

# Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

## **Steering Group Meeting Summary**

Meeting date: January 16, 2008, 3:30 pm

### **Steering Group Members Present:**

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

### **Partnership Members Present:**

Thom McConathy	Citizen
Vern Veysey	Citizen
George Medina	US Army Corps of Engineers

### **Other Agency Members Present:**

Ron Wierenga	Clark County Dept. of Public Works
Jim Gladson	Clark County Dept. of Public Works
Katy Brooks	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.
Mardy Tremblay	Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

### **Agenda/Discussion Topics**

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

The project manager brought up the January 10<sup>th</sup> tornado that came through the Vancouver area and the unfortunate damage done to the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club. Pete Capell said that the Rowing Club would be moving to Vancouver Lake Park and that the time schedule for this move has been accelerated with the destruction of their boat house.

## **Partnership Business**

### **Project Manager Update**

#### **Work Program**

The project manager handed out a copy of the Vancouver Lake Work Program. He said that at the December Partnership meeting there had been a recommendation to the Steering Group to approve the work program. Patty asked if dollar amounts were listed in this work program. The project manager replied that there were no dollar amounts in the work program, but a budget was present in the contract between the City of Vancouver and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership. The Steering Group members present at the meeting, Patty Boyden and Pete Capell, approved the work program on behalf of the Steering Group.

### **Funding Update**

The project manager stated that he has been talking with Steering Group agency lobbyists. When he first spoke with them in November, they had suggested drafting a one page summary describing the Partnership's budget request. This budget request had been drafted with Steering Group interaction and the latest draft was handed out to the group. He described how it was intended to be a tool for lobbyists to tell legislators about the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership and also summarize a legislative funding request. Included in the document are two tasks; Task 1) to develop an understanding of the

lake's bluegreen algal blooms and Task 2) to correlate the bluegreen algal blooms with environmental factors such as predation, water temperature, nutrient levels and turbidity. These tasks are a logical extension of the work that WSU Vancouver is currently performing. The project manager indicated that the one pager requests \$200,000 which is believed to be a reasonable amount to ask for and would support WSU for the next year and a half.

Pete said that he would take the one-pager to the county commissioners. Vern added that he is a realtor and that the realtors group was going to be meeting with Washington legislators soon and he would be happy to take this information to them as well.

The project manager stated that members should view this effort as preliminary relationship building and that funding could take time. With the Legislature in session the outreach needs to begin immediately. This document will provide a door opener to the legislators and make them aware of the Partnership. While nothing may result this year, it would be an early start for next year's session. Pete added that the legislators are trying to control member added projects. The project manager indicated he would be in touch with three or four key legislators from southwest Washington in the following weeks.

Vern asked the Steering Group about the feasibility of forming a Lake District as a means for obtaining funding. Thom replied that this had been looked at before and that as far as he could remember it was not possible under Washington state law because in order to do so it required assessing lake frontage properties of which Vancouver Lake has few. The project manager said the project management team would create a funding strategy this year and would be looking at all funding options available to the Partnership. It is possible that an ad-hoc group will be created to help develop the strategy.

As part of the discussion on funding, Ron provided an update on Ecology's Centennial Clean Water Grant application. He said that the Partnership unfortunately did not receive the funding. He added that they will be getting information about why the application was unsuccessful shortly. Ron added that it was good the Partnership submitted the application because it put Vancouver Lake on Ecology's radar and they intend to resubmit next year. As far as Ron knew there were no projects funded south of Olympia. There were two lake projects that received funding: Curlew Lake in Ferry County and Lone Lake in Whidbey Island. These projects involved water quality monitoring and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) work. Ron replied that feedback on the application would be available soon and by seeing where the application got points and where it didn't will help make a stronger application next year.

The project manager said that submitting the Clean Water and Algae Grants had been good initial steps even though they were unsuccessful. Going forward, it will be important to look closer at who runs the programs, and develop relationships with program staff. It will be easier to get funding if the project is familiar to the funders and they understand how it relates to their programs.

### **Questions List**

The project manager said there would be a Technical Group meeting later this month on January 30th. The first hour of the meeting is to be spent on the question list, focusing on the far right columns which have been left blank until now. It was unlikely that the group will get through all the questions and they may be left with some homework or plan to organize a smaller group of Tech Group members to come back and work further with the questions. Once this questions process has been worked through, the results would be brought back to the Steering Group and Partnership. Patty asked if the Corps would be part of the question list process. The project manager confirmed that they would be providing input and already have to some extent.

