

May 18, 2005 Meeting Summary

The sixth meeting of the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 4:00-6:30pm at the Port of Vancouver Administration Offices.

Attending

Partnership members in attendance:

Pete Capell, Brian Carlson, Nancy Ellifrit, Martin Hudson, Don Jacobs, David Judd, Gary Kokstis, Lee McCallister, Thom McConathy, Debra Marriott, Clark Martin, James Meyer, Iloba Odum, Derik Vowels for Larry Paulson, Randy Phillips, Doug Quinn, Jane VanDyke, Allison Shultz for Bruce Wiseman, Victor Ehrlich

Partnership members absent:

Carl Dugger, Lisa Faubion, Randy Phillips, Bruce Wiseman, Vernon Veysey

Public Information Committee:

Loretta Callahan, Jeanne Lawson, Amanda Garcia-Snell

In the audience:

Brian Calkins, Karen Ceocia, Dick Carroll, Dick Chandlee, Seth Chandlee, Shane Chandlee, Tim Dean, Vinton Erickson, Jacquelin Edwards, Annette Griffy, Lehman Holder, Dave Howard, Chad Jacques, Jeroen Kok, Curt Loop, Traci Nolan, Lenora Oftedahl, Maggie Smith, Larry Snyder, Bernie Thurber, Ron Wierenga

Committee Business

Jeanne began the meeting by introducing new partnership member Martin Hudson of the Portland district Army Corps of Engineers and his alternate Curt Loop.

04/20/05 Meeting Minutes

Corrections are

- Pg 3 last sentence of first paragraph should read, "she is not aware of any ceiling".
- Pg 5 clarify last "dam" on Columbia

Funding Update

Martin Hudson

Martin gave an update of the status of the funding request for addressing Vancouver Lake. A request has gone forward to the House of Representatives. Martin was not sure if a request had gone forward to the Senate. Although they missed the deadline, there is still a chance that they will be approved for some funding. They will not know until the appropriations process has finished. Martin assured the partnership that regardless of the outcome for the funding process, the Army Corps of Engineers is committed to being engaged in the partnership process. David added that they will be notified when it is appropriate to generate letters.

Thom requested an updated contact list.

Public Comment

There is no comment at this time

Nancy requested five minutes to discuss birding, as a recreational use.

Presentations

Recreational Use Overview - Jeroen Kok, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation –handout attached

Jeroen gave a very brief, high-level overview of various recreational uses of Vancouver Lake. He introduced the four recreation representatives who would present on different, specific uses of the Lake area. They are; Gary Kokstis – Vancouver Sailing Club; Larry Snyder – Vancouver Wildlife League; Bernie Thurber – Portland –Vancouver Rowing Association; and Brian Calkins – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Jeroen then discussed the historic uses of the lake lowlands, public ownership of the area, existing recreation facilities, existing recreation uses, and future plans for recreation.

He began by mentioning the historic uses of hunting, fishing and food gathering in the area. Agricultural use dates back to at least the time of the Hudson's Bay Company. The informal recreation uses include hunting, fishing and boating.

He listed the agencies that have ownership of different parts of the lake area. Attached is a handout with the amount of land that each entity owns. He showed two maps that indicated where each agency's ownership is. He also discussed the existing recreation facilities which are listed on the attached handout. He then showed two aerial photos of the area that highlight where each recreation area is located.

He gave a brief history of Vancouver Lake Park and included a timeline of the stages of development. He also showed photos of the park at different phase of development. He then gave a brief history of Frenchman's Bar Park. He showed of timeline and photos that highlighted the phases of development. He mentioned that phase II is proposed to begin later this year. Jeroen also discussed the

Vancouver Lake to Frenchman's Bar Trail which was completed in 2001. It is a 2.5 mile multi-use trail is a link in the 12-mile Columbia River Renaissance trail System. It was developed in partnership with the Port of Vancouver, Clark Public Utilities and the Clark County Executive Horse Council. He also showed aerial photos of the trail.

The South Vancouver Lake Restoration project is located on the south side of the lake. It is in partnership with Clark County, City of Vancouver, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Natural resources, Clark Public Utilities, and the WA department of Fish and Wildlife. This project is working to help restore 120 acres of land that were converted to agriculture, by creating marsh-like habitat. This will include the establishment and protection of 43 acres of riparian habitat. He then showed a diagram of the project area.

