps of Engineers

Public in attendance:

Jacquelin Edwards	Citizen
David Page	Citizen
Michael Roe	Citizen

Other Agency Members Present:

Nancy Baker	Port of Vancouver Commissioner
Jessi Belston	Port of Vancouver
Loretta Callahan	City of Vancouver Dept. of Public Works
Ron Wierenga	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

Introductions

The project manager welcomed the group and introductions were made around the table.

Agenda/Discussion Topics

The project manager introduced the agenda and asked if there were any modifications. There were no modifications.

Partnership Business

Project Manager Update

The project manager said that he and Sabrina had been researching other lakes in the region with similar traits and issues to Vancouver Lake. In this way the Partnership can learn from their planning and restoration processes. He said he would have more information after meeting with project agencies in these areas.

Ad-hoc Group Meeting

The project management team has been organizing and reformulating the Vancouver Lake questions for the ad-hoc committee consisting of Thom McConathy, Brian Carlson, Scott Robinson, Donald Jacobs, and Jane Van Dyke. The ad-hoc committee will meet in early October to further refine the questions and make sure the list is complete (meeting date set for Oct. 4 at 2:30pm).

Citizen Member Participation

The project manager relayed to the Steering Group that he had been working on contacting citizen members of the Partnership. So far he has spoken with 7 of the 9 citizen members and was waiting to hear back from the others. To summarize his discussions, he stated that overall, the members he had talked to continue to be interested in staying involved with Vancouver Lake and remaining Partnership members.

In his discussion with Clark Martin, Clark said he was resigning his seat on the Partnership. Clark indicated he would consider staying involved by assisting with specific research projects for the Partnership, but not hold a Partnership seat. It was suggested that the Partnership make a significant effort to engage Clark in these kinds of projects and keep him involved with the Partnership.

In the project manager's discussion with Lee McCallister, Lee indicated his continued interest in the Partnership. He said he would not be able to attend meetings in September or October, but would be participating on a regular basis beginning in November. It was asked if Lee was planning on sending an alternate in his place when he was unable to attend. The project manager did not discuss this with Lee. Brian said he would call Lee about sending an alternate.

The Steering group discussed replacement of citizen seats on the Partnership. It was decided that open citizen seats for the Partnership be filled on an annual basis through a solicitation process. Citizen member replacement will be guided by maintaining similar interests and neighborhood representation as in the original solicitation. It was stated that it is important to recognize that the Partnership has had some citizens in attendance who have been with the Partnership since the beginning and could fill the open seat.

It was suggested that the Partnership go back and advertise the open seat in a similar way to how it was previously done a few years ago. It would be important for people to understand that this is a long-term process and ideally people would participate from start to finish. In order to provide applicants with a better idea of what it means to be involved, better duty descriptions will be provided. It was also suggested that a mentor be appointed to work with new members.

This item will be added to the agenda for the full Partnership meeting for discussion and recommendation.

Forum at the Library

The project manager reminded everyone that the "Forum at the Library" was Thursday, September 20th at 7 pm. The panel members for the forum will be Ron Wierenga, George Medina and Thom McConathy. Phil has discussed talking points with each panel member and passed out an overview to the Steering Group. Phil will moderate the discussion between the panel and the audience.

It was asked if the PIO group had a handout with some general background information on Vancouver Lake that could be given to the audience. Loretta said they had a couple of background handouts that could be combined and updated to give out at the forum. She would also make sure that CVTV has the Partnership website up on the screen for so interested parties could get more information.

Legislative Budget

The project manager talked about seeking funding assistance for the Partnership. He stated that he was assessing how to work with representatives to get a line item for Vancouver Lake in the State supplemental budget. The Steering Group advised that each of their respective agencies has lobbyists that he could get in touch with as a starting point. They will be providing the project manager with contact information. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to get broad support for the project and for everyone to have a consistent message.

Housekeeping

The project manager asked the Steering Group about their thoughts of holding Partnership meetings at the Fruit Valley Community Center. The Steering Group expressed that it was important to keep meetings at the Port for continuity.

Tech Group Update

Ron Wierenga reported on behalf of the Tech Group. He stated there was nothing new to report at this time but that the Tech Group would be meeting again soon to discuss the results of the Corps' studies.

Public Information Update

The PIO group reiterated the "Forum at the Library" tomorrow night. No additional updates at this time.

USACE Update

George Medina from the Corps said his team was moving forward with the biological and hydraulic studies and should be wrapping up by the end of October. At this time the team should know if salmonid use and hydraulic potential justify further study. The Corps will be ready to report on their findings and recommendations in November.

It was asked what the thresholds were for making improvements. George said the Corps would model the different kinds of alternatives available and that there would be various thresholds (temperature of the lake, cost, etc.) in determining recommendations.

Next Steps/Close

It was suggested that the schedule of meetings for the VLWP be modified to take into consideration the timing of the availability of the Corps report, the ad-hoc group's review of the Vancouver Lake questions, and upcoming holidays. The full Partnership meeting for October was cancelled and the Partnership will not meet again until December. By this time the Corps will have completed their studies and will be ready to make a report. The full Partnership meeting was moved up one week to December 12th so as not to interfere with the Christmas holidays. The October 3rd Steering Group meeting was cancelled and the Steering Group will instead meet on October 17th during the previously scheduled full Partnership date. The November Steering Group meeting was moved up one week to November 14 so as not to interfere with the Thanksgiving holiday. The questions ad-hoc group will be meeting on October 4th.

It was discussed that there should be two separate email communications that go out to the full Partnership. The first email would be one on the schedule changes and the second one on the proposed citizen member appointments process. The project manager will create these emails.

Next Meetings:

Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting – October 4, 2007, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Steering Group Meeting – October 17, 2007, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Steering Group Meeting – November 14, 2007, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Full Partnership Meeting – December 12, 2007, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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