



May 21, 2008 Meeting Summary

The twenty third meeting of the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership was held on Wednesday, May 21th, 2008 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Port of Vancouver Administrative Offices.

Attendance:

Member Present	Member Seat
Patty Boyden	Port of Vancouver
Pete Capell	Clark County Dept. of Public Works
David Judd	Vancouver Clark Parks and Recreation
Tim Rymer	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jacquelin Edwards	Citizen
Thom McConathy	Citizen
James Meyer	Citizen
Don Jacobs	Citizen
David Page	Citizen
Gary Kokstis	Citizen
Vernon Veysey	Citizen

Public in attendance:

Dvija M. Bertish	Citizen (Riverkeeper)
Dick Chandlee	Citizen
Skip Haak	Citizen (PBS)
Eric Merrit	Citizen (Benthic, LLC.)
Traci Nolan	Citizen (Geodesign)
Ed Strohmaier	Citizen (Berger/ABAM)

Other Agency Members Present:

Jessi Belston	Port of Vancouver
Victor Ehrlich	City of Vancouver Public Works
Jim Gladson	Clark County Public Works
Annette Griffy	City of Vancouver
Andrew Ness	Port of Vancouver
Gretchen Rollwagen Bollens	WSU
Ron Wierenga	Clark County Public Works

Project Management Team:

Phil Trask	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
Sabrina Litton	PC Trask & Associates, Inc.

Introductions

The project manager welcomed the group and attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda/Discussion Topics

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

General Partnership Announcements

Thom noted that some Partnership members were absent. Phil said that several members had been in contact with him to say they were not able to attend the meeting.

Dvijia said that EPA's preliminary contaminant assessment on Vancouver Lake should be available next week.

Phil showed photos to the Partnership from the May 17 SOLV – Down by the Riverside volunteer planting event and high school regatta on Vancouver Lake.

Patty presented photos of recent flushing channel debris removal maintenance work. At the last meeting a Partnership member had noted that there was debris obstructing the flushing channel gates and asked if the Port could have it removed. The Port sent their maintenance crew to the site and removed three truckloads of debris mainly consisting of wood and tires.

Thom told the group to lobby for TMDL monitoring stations at the mouth of Burnt Bridge Creek.

Partnership Business

Funding Strategy

The project manager provided a brief background on Partnership funding developments that transpired in recent months. Since the last Partnership meeting where he presented the group with a draft funding strategy, the project management team has been getting better acquainted with different state funding programs such as the Centennial Clean Water and Freshwater Algae Grant programs. In part of doing so, he and Sabrina have contacted regional program managers to better understand the programs and improve their application for the next funding cycle. So far meetings have been scheduled in late May and early June to begin learning and building relationships.

Phil said that he met with Addison Jacobs from the Port of Vancouver earlier in the week. He said that she will be a great help in coordinating a funding request for the 2009-2011 biennium. Addison agreed to help bring a core group of people together to work on moving a funding request forward.

Phil added that he and Loretta would be meeting with Congressman Brian Baird's staff in early June to give them an update on Vancouver Lake.

WSU Update

Dr. Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens provided an update on behalf of WSU. She told the Partnership that their research team has been sampling the Lake for the past year. The scope of their sampling followed two approaches; a quarterly sampling program, and a more intense program that sampled as often as every week during the summer. The quarterly sampling occurred at multiple locations throughout the lake and was meant to assess the geographic variability within collected water samples, while the more intense approach was geared towards monitoring algae populations and distributions as they rose and fell throughout the summer. The frequent sampling occurred from the sailing club dock and took place monthly during the winter, semiweekly in the late spring and late fall, and weekly in the summer months.

Preliminary findings have shown that there is no significant difference geographically between sampling stations throughout the lake. This is a helpful result because it means that sampling from the sailing club dock provides a reasonable snapshot of what the lake looks like as a whole. Last year anabaena was the most prolific cyanobacteria present while zooplankton was dominated by the daphnia species. Interesting succession patterns were observed between species such as numbers of diatoms increasing when cyanobacteria numbers decreased.

Gretchen said that the team is in their last week of microscopic analysis and they will be ready to present results to the Partnership in early July.

One Partnership member asked how Vancouver Lake relates to other lakes with cyanobacteria blooms, and will WSU be able to extrapolate potential management actions from the results and what other groups have done? Gretchen said that the body of literature available on algae blooms is growing but at this time it is conflicted in the sense that there is not one single clear cause and solution to algal blooms. While many other lakes experience blooms, it is difficult to generalize. In terms of management actions, she was cautious about whether or not they could point to specific measures after only one year of data collection. She noted that they will have a graduate student looking at interactions between species later this summer that could help in this area.