Jeroen also mentioned that there is a wide variety and range of existing recreational uses of the Vancouver Lake lowlands, a list of those uses is in the attached handout. He showed photos of several different recreational activities at the lake area. He then mentioned the Parks Department's future plans for the recreation at the lake area. A schematic of the Frenchman's Bar phase II site plan and a list of lake area recreational uses is in the attached handout. He reiterated that there has been and continues to be a lot of recreation use of the Vancouver lake lowlands. There has also been a lot of effort in the past decades to ensure that recreation opportunities exist in the area. There has been a lot of investment by the county and state grant agencies to construct these various facilities. Jeroen looks forward to ensuring that the recreation opportunities will continue to be viable. This concluded the general overview.

Thom asked about the current status of the phase planning in regard to the master plan for the lake area. Specifically, the Vancouver Lake phase III plan that was not included in the master plan. Jeroen clarified that the 1993 master plan did include elements that were not part of the phase II construction. Those elements are anticipated as phase II potential improvements. It is very likely that the master plan would be revisited prior to construction for development plans for phase III. For the time being phase II is all that is 'on the books'.

Thom asked when Jeroen anticipated that they might do this. Jeroen clarified that when this would happens is dependent on the outcome of this group. If the lake is not a viable water body in the long term, then the Parks Department will need to consider whether or not they would want to invest in recreation facilities on the lake. One of the key elements of phase III would be a boating center. If boating is not a long term viable option, then they will need to decide what to do. Jeanne mentioned that a key message is that the Parks Department is looking to the partnership to influence their next decision.

Dave Howard asked about the annual recreation usage numbers for Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar Parks. Jeroen mentioned that the numbers are

estimates based on seasonal fee collection. During the summer months the usage is in the tens of thousands, during the off season he has observed cars in the parking lot although they do not collect a fee at that time. A rough guess would be at least 100 to 150 thousand, which is fairly conservative for both sites.

Dave asked for any suggestions concerning what efforts could be taken to make sure that those numbers were known. Jeroen agreed that this information would be important for this group to know and suggested that the parks department could try to do more surveying efforts this summer to better appreciate the usage numbers.

Thom asked about the intent of development of lands that have purchased north of the park which were part of conservation program. Jeroen answered that those lands are not factored into the master plan. Anything they would do in that area would require some update of the master plan to include that area to determine what the use of the property might be.

Thom also asked about access problems in the area. Jeroen mentioned that this is problematic due to the state highway that runs by the lake area which dead ends. Although the highway is still under state ownership, the Parks Department has a gate just past that care takers residence which is closed from dusk to dawn. During the day there is free access to that part of the highway. There are various illegal activities that occur there such as dumping, off-roading, fire arm discharge, and drag racing. The parks Department has discussed with WADOT and DF&W a way to better manage access to that area. They have considered the options form one end of the spectrum to the other. They have not reached consensus on how to deal with the problem and how to pay for the cost of a solution. The DF&W is currently considering an option that may address these problems.

Thom asked about an estimate of the cost to taxpayers for cleaning up the illegal dumping that occurs in that area. Jeroen does not have an estimate of that cost.

Thom also asked how Jeroen would characterize the Parks Department's management of the lands with regard to weed control. Jeroen said that weed control was very challenging due limited budget, limited man-power and a lot of land that they are slowly trying to convert to more native and natural conditions. He clarified that they have not been able to address the area north of the lake yet. Thom commented that the north lake area land needs a solution to keep it from degrading. Jeroen agreed.

This discussion was followed by presentations from each of the recreation representatives.

Vancouver Lake Sailing Club – Gary Kokstis handout attached

Gary began by mentioning the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club's website which is, WWW.VLSC.org. The Vancouver Lake Sailing Club is on the east shore of the

lake. Gary feels that it is the best small boat sailing in the Portland Vancouver area. The VLSC was incorporated in 1967 by sailors looking for a better place to sail smaller boats than the Columbia River. They purchased the current property in 1969 which they use to store boats. In 1974 they constructed a clubhouse as well. They are a non-profit and volunteer run organization. The purpose of the VLSC is to promote sailing and racing of small, one-design sailboats and to provide social, educational and racing events for members. After the lake was dredged, in 1983, year-round sailing became possible. They have 90 family memberships from Oregon and Washington, 60 families from Oregon and 30 families from Washington. They are a family organization with members that range from children to senior citizens. They also have junior members, some of whom are sailing champions.

