

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Agenda

Meeting date: May 17, 2006, 3:30 pm

Attendees

Executive Committee: Brian Carlson, Pete Capell, David Judd, Patty Boyden

Partnership Members: Curt Loop, George Medina

Staff: Jim Gladson, Loretta Callahan, Jeanne Lawson, Kelly Skelton, Jordan Lerner, Ron Wierenga

Public: Jacquelin Edwards

Agenda/Discussion Topics

The Steering Group was joined by Kelly Love, District Representative for Congressman Brian Baird. Baird's District Director Pam Brokaw, who oversees the Congressman's offices in Vancouver and Olympia, asked Kelly to attend the Steering Group meeting.

In representing the Congressman, Kelly cannot set or determine Partnership policy, but she can provide information on funding that might be available and information on related processes. She can also serve as a conduit to her office and thus to the Congressman. Kelly will try to attend both Steering Group and Partnership meetings on an ongoing basis in the future.

IGA Update

The IGA has been routed for Port and legal reviews, and is now at the city and county for review. Next the IGA will go to the different commissions for approval. Pete raised a concern with the some of the language in the financial section with regards to liability. Pete will send revised language to Patty. The Steering Group agreed that for the sake of time and efficiency, the IGA should be sent to the different commissions simultaneously. Patty will send have a draft to share with the Partnership prior to the 6/21 partnership meeting. The group agreed that the Steering Group will have to send a clear message that this is for informational purposes only, and no feedback or comments will be taken from the Partnership. Patty asked for final comments from Pete Capell and Brian Carlson by 5/21, a copy will be sent to the partnership on 6/14.

Corps-PRP Update

George Medina gave a quick update on the Preliminary Restoration Plan. The PRP will focus on hydraulics, including ingress and egress and the impact on fish. The scope will then broaden further on down the road, but this focus on hydraulics is necessary to gain federal interest. A hydraulic engineer will be added to the team to help with this research. George thinks he will be able to have a draft of the PRP ready to present at the 6/21 partnership meeting. The Port of Vancouver is currently working with a hydraulic engineering firm, they may have valuable information for the Corps, and Patty will pass along a contact name for the Corps hydraulic engineer to contact.

Tech Group Update-Data Gathering Presentation by Ron

The Tech Group has been in contact with other agencies, non-government organizations and universities to help compile a list of other monitoring activities in and around Vancouver Lake, to help fill in data gaps. Many monitoring locations have been mapped and several opportunities for coordination have already come up.

The Tech Group had a follow-up meeting with Dr. Steve Bollens from WSU-Vancouver who reiterated that WSU was interested and excited about the work. The purpose of this meeting was to hear WSU's informal proposal for researching the lake's biological components to help fill data gaps. The technical group had provided approximate budget and schedule limitations previously. Dr. Bollens presented his ideas and provided a rough cost estimate for addressing the major components of the system given available time and funding.

Dr. Bollens proposed a project for having WSU do plankton work and partnering with others to study the fish and benthic invertebrates. The study would likely look at 6 stations over 2 sampling events -- probably adding more frequent samples at a single station for plankton. The focus would be on describing what is out there, how much, and where they occur. The goal would be to collect baseline data for recommending improvements and for measuring performance of future improvement projects.

Ron supported the WSU proposal as a comprehensive look at the biology of the lake, but also expressed concern that this approach might be too broad and shallow if the steering group anticipates detailed information. Ideally we would study all components in detail, but there are budget and schedule limitations. As an alternative approach he asked the steering group to consider having WSU focus on algae and other planktonic animals. This is also where WSU's primary interests and expertise lie.

At this point Patty asked the Steering Group if they anticipate having a long term relationship with WSU. If the scope is short-term then the technical group would recommend doing something more broad and shallow. The steering group agreed that they do wish to have a long term relationship with them.

Ron clarified that doing a broad/shallow sampling will give us baseline data to set goals and evaluate improvement actions. But we may not get enough specific information from a broad/shallow study to adequately define problems.

The SG asked for Ron's recommendation. His recommendation is doing a more detailed study, specifically focusing on algae and requesting that other partnership agencies contribute research to help fill in the data gaps.

The SG agreed with Ron's recommendation. Ron will respond to WSU and ask for a more specific proposal and approach for looking specifically at planktonic algae and animals.

The SG will need to work on a plan to what other data gaps will exist, and forward those requests to the appropriate government officials and agency partners. This item will be addressed at the next SG meeting.

Public Information Update

Loretta brought the finalized informal questionnaires and information sheets. Her group will begin passing them out to the public, including through the parking fee booths at the parks.

Partnership Meeting Agenda

- IGA Update
- PRP draft
- Public Information Pieces
- Tech Group Update

Next meetings:

6/7/06 – Steering Group Meeting 3:30 pm
6/21/06 – Full Partnership Meeting 4:00 pm