### **Data Management**

Sabrina discussed with the group that there were a lot of technical reports being generated associated with Vancouver Lake, but not a good repository of the documents. She said she had been in touch with Lenora Oftedahl at StreamNet Library. A few years ago Lenora compiled an extensive Vancouver Lake bibliography that is now becoming out of date. Patty added that this was a very timely discussion as the Port has more technical reports and wasn't sure how to include them in the bibliography. Loretta said that StreamNet would be a good place to store the documents, but it would be important to have a back-up and long-term management. She said it would also be important that the Partnership and public know

where documents are being stored and have access to them. The project manager said that what they intend to do next was understand Lenora and StreamNet's capabilities/limitations for data storage and then have a discussion with the Steering Group about what to do with the data. Loretta added that it would be possible to purchase a hosting site for data storage. Ron said it would be good to capture the work Lenora has done and build upon it. However, there is a lot of information and some of it is not directly related to Vancouver Lake. It would be good to capture the information that is focused on Vancouver Lake and add new information as it becomes available. Thom said he thought the Technical Group had additional documents that should be added. The project manager said they would bring this item back to the Steering Group after meeting with Lenora.

### **Tech Group Update**

Ron Wierenga reported on behalf of the Technical Group. He said the new contract with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership for project management for the next two years had been approved by the Board of County Commissioners and became effective January 1, 2008. Ron said the next Technical Group meeting was scheduled for January 30, 2008, 9:00 – 11:30 am. The first hour would be spent on the questions list and the last hour and half would be a groundwater modeling presentation by the Port. Thom asked when there would be a report from WSU Vancouver. Ron replied that this should be available in July.

### **Public Information Update**

Loretta Callahan spoke on behalf of the PIO group. She said that the application for the open Partnership citizen seat is currently available on the Partnership website. Loretta said that an advertisement for the seat has run in The Columbian and the closing date for applications is February 4, 2008.

Loretta said she had just confirmed that the Partnership will be teaming up with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP) on clean-up efforts around Vancouver Lake. An initial meeting to discuss this volunteer partnership will take place soon.

Loretta also mentioned that the volunteer organization SOLV wants to be more regional and is looking at adding another site to their list of clean-up locations for a May 17 event involving invasive plant removal. To be involved SOLV would want someone from the Partnership to attend future planning meetings. More information will follow.

Katy said it would be important to make sure there would be no overlap between LCREP and SOLV as the pool of volunteers is finite. If someone volunteers with SOLV, will they volunteer with LCREP? Loretta said this would be good to discuss at the meeting with LCREP and Ron suggested that the Partnership could do a Vancouver Lake specific clean-up. Pete advised discussing with LCREP what the partnership opportunities would be. He also said that the Partnership could do clean-ups independently and involve Vancouver Lake enthusiasts.

It was asked where potential future clean-ups would take place and if there would be any enforcement/maintenance of a cleaned up site. Loretta replied that the location of the clean-ups had not yet been determined. Thom suggested forming an ad-hoc group to follow up on this. Katy added that she thought they should do some research, talk with LCREP and SOLV, then come back with some ideas.

### **USACE Update**

George Medina provided the USACE update. He said that a crew of Corps staff is currently implementing a bathymetric survey of the lake and that it would take approximately two weeks to complete. Data collected will be input into the 2D modeling effort which should be completed in April.

George added that he had just found out that there will not be resources in the budget this year to do further biological studies at Vancouver Lake.

George asked if there was a simple way to do temperature monitoring on the lake. Ron replied that Clark County has monitoring equipment available to deploy. He noted that the problem with this was that in the past, every time it was put out, it ended up getting stolen.

### **Agenda for February Partnership Meeting**

The project manager reviewed the agenda items for the February Partnership meeting. He said that unless there were comments at this time regarding the agenda, it could be discussed at the February 6, 2008 Steering Group meeting.

#### February 20, 2008 Full Partnership Meeting Agenda

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

### **Next Steps/Close**

The project manager thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

### **Next Meetings:**

Steering Group Meeting – February 6, 2008, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Full Partnership Meeting – February 20, 2008, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

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