Members of the club own about 92 different small boats. The VLSC has the biggest fleet of lightnings on the west coast. They also have lasers, catamarans, A-cats and other unique craft. The club's main activity is racing. They schedule races from February to November. They enjoy sailing in summer due to the advantage of having a sea breeze coming in from the north in the afternoon. They schedule 42 race days per year this equates to more than 5,500 person hours in organized racing.

The VLSC also holds regattas. They have one annually during the first weekend in June. It is a two day event including a race and a regatta. They hold other regattas throughout the year as well. Some of the regattas are held at Vancouver Lake because it is the best place to sail in the area. This year they had collegiate team races. The Willamette Sailing club also holds their junior regatta at the lake. Another regatta is the alter cup which is a catamaran championship on the west coast, it is also held at Vancouver Lake. The regattas are large with more than 60 boats and 150 participants. They hold other social events which involve the entire family as well. They cook a pig every year and have a great time. They also have a junior sailing program which allows families with no boat to enter their children into the sailing program. This concluded the VLSC presentation.

Thom asked if sailors are limited by water quality or by water depth. Gary mentioned that what they need for great sailing is a mile long, mile wide, 5 foot deep water that is oriented north to south. Water quality is also very important to parents of junior sailors. Some junior sailors were pulled out of the programs when the water quality concerns surfaced last summer.

Vancouver Wildlife League - Larry Snyder

The Vancouver Wildlife League was founded in 1929 in response to the construction of the Merwin dam. It was believed that the construction and existence of the dam would kill the salmon run. The VWL is made up of hunters and fishers who use the Vancouver Lake lowlands; although it is not like it used to be. Most people who are aware of the area do not fish in the lake anymore

because the perception is that the fish are inedible. What fishing does occur is by the recent immigrants who perhaps don't realize what it used to be and what it is today.

The hunting has also declined. Each year the VWL plant 5000 pheasants at the Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo sites. It is a 'put and take' program with a two per day limit, hen or rooster. The pheasants are grown in Chehalis by the WDFW. The VWL transports 275-500 pheasants to the two Lake sites each Tuesday and Friday.

Each year, in late September, they sponsor a youth hunt. The VWL invites 14-18 year olds, who have passed the required gun-safety course, to the event to introduce them to pheasant hunting. They also work with the Oregon Pointer Club to introduce the dogs to pheasant hunting.

One of the problems that the VWL faces is total loss of habitat. In order to hunt they need habitat, fishing as well. One of the things that they are concerned about is the state or county park. The area north of the lake used be accessible to hunters, it is no longer available so they do not plant any birds there. Caterpillar Island is an excellent goose hunting area in the fall and winter, losing this hunting area is of great concern to the VWL.

Duck hunting is no longer as popular as it once was in the area. Larry feels that this is due to a series of mild winters and the birds have been short stopped in Canada. Thirty years ago there was lots of migrating water fowl in the Vancouver Lake area. Their numbers have seriously declined. Although geese have remained relatively stable, dusky Canadas are on the threatened species list. The VWL is not allowed to hunt on port property where there are wintering geese and sandhill cranes that also stage-up in the spring. Specifically in the area above the flushing channel, which Larry believes will be turned over from port ownership to a non-profit organization.

The VWL also operates a trap shooting area in the parking lot of the Vancouver Lake Park parking lot. They have two tractors that use to cut down the Canadian thistles, canary grass, wild blackberries and weeds. They do this so that the pheasant hunters have an area to run their dogs. Their goal is to provide a safe, local hunting area that is close to a metropolitan center where people can hunt and fish. The VWL feels that this is a challenging goal. This concluded the VWL presentation.

Brian asked how many members there are in the VWL and how many hunters use the area. Larry said that there are 150 members, but he doesn't know how many hunters use the area each season. There are about 600-700 people who participate in the hunt and release program in the Vancouver Lake lowlands. They had a program in Woodland but the DNR rented the land to a raspberry grower. There were about 100 people who participated in that program. There is

also an active duck hunting group but they are not organized. Duck and pheasant hunting are the number two hunter activities in the area.

Thom wanted to know what Larry would suggest for making improvements in the area for hunters. Larry thinks that a wetland is being generated which is great. He also thinks that they need to be more proactive in getting rid of the Himalaya blackberries. It is necessary to use people who are qualified in using the chemicals required to get rid of the noxious weeds. Although the VWL is also trying to work on the noxious weed problem, they do not have any members who are qualified to use those chemicals. They also require members to use steel shot because it is non-toxic. He would also like to see pasture grass planted that wintering geese would use.

