

Lower Columbia Solutions Group
draft meeting notes

October 10, 2008
Lewis and Clark State Park, Ilwaco WA
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Participants

Jane Bacchieri, OR Governor's Office	Richard Krikava, Senator Gordon Smith
Dale Beasley, CRCFA	Brian Lynn, WA Dept. of Ecology
Kevin Brice, Corps of Engineers, Portland Dist.	Steve Marx, Representative Wu
Catherine Corbett, Estuary Partnership	Doris McKillip, Corps of Engineers
Patrick Corcoran, Oregon Sea Grant	Rick Mraz, WA Dept. of Ecology
Jack Crider, Port of Astoria	Lisa Pomasl, Columbia River Channel Coalition
Jim Neva, Port of Ilwaco	Cathy Tortorici, NOAA Fisheries
Mike DeSimone, Pacific County Dept. of Cmty. Devel.	Rudd Turner, Corps of Engineers
John Dingler, USGS/ Surfrider	Rebecca Weiss, Corps of Engineers
Jay Flint, CREST	Greg Wolf, National Policy Consensus Center, Convener

Staff

Mikell O'Mealy, LCSG Program Manager	Kim Travis, NPCC staff
Bill Blosser, LCSG Project Manager	Lauren Beeney, NPCC intern
Jim Owens, LCSG Project Manager	

Tour of the South Jetty/Columbia Nearshore project area – Pat Corcoran and Jim Owens

Prior to the formal meeting, Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG) members and participants toured the South Jetty and Columbia Nearshore project area with Pat Corcoran, Convener for the partners group, Jim Owens, Project Manager, and partners. Pat explained the need for beneficial use of dredged sediment to address nearshore erosion