Thom asked if there was a way to improve research methods to produce better or more informed results. Gretchen said that for what they are working on right now, water sampling is still the best method of collecting data because it is telling them what is present in the water and how things are interacting with each other.

Phil commented that he, Ron and Sabrina have a meeting planned with both Steve and Gretchen in early June to discuss next steps for WSU.

Objectives Ad-Hoc Group

Phil told the group that due to scheduling conflicts the Objectives Ad-hoc Group had not yet had an opportunity to meet. The meeting has now been scheduled for June 9th and at the meeting he hopes to continue the conversation generated by the objective continuum diagram distributed to the Partnership in March.

Technical Foundation Paper.

Phil told the group that he, Ron and Sabrina have been working on a document called the Vancouver Lake Technical Foundation. In starting the document, Phil asked Ron last year to write a white paper that covered his thoughts about the Lake. From that initial white paper, Phil and Sabrina built upon it with current Partnership information and other studies conducted in the past. The intent for developing this document is to help the Technical Group advance a technical strategy for the Partnership and Steering Group's consideration. Phil described the document as it stood so far:

Chapter 1: Introduction. Provides a background, purpose and intended audience for the document. Gives a general overview of the Lake including the larger watershed, recreational uses and surrounding ownerships and land uses.

Chapter 2: The Watershed, Lake, Fish and Wildlife. Describes Vancouver Lake in relation to other lakes. Describes a typical water year and what is known about fish, wildlife, and vegetation at the Lake.

Chapter 3: Vancouver Lake Issues. Provides a summary of known issues that Vancouver Lake is affected by such as, nuisance algae blooms, bacteria and pathogens, temperature and oxygen, and sedimentation.

Chapter 4: Data Gaps. Provides an introduction to the Partnership's technical questions, and provides a discussion on what we know and don't know about the physical environment, biology, and water/sediment quality at Vancouver Lake.

Chapter 5: Technical Strategy. Provides an approach to identifying technical studies and explaining why they are important.

Phil told the group that the document should be considered a living document that will be filled in with more detail as time goes on. The intent of the paper is to be a compilation of what we think we know about the lake at this time and where to go from there.

Pete and David Judd said that they thought the Technical Foundation document was a good idea. David asked what a low urgency question might be. Phil said that the lower urgency questions

tended to be questions that we might already know the answer to or ones where the scale of the question might be misaligned with the others on the list. An example of a low urgency question is: "What are the ESA listed species present in the Vancouver Lake area?". That information can be looked up easily.

Jacquelin and Gary commented that a compilation of Partnership information is a great idea. It will be helpful to share with the public so that they understand what has been going on within the Partnership for the past several years. Phil agreed and said that one goal of the document is to make sure information is understandable to the lay audience.

Thom said that it would be important to have citations throughout the document so that the sources of information could be traceable. Phil agreed and added that he is ready to get the document into the hands of others who will be able to provide valuable insight. Patty added that it would be a good idea to list community partners.

It was asked when the document would be available for review. Phil said he couldn't say for sure but in the next few weeks he plans to send it to the Technical Group for review and feedback. Once they have had an opportunity to work with it, it will go to the Steering Group followed by the Partnership. He told the group that while it might seem like a slow process, compiling the different levels of complex information has taken time.

Technical Group Update.

Ron noted that the County has initiated their Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program for the season and gave thanks to Gary and the Sailing Club for providing access to the Lake.

The Corps will be presenting their 2D modeling results to the Steering Group in June and to the Partnership in July. It is hoped that their model will be organized in a way that the Partnership can build upon it to answer specific questions the Corps might not be addressing in their initial investigation.

PIO Update

Phil reported on behalf of the PIO group noting the successful event on May 17th with the SOLV Down by the Riverside event. Thank you Brian Potter and the Americorps crew for their help.

Public Comment

Pete said that he was looking forward to the upcoming presentations of findings in the July meetings. He also wanted to thank David Judd for his hard work at Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation as this was his last meeting with the Partnership. David will be retiring in June.

Dick Chandlee said that the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club property has been sold to a developer with the intent to build multiple homes on the property.

It was asked if the rowing club had found a new site. David said that a spot had been located on the west side of the Lake and it is currently awaiting approval. They had tried to find funding for a new boathouse, but unfortunately they were unable to do so. However the new site is a good one with parking and facilities available.

Next Steps/Close

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

Next Meetings:

Steering Group Meeting on June 18, 2008

Full Partnership Meeting on July 16, 2008