Lee also wanted to comment that that mowing that the VWL conducts has destroyed habitat for other wildlife. For example, there is a pack of 26 coyotes who hunt in the area for rabbits and field mice that are exposed by the mowing. Larry thinks that this problem could be helped if the WDFW created wetlands because they can't mow in those areas. Lee reiterated that he feels that the VWL has been destroying habitat not creating it. He also expressed concerns regarding the illegal shooting gallery in the area. Larry clarified that the VWL discourages illegal shooting with posted signs.

Portland Vancouver Rowing Association - Bernie Thurber

The Portland Vancouver Rowing Association was started about 15 years ago when citizens came to the county and the state for permission to have a race course in the lake. They now have a 2000 metered fully buoyed race course on the southwestern portion of the lake. They put the buoys in every March and remove them in the fall.

They primarily have two large events each year. They host the Pacific Northwest regional rowing championships for high school students and masters. Rowers in Washington and Oregon see this course as one of the premier rowing venues in the area. It is large enough, it does not have any current, and unlike the sailors rowers prefer it to be windless. Most of the rowing occurs first thing in the morning and ends in the afternoon. Bernie passed around photos of rowing shells to show the members what they looked like. He mentioned that this year the junior regional regatta will have around 1500 students participating on the lake and another 1500 spectators, watching the event. Four out of the last five years the junior regatta has been held at the lake. Three out of the last five years the master regatta has been held at the lake. The masters regatta is smaller, with about 900 participants currently and with fewer observers. There are a couple of colleges who ask to use the race course throughout the season.

There is also the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club which is a separate entity than the PVRA. In addition to operating the race course the PVRA is the lead of all rowing clubs in the Portland Vancouver area. They encourage all rowing clubs to

participate in the rowing association. Bernie has also heard that canoers and kayakers who like to race will use the race course once it is put in. There are even a few dragon boat clubs who use the course for time trials. The course is a grid, a stainless steel cable that lies on the bottom of the Lake; they fish it up every year when the season begins. They also have a storage container which is there only other permanent facility.

Doug asked if this a school sponsored sport. Bernie mentioned that the Rose City Rowing Club is the largest youth rowing organization which draws in students from all over the area. High schools can't afford to sponsor rowing as a sport because it does not bring in the revenue that other sports bring in. However, both regattas are sanctioned by the U.S. Rowing Association. It is a 2000 meter course, which is the standard Olympic and collegiate distance although the masters course is only 1000 meters.

Allison asked about the number of members that the Vancouver Rowing Club has. Bernie clarified that they are a relatively new club; they have only been around for a year or so. They are having some permitting issues and they are not very active in the PVRA.

Thom asked for estimates for person hours or usage of the lake by rowers. Bernie explained that a race lasts 6 or 7 minutes but you may be out on the water for 30 – 40 minutes to warm-up for a race. During a regatta a rowers may participate in several races. The Vancouver Lake Rowing Club is out there 6 days a week for an hour or two at a time. There are also many people who use the lake for unsanctioned events because it is flat and protected water. It is difficult to capture the usage hours, but he could provide numbers of the participants and estimated spectators.

A discussion was had as to how to quantify rowers usage of the lake.

Lee asked how many days per year the lake is being used and on average how many people are utilizing it. Jeanne clarified that the group needs to know how significant the PVRA is in regards to their usage of the lake because the VLWP is working on a vision for the area.

David Judd asked about water quality and how that impacts the use in the summer time. Bernie explained that people are aware of the warnings but that they are not that concerned. They are only in the water a little bit and the whole idea of rowing is to splash as little as possible. He also mentioned that they row on Willamette also, so water quality is not a big concern.

Thom expressed concern regarding the motorized craft that accompany the rowers and their violation of the no-wake rule. Bernie clarified that he is sure that there are motorized launches follow the boat for safety and coaching reasons but

he is unaware of the actions of the Vancouver Rowing Club. He also stated that he would like to know more about this problem.

Victor asked how wide the race course is. Bernie answered that each lane is about thirty feet wide.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Brian Calkins -handout attached
Brian is the wildlife manager with the WDFW. The Shillapoo Wildlife Area is one of his management areas. The SWA is roughly 2,371 acres and Vancouver Lake unit is at the southern shore of the lake. The north and south units are northwest of the lake. Their principal focus is on waterfowl management, specifically Canada geese. Their habitat focus is on restoring and enhancing wetland habitat for water fowl. He provided estimates of user days for 2001. They are 8,500 user days for hunting and 7,300 user days for fishing, which does not include use of their boat launch to the Columbia River. Non-consumptive uses, such as dog training and trap shooting, totaled 73,000 user days. He feels that most of these estimates are conservative. For example most of 67,500 appreciative user days are for wildlife viewing, it is their biggest use. It may be one of the major draws to Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar Parks. It is largely unrecognized as an activity due to the difficulty in measuring use. Use includes people stopping their cars and walking along the roads to view wildlife.

