

Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership

Steering Group Meeting Summary

Meeting date: June 06, 2007, 3:30 pm

Attendees

Steering Group: Patty Boyden, Pete Capell, Loretta Callahan
Partnership Members: George Medina, Thom McConathy, Katy Brooks, Jessi Belston,
Public: Jacquelin Edwards, Bob Moser, David Brooks, David Page
Project Management: Phil Trask, Mardy Tremblay, Sabrina Litton

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 additions or modifications. A Partnership member requested that it be recorded that the format of the meeting had been changed though the arrangement of the meeting room (only Steering Group members and the Corps sitting at the table). The member stated that his understanding was that the public would be welcome at the Steering Group table and able to participate and that this new format would be a step down. The project manager acknowledged the change and noted an important need in the management of such a complex project was to receive clear guidance from the Steering Group. He observed that in the previous format, at times the Steering Group was functioning as a smaller Partnership meeting and that down the road, it will be critical for the Partnership and the Steering Group roles to remain distinct in order to move the project forward.

The question was asked about how the public would participate in the Steering Group meetings. The project manager said that agenda items are directed to Steering Group discussion and input from other attendees can be taken at points through the agenda. It was asked if this change could be formally voted on. Steering Group members did not vote but expressed support of the changes.

Vancouver Forum at the Library

Bob Moser from The Forum at the Library handed out a proposal inviting three or four members of the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership to present information at the Forum on the work being done at Vancouver Lake. Bob said the program date would be Thursday, September 20th at 7pm and the topic would be Vancouver Lake: Present and Future. As a starting point, he suggested Pete Capell, Ron Wierenga, Thom McConathy and Phil Trask as panelists. Steering Group members supported the request and suggested that the Corps and WSU also participate. Bob added that Phil Trask could serve as both moderator and panelist. The PIO group will assist by getting information from Bob and working with the Library staff to set up the forum.

Partnership Business

Project schedule and workplan – The project manager introduced the agenda item by stating that he had developed some draft products related to his workplan development assignment. He requested comments between now and June 20th when it would be presented as a first draft to the Partnership. An overview of the workplan was provided with particular emphasis on the Corps feasibility study, including schedule, scope of work, and local partnership timelines. A good discussion resulted about local match, the timing of the match, and the feasibility scope of work. The Partnership's budget was discussed and it appears that a local match is likely available.

Results of current studies will come about in the summer of '08 but in the spring and early summer of '08 is when we will have to be making a lot of decisions and possibly meeting more frequently. The Corps added that assuming every thing goes as planned, the final report should be out mid- to late-fall next year and will provide options and recommendations. A lot of information will be coming forward and we'll be able to have meaningful discussions prior to the final report.

The Corps was asked if by mid-July the Partnership would have the feasibility study scope of work. The Corps indicated a scope would be available but that it would be subject to change based upon information gained as they implement the work. The estimated cost right now is \$550,000. The project manager asked if there was any wiggle room within the scope. The Corps indicated there was but that it has to be within fish habitat arena. A Partnership member asked if USACE runs up against a negative, would they stop the process and re-evaluate. The Corps replied that they would--an example would be that if the lake hydraulics cannot support fish habitat, then it would cause them to re-evaluate. The question would be: this is what we found and do you want to continue? The project manager added that the products from the Corps study should be useful information in the context of the larger project.

A Partnership member stated that we have a bigger picture than fish and it doesn't show on these timelines: we need to understand what data we need. The project manager agreed and handed out a second document showing the potential relationships between outstanding Partnership questions and the various completed, on-going, and proposed studies. While the table was not filled out, it could be used as a starting point for identifying gaps. A Steering Group member shared the concern about technical gaps--he was hopeful that there would be significant overlap between the studies for clean water and endangered species and other issues. The Port reiterated that the feasibility study scoping effort was a very important step. Once the Corps provides the scope then the Partnership can begin assessing the need for other elements of the master plan. A citizen attendee re-emphasized the benefit of having Corps participation in the project.

Tracking of unresolved topics - A third handout of unresolved topics was distributed by the project manager. It was pointed out that the list was developed using issues from the November Partnership meeting and was therefore incomplete. The intent of the list is to capture ideas about technical or social needs at Vancouver Lake using a methodical approach and then assess their relevance to the project as we understand more about the studies we have initiated and also to the vision as it becomes more refined. The project manager invited Steering Group members and others to add to the list as needed.

Steering Group members agreed that the approach was a good way to organize the information and make decisions based upon the best information available. A suggestion was made to add a column to the table that indicated who might have jurisdiction over the issue. A citizen attendee offered information about Rieger Road. A Partnership member suggested that dumping in open space and public lands is an issue and should be added to the list.

The project manager concluded by soliciting help to improve the three products and asked if the products were appropriate to present to the Partnership on June 20th. Steering Group members agreed that the three products represented a good start but more information was needed about the project manager workplan and role. The products were characterized as a process to help identify key deliverables and milestones toward a refined vision.

USACE Update

The Corps indicated that their team has scheduled an internal meeting on Friday to flush out the scope of the feasibility study and to help clarify the project and how it works with the big picture. The goal is to identify the different studies that are going on and how they may dovetail with the feasibility study. It was added that the Corps is comfortable with the \$100,000 they are drawing from and reported that about \$35,000 has currently been expended. The Corps assured the Steering Group that there was some flexibility when the \$100,000 was expended if there was progress being made towards a partnership agreement. George Medina told the group that a meeting between his project team and Phil and Ron had been helpful and that additional meetings would be valuable to keep the feasibility study connected to the Partnership and moving forward.

Tech Group Update

The project manager indicated there had not been another Technical Group meeting scheduled yet and that it likely would be held off until the Corps scope of work was available. A Partnership member indicated the need to schedule Technical Group meetings and move their work forward as quickly as possible.

Public Information Update

Loretta Callahan indicated that a meeting was scheduled later in the week between public involvement staff of the Corps, WSU, and the Public Involvement Group on how to better coordinate on public information about Vancouver Lake.

The Port announced plans for an environmental meeting scheduled this summer, probably in August, where various groups can present information on their activities. A number of groups have already indicated their participation.

Agenda for June 20th Partnership meeting

The project manager introduced the proposed agenda for the June 20th Partnership meeting. The topic of meeting frequency was brought up because of its relevance to the workplan. A question about the Partnership meeting in August was raised, but given the importance and timing of the Corp's scoping activities, Steering Group members felt strongly about the need for Partnership direction at the August meeting. In preparation for the August Partnership meeting, the Steering Group would work closely with the Corps during their July 18th and August 1st meetings.

A suggestion was made to have the Partnership meeting in the park by the lake in August was discussed; however some concerns about weather and the need to stay focused on an important decision were also voiced. It was suggested that the August meeting entertain only one agenda item that focused on the Corps scope of work and a recommendation to the Steering Group about entering into a local partnership with the Corp to implement the feasibility study. The Washington Department of Health agenda item was postponed to preserve Partnership time for the workplan discussion and the Burnt Bridge Water Quality presentation.

1. Welcome/Agenda Review
2. Partnership Business
3. USACE Update
4. Tech Group Update
5. PIO Update – The Forum at the Library
6. VLWP Workplan Discussion
7. ~~Washington Department of Health Presentation (to be confirmed)~~
8. Burnt Bridge Creek Water Quality Monitoring Program
9. Next Steps

Upcoming meetings:

- Partnership meeting, June 20th, 4:00 pm
- Steering Group meeting, July 18th, 3:30 pm
- Steering Group meeting, August 1st, 3:30 pm
- Partnership meeting, August 15th, 4:00 pm