



November 13, 2013 VLWP 48th Meeting Summary

The forty-eighth meeting of the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the Port of Vancouver Administrative Offices.

Attendance:

Member Present

Jane Van Dyke
Lehman Holder
Don Jacobs
Gary Kokstis
Thom McConathy
David Page
Jacquelin Edwards
Eric LaBrant
Vernon Veysey
Brian Carlson
Steve Prather
Ron Wierenga
Patty Boyden
Iloba Odum

Member Seat

Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
Citizen
City of Vancouver
Clark Public Utilities (Alternate for Doug Quinn)
Clark County Environmental Services
Port of Vancouver
WA Dept. of Ecology

Other Agency Members Present:

Jeff Schnabel
Dorie Sutton
Annette Griffy
Chris Hathaway
Julie Rawls
Kathy Brooks

Association:

Clark County Environmental Services
City of Vancouver
City of Vancouver
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Port of Vancouver
Port of Vancouver

Public in Attendance:

Harvey Claussen

Citizen

Project Management Team:

Phil Trask
Eileen Stone
Alex McManus

PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
PC Trask & Associates, Inc.
PC Trask & Associates, Inc.

Not in Attendance:

Bruce Wiseman
Debrah Marriot
George Medina
Ralph Dannenberg
Allen Lebovitz
Anne Friesz

Port of Ridgefield
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
US Army Corps of Engineers
Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation
WA Dept. of Natural Resources
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Opening of Meeting

Phil Trask welcomed everyone to the 48th Partnership meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment

Phil asked for any public comment. Katie introduced Julie Rawls, the new Port of Vancouver community outreach staff person replacing Andrew Ness. Julie will help support the Partnership in communicating with the community about Partnership events.

Recommendations Report First Draft Overview

Phil began the discussion of the first draft of the Recommendations Report with a general overview of the draft. Phil explained that we are on a tight schedule for comments and revisions, and the project management team needs those comments at this meeting to meet our deadlines. Major comments need to be voiced with the group today with minor revisions (word choice, spelling, grammar) being accepted until November 15th. The first draft was written with a lay person audience in mind. Phil characterized the tone of the report as cautiously optimistic regarding lake restoration.

Partnership Feedback on First Draft of Recommendations Report

The Partnership gave a significant amount of helpful feedback on the first draft. Generally, the Partnership expressed concern about the report's tone, message, and purpose. Partnership members also wanted more to be written about what is next for the Partnership, clarification on floating wetlands, the addition of graphics and glossary terms.

Partnership members suggested adjusting the tone to acknowledge that there is still a lot of uncertainty around the effectiveness of lake management actions and more study needs to be done before any implementation.

The Partnership wanted the report to tell a more complete story of what the Partnership has done up to this point. There should be an emphasis on the vision and journey of the Partnership to date, highlighting key milestones and research. The Partnership also wanted to see a clear purpose for the report and to emphasize this is a checkpoint, not the end of the planning process.

There was a meaningful discussion of the report recommendations. Floating wetlands were a major discussion point. The report suggested a pilot project for floating wetlands, but the Partnership is not ready to implement such action at this time. Floating wetlands and other recommendations need to be characterized as ideas for further consideration, not immediate implementation. Recommendations for a fisheries study were suggested for the next draft. There was brief discussion of the need to plan how the report will be presented to the community.

Several Partnership members requested the inclusion of graphics to help tell the Partnership's story. Including a timeline and/or a planning flowchart to orient readers to the process and where the Partnership stands was agreed to be helpful. Including maps and charts to help understand past studies and the complexity of the system was also suggested. There were also terms that needed to be included in the glossary, like cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).

With the level of changes discussed, the group asked for an addition Partnership meeting to discuss the next draft of the report. The project management team will look to schedule a meeting the first week of December.

Close of Meeting

Phil thanked the group for their work and closed the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Partnership:

TBD, First week of December

Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 4-6 pm

Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 4-6 pm

All meetings are at Port of Vancouver Administrative Offices unless otherwise noted.