The lake is important to hunting because many of the areas are not closed to firearm hunting or unavailable to all hunters. It is large and one of the few places left in this area of the state that can support a reasonable amount of hunting. This is a new wildlife area in the state and it is starting to draw some attention as people hear about the improvements that are being made.

In terms of fishing, the populations are weak. Primarily the fishing is for warm water species. Much of the fishing that occurs is effort to catch carp. Vancouver Lake remains popular even though the fishing is not great due to its proximity to the urban population. It is quick and easy to get to.

Brian feels that the biggest growth in wildlife oriented recreation in the area will be wildlife viewing. There is a growing interest in use and a lot of opportunities to improve facilities for that use group. Not only in habitat restoration but viewing platforms, trails and things like that.

Brian also mentioned the highway that extends beyond Vancouver Lake Park. It is an important access for hunting but by far a more important access for wildlife viewing. Near the end of that roadway is the best opportunity for viewing wildlife in the wildlife area because of the expansive view of the area if one steps of the roadway about 100 feet. The WDFW has debated taking ownership of the roadway so that it could no longer be used as a drag strip. They would like to modify it to have more permanent and effective barriers to keep people on the roadway. they have debated taking ownership of the roadway and modifying it so

it can't be used as a drag strip with more effective barriers to keep vehicles on the

Doug asked if there are areas within the 2300 acres where there are higher concentrations human activity. Brian estimates that the highest use area in the Vancouver Lake unit. People drive out there to eat lunch. In terms of the hunting the north and south unit, northwest of lake, is where most of the waterfowl hunting takes place. Doug also asked if Lake River is in that area. Brian clarified that Lake River is on the border, near the mouth of Salmon Creek for a mile and a half. Doug asked if is aware of any fish runs that system. Brian is not aware of any anadromous runs in BBC. Salmon Creek has runs on steelhead and coho would go through Lake River on there way in and way out. They also know that juvenile salmonids traveling down the Columbia are inadvertently being bypassed into the Lake via the flushing channel. This is problematic as is may expose fish to levels they might otherwise not be exposed to.

Gary asked about the primitive boat launch. Brian explained that it is a very shallow launch and at parts of the year it is essentially a hand launch. He is not aware of any WDFW plans to improve it. The water is so shallow for such a long distance that the lake would have to be dredged to make this a deeper launch.

Don asked about enforcement of permit/sticker use in the parking lot. Brian clarified that there is enforcement. However, their enforcement staff is not able to be there full time. They do write tickets but compliance rates fluctuate.

Thom asked about the costs of vandalism and dumping to the WDFW. He clarified that they have one person who manages all of the WDFW access sites in 6 counties. He spends more time on these sites than the other sites. Brian and his occasional employees collect dump materials and liter sometimes. He estimates that he and any staff he has spend about 40-50 hours a year, this includes the enforcement personnel who are involved if a vehicle is abandoned. He gave an example of a boat that was dumped and had to be removed on a flat bed truck. This was an expensive public cost. He would estimate that the access manager spends that same amount of hours as he does in those areas.

Thom asked if there is a formal management plan for the lands north and south of Vancouver Lake. Brian explained that they are developing one right now and anticipate it to be active in a month or two. It will go through a SEPA review process.

Bird Watching- Nancy Ellifrit

According to some studies bird watching is the largest involvement of people in any outdoor activity in the county. It is not always organized groups. Audubon Washington has designated several important bird areas in the state. Vancouver Lake is one of those areas. They are also documenting birding trails; this one is called the Great Southwest Washington Birding Trail. It is currently in the

publishing process. Some of the problems include the lack of pull-outs and small parking lots for watching birds. The Vancouver Audubon is applying for a grant to build a viewing platform off of Erwin O Rieger Memorial Highway. There are a large variety of birds to see there including sandhill cranes, eagles, geese, ducks. The rookery has moved to the Vancouver Lake Park side of the area. This concluded Nancy's presentation.

Thom asked for estimate of person hours, or if she could extrapolate based on the number of people who use Ridgefield and the number of cars that use Vancouver Lake. She could not; there is no car counter at Vancouver Lake.

