

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: March 7, 2007, 3:30 pm

Attendees

Executive Committee: Patty Boyden, Brian Carlson

Staff: Loretta Callahan, Jeanne Lawson, Kalin Schmoltdt, Phil Trask, Ron Wierenga, George Medina, David Judd, Jessie Belston

Public: David Page

Project Manager Update

Jeanne noted the issue of Phil's work scope and the future of JLA in the project. She noted that she will be meeting with Pete sometime this month to coordinate the transition. Phil said that he had seen the contract, and believed it contained nothing out of the ordinary. Ron said that he thought the contract would be approved by the Board of Clark County Commissioners on March 20.

Patty introduced Jessie Belston, Port of Vancouver, who will be working on the Technical Committee.

TMDL project for Burnt Bridge Creek – Follow up

Jeanne noted that Ecology hadn't asked for much from the Partnership beyond a statement of support. Brian said that he felt that the conversation was cut short and that people weren't able to fully grasp the debate. He noted that the meeting was frustrating because of the need to address previously discussed issues. Jeanne suggested that there be some offline discussions with members to alleviate potential problems at meetings. Jeanne encouraged the group to help Phil as facilitator, as he won't always be aware of which issues have already come up. David noted the importance of treating such issues quickly and clearly so they don't dominate the discussion time. Brian suggested creating a "parking lot" for issues.

Ron suggested reminding the group of timelines and managing expectations. He noted that results will come about slowly given the nature of the process and said that he felt they were moving at an appropriate pace. Phil said that he felt that the development of a clear timeline was implicit in his six-month trial period. He said that he will want to meet with individual members as the work plan is developed.

Brian noted that they will have to wait to hear from Ecology regarding the results of the TMDL request.

Corps Update

George said that the scoping process is moving along and discussed the upcoming technical strategy meeting to be held in late March or early April. He noted that a feasibility study can take 18-24 months and that it will be useful to meet with the Technical team to coordinate agency processes, share strategies and minimize duplicated efforts. Jeanne encouraged a brief report at the next meeting to discuss progress.

Tech Group Update

Ron said he hoped that the upcoming Technical meeting would provide an opportunity to increase communication and diverse perspectives on Vancouver Lake. He emphasized the need to discuss and coordinate timelines and the priority issues for each group. He noted that March 14 didn't work as a meeting date and may be rescheduled for March 21. He said that it would be useful to include George in the discussion and noted that this meeting is just the start of the discussion.

Ron noted that the WSU contract has been finalized and is expected to be signed on the March 20. He said the plankton work should then start in April.

Public Information Update

Patty confirmed that Loretta had posted the materials requested on the flushing report and the sediment samples. Patty noted that the sediment samples were clean, tested negative for mercury, and had met benchmarks. Loretta noted that the data could be hard to decipher for citizens and suggested posting an explanatory summary of the data.

Loretta noted that the TMDL presentation was also available online. She noted that the meeting summary was not yet posted but would be once she had received the draft and been informed the distribution had occurred, as per the Partnership discussion. Phil suggested establishing a clear schedule for sending out and publishing the summaries.

Loretta noted that Vancouver had submitted the appropriation forms for 2008 to Brian Baird, Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell. The group complemented the request.

Agenda for April 18th Partnership meeting

Jeanne noted that there will be no meeting on March 21 and the steering group will meet again on April 4.

Ron said he thinks that Ecology will be ready to present the Toxics study. He noted the delays for reporting the study and how the findings relate to sediment quality and TMDL listings for the lake.

Steering Group members noted that there needs to be some discussion of hanging issues such as mercury. Jeanne offered to pull a list of recent issues from prior meeting summaries and encouraged the group to come up with a list for discussion at the next steering group meeting.

Brian noted that background information from the City is available regarding septic tanks and Burnt Bridge Creek. He noted that the issue comes up frequently but has not been addressed as a separate topic by itself.

Patty suggested revisiting the role of the Partnership and the length of member terms, noting that many members initially signed on for a period of time, approximately two years. Jeanne noted that she had followed up with some of the absent members from the last meeting, and said that they were likely to want to stay on.

Ron said he would again ask the Salmon Creek Watershed Council for a short presentation.

Patty offered to update the group on the online reports regarding the flushing channel and sediment data, though she noted that the formal report won't be out for a few months.

Brian noted that there will need to be discussion of the meeting schedule beyond April 18.

1. Welcome/Agenda Review
 2. Partnership Business
 3. Project Manager Update - Scope
 4. Corps Update
 5. Tech Group Update
 - Salmon Creek Watershed presentation – *Ron will contact them to check on availability.*
 7. PIO Update
 - Tech data update - Patty
 8. Ecology Toxics Study
 9. Hanging Issues
 10. Next Steps/Meetings
- TENTATIVE – City Presentation on septic tanks

Upcoming meetings:

- Steering Group meeting, April 4th, 3:30 pm
- Partnership meeting, April 18th, 4:00 pm