Victor asked about the movement of the rookery. She clarified the rookery was on the Westside on the Buckman Slough. It was moved about four or five years ago to be across from Vancouver Lake Park.

Lee wanted to make a comment about parking for bird watchers. Nancy explained that they received a \$9000.00 grant from the lodging funds to help publish the Great Birding trail map.

Jeanne asked Nancy to clarify the plans and needs of bird watchers. Nancy said that the needs are better access, a viewing platform and a few more signs about getting the parking pass for wildlife viewing.

Brian asked for clarification about the lake and how it adds or detracts to birding. What value does the actual lake have for birding in comparison to a marsh or wetland? Nancy explained that it adds to the diversity. Brian of WDFW stated that there are benefits to birding for both, the lake and a more divergent marsh land.

Jeanne asked the group to mention any other Lake uses that had not already been mentioned.

Debra Marriott mentioned that LCREP is working with their volunteer committee establishing a water trail for paddlers. It begins at Bonneville Dam and goes to the mouth of the Columbia River. It somewhat recreates the Lewis and Clark journey and will be used as an ecotourism trail. There is a website that allows you to pick out a trail and safety information. She doesn't know if there are places on the trail that are close to Vancouver Lake but she will find out. She is also not trail is limited to non-motorized water craft.

Gary also mentioned that he has noticed an increase numbers of kayaks and cyclists in the area.

Brian of WDFW mentioned that there is a commercial carp fishery on the lake.

Gary also wanted to clarify that sailors are concerned about water quality for membership and health safety.

Water Quality Overview – Doug Quinn handout attached

Doug began by explaining the engineering process that is used to evaluate the needs for water. He focused specifically on water within aquifers that is necessary to meet municipal needs. This process is accompanied by a variety of technical reports and studies such as coordinated water system plans, utility master plans that include growth estimates, facility costs, sources and all of the things that are used to guide the community to pursue new resources to serve the population. WIRA documents which include water quality and watershed planning with salmon restoration and protection. As a municipal purveyor of water, they participate in and are bound by these types of documents. Clark County is one of few counties in Washington that has adopted a coordinated water system plan. They have identified service areas, standards and a means for interrelating among the jurisdiction to trade water services back and forth. It also addresses how to serve someone who is isolated in remote regions of the county. Doug gave a trailer park or a small rural burg as an example.

Doug clarified what an aquifer is and showed a diagram to illustrate the description, which is in the handout. A mountainous region is generally underlain by a layer of impervious rock. Above is oftentimes deposited a material which will bare water. In this region, that is segmented into layers. In Clark County it has several different heights and depths. The Salmon gravel aquifer is known as a deep aquifer area. It varies in depth but tends to be a giant underground lake extending from Woodland, to Hillsboro, to Wilsonville. It is a large underground body of water. The City of Portland also accesses this aquifer. The upper areas are the shallowest aquifers, which are considered to be alluvial deposits. They are recent deposits through porous gravel where very large bodies of water are moved through it. This includes Vancouver Lake, Washougal River, the BBC area, the Chelatchie Prairie and the Yacolt Valley.

Doug explained that although the aquifer is very deep near the southern part of the county by the Columbia River, in the north part of the county, near the east fork of the Lewis River, the aquifer is very close to the surface. This is very common and indicates that extreme activity and load on the aquifer could eventually extend that far north. This is something that needs to be evaluated by engineers. It is also possible to see how the dipping down of the aquifer indicates that it is under pressure at the low point. This is a prolific point where it can be pumped very hard, use very large amounts of water while having limited influence on the area. Doug also explained that the aquifer tilts in multiple directions confining area of varied thickness. These confining areas are very densely deposited areas of clay and silt which are practically impermeable. They may be overlain with loose gravel. It is very irregular because it ebbs and flows and has developed at different stages throughout time.

The aquifer has been studied extensively. Doug showed a picture of a drilling rig that is used to gain information about the aquifer and analyze the water. They do find contamination which occurs naturally and by man. He showed a map that showed a trichloroethylene plume and iron manganese found in the aquifer. The City of Vancouver treats this water to make it potable for humans.

The area of high volume, good quality water in the shallow aquifer is the Vancouver Lake lowlands. It's approximate to urban centers which are the most demanding areas. It has good access and the necessary supporting structures like electricity, transportation routes etc. Clark Public Utilities, the City of Vancouver and some of the other local industries have continued to explore these areas. They are investigating and testing to determine what the best location is, what are the implications of those locations and how we might, over the next decade or two, continue to explore and gain a better understanding of the ground water.

Doug then showed a few aerial views of the lake lowlands highlighting the new Ducks Unlimited pond site, the Firestone property and the end of the highway that was previously referenced. This concluded the water utility overview presentation.

Jeanne clarified that the intent of the presentation was to make sure that the partnership understood that the use of the aquifer is an issue to be considered as well.

Thom mentioned that one issue that was not mentioned by Doug is that the Port is objecting to exploration in certain sites. He thought they were predominately on the south Vancouver lake sites and not the north across from the park. He asked Doug to explain that.

Doug clarified that there is a perspective that this exploration might have an influence on the clean-up that is currently underway. That needs to be determined and right now CPU and Port are working through and develop a common understanding of what implications exploration would have and what types of partnerships might exist to deal with some of the issues. The Port has a legitimate interest in cleaning up the site. CPU has a legitimate interest in exploring for groundwater to meet the community's future needs. Relying on the uplands to serve to community's future needs would be challenging. It is not considered to be wise, by engineers and communities, to push the water with withdrawals into the higher reaches like Salmon Creek and Burnt Bridge Creek. Current engineering and community minded thinking is that it is better to be down near tidally influenced zones where you can find prolific and clean sources of water. That is considered wise uses of the resource. In this case there is contamination, which can be seen as an engineering problem that requires an engineering solution. Given time and a bit of cooperation, Doug believes it will resolve itself.

Thom also asked if Doug had looked into to complexities of the plume from the Burlington Northern site. This was one of the considerations also as it was done under a private clean-up agreement that was not publicly available.

Jeanne asked for clarification of the term plume. Doug clarified that a plume is like dropping a drop of food coloring onto a wet sponge. When it dissipates into the depth of the sponge it radiates out into the sponge. The soil is like a sponge and it takes whatever is dropped onto it and dissipates it out. Doug also mentioned that there has been a lot of testing to help characterize what has been going on. He would like to think that they know really well what is going on, but the reality is that they know mostly well what is going on under the surface.

Jeanne asked Derik, of the Port, if there is anything that he would like to clarify about the Port's interest. He stated that Doug had adequately described the Port's interests and if the partnership would like to discuss the topic further, Patty would be a better source of information concerning this area.

Thom also wanted to emphasize that in the Mundorf study, there were six superwell sites that were identified. This is that last site that has remained untapped, unpolluted, and would not take major amounts of remediation.

Jane asked for clarification about the location of the six sites. Brian clarified that the WIRA report recommendation suggests that lowlands area is the future water supply for the whole community and essentially for the entire County. With regard to the existing contamination, it is a fairly substantial contaminated area that needs to be cleaned up. We don't want to impact that clean up effort. The Port, CPU, the City, Ecology, and the Department of Health share a common interest of wanting to see that area cleaned up. Those agencies share that common goal. How they put those pieces of the puzzle together is what the different agencies are working on.

Overview of Other Lake Area Uses – Jeroen Kok

Jeroen began by stating that some of this was covered in his previous presentation. He then showed a chart that included the different publicly owned lands of the Lake area. They included, WDFE, the Port, Clark-Vancouver Parks. There is a mixture of commercial and residential uses up and down Fruit Valley Road. He is aware of one project that is in for preliminary review with the City to expand an industrial site. There are a variety of agricultural uses, primarily the Firestone's have a variety of areas set-up with berry operations and various other operations in the that area. Around the lake there is a little bit of recreational and residential use along the shore lines. The Burlington Northern railroad is one constraint and the topography is the other constraint for the upland residential areas. There is a significant amount of private ownership north of WDFW property. WDFW are also trying to acquire more property ownership. Then further to the north is the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

Overall there is a large mixture of existing land uses, there are some significant pieces of property that are being looked at by the port that will influence how the area looks in five or ten years from now. This particular subject area could go in a variety of different ways. There could be a lot of statistical and GIS analysis that goes into the effort it just depends on where the group wants to go in the effort to evaluate land uses.

Jane asked who actually owns the property between the railroad and the water. Jeroen clarified that the City owns part of it and there is also some private ownership.

Jeanne asked the partnership to mention any other influences and uses of the area that had not been mentioned yet.

Randy mentioned that there is a designated swimming area in the lake. The health department monitors that area twice a week during swimming season for e coli and blue-green algae. Swimming has been limited the last couple of years due to the blue-green algae. They will continue to monitor the area beginning after Memorial Day and will be assisted this year by Ecology. Ecology will sample the beach area and the Health Department will sample near the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek, which is a new sampling area. Ecology has selected three sites for sampling that they will pay for.

Gary asked if there has been any monitoring of the Felida Moorage sewer system. Randy clarified that the Health Department doesn't really test in areas that are not designated for swimming due to limited resources. They did test for blue-green algae in Lake River. They get assistance from Parks and Ecology to test Klineline and Battleground parks.

Thom also mentioned that finding a drowned person is difficult do to the lack of clarity in the water. It is one factor that degrades the area in regards to swimming.

Public Comment

Vinton Erickson of Erickson Farms mentioned that one problem in the area is the mosquito problem has been increasing. He thinks it is something that should to be looked at and controlled. Mosquitoes are bad disease carrying insects.

Jacqueline Edwards wanted to ask about the road and all the problems. She wondered if the agencies could be working together to cooperate in a jurisdictional way to monitor the road and the people who are doing the illegal dumping. Maybe they could include volunteers to monitor the area. She has seen people out across from Felida Moorage running their trucks in the field and

shooting guns. It seems to her that something could be worked out jurisdictionally to coordinate monitoring.

Dick Chandlee wanted to comment about the original plan to put two islands in the lake and the dredging that was done to prepare for that. When they pump that area in, it fills the whole area up with water. It is completely dammed up with no trees growing there anymore and it is about four inches thick of water year round and it is nothing but mosquitoes. There bring the helicopters out to and kill the mosquitoes until the next rain and then they are right back there again. He does not think that budget is big enough to cover the entire county because they spend it right there. He thinks this is all a result of the mis-planning, in lieu of a second island they decided to dredge in that space along the tracks. Most of the maps do not show this, they show the natural contour of the lake. It is a half mile long bar, it is a long ways out there from the lake to where it hits the water, it is four inches deep, no fish in it, it is just a bog, full of cattails, and mosquitoes, the cottonwoods and willows are dying. Thom clarified that this area is being used by Clark County for storm water management. It helps in the respect that it does not go into the lake, but it is not true treatment and it does not meet the specifications of the Western Stormwater Management Act. It is not up to standard but it is somewhat better than putting it directly into the Lake. Dick Chandlee disagreed that you can't take stagnant water and say it is better than putting the water back into the lake. He reiterated that this is not a flushing channel it is a tidal channel and it has nothing to do with keeping the lake fresh. Thom clarified that he is referring to the stagnant water not the flushing channel. Dick stated that between the two of them [flushing channel and stagnant water] there is a compound problem.

Jeanne wanted to talk about the next steps for the process and the next meeting, she mentioned that Jim Comrada would like to speak again about restoration. He provided some information to be distributed to the Partnership. In addition to this, the question bin is a list of the questions that have been raised. We are now getting to the point where this is a critical piece in moving forward. She referred to the exercise that was conducted in the first meeting regarding the measures of success. Today's meeting concludes the series of meetings that were meant to get everybody up to speed with a common foundation of information. Clearly there are a lot of questions still and a lot of information that the group could still have. However, we are going to stop now and begin the deliberation process.

Next meeting will return to the measures of success and start talking about what the objectives are as well as layout some objectives to help guide the partnerships decisions in terms of a vision. A technical team will be getting together to meet and discuss the questions that have been identified. They will determine what the dominant questions are what further informational needs the VLWP may still have. The next meeting is a milestone check-in so that we can start talking about values, look at what we have done to date and set a path for the group so that they can move forward. Jeanne asked the partnership if that

sounded consistent with their understanding of the needs and what has been set forth.

Jeanne asked members to send any thoughts regarding the question bin and what they would like to be addressed to Amanda.

Martin also mentioned that the Army Corp would like to make a commitment to show up and would like to give a short presentation about funding and resources etc.

Debra made an announcement that there is a children's artist coming to the Hollywood theater, she distributed a hand-out.

Loretta also mentioned that the watershed congress meets tomorrow where students will present water monitoring information at the water center. She also mentioned that the sturgeon festival is this weekend.

Jeanne also asked Thom about the tour that he lead, he said it was a lot of fun and well attended and there may be another one in the fall.

Ron also mentioned that they held a training last week for their volunteer monitoring program. They will be holding volunteer monitoring, now through October, monitoring water quality on the lake.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 15th, 2005 from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. The location will be confirmed and sent out via email meeting notice. The focus of the next meeting will be to discuss the measures of success and the next steps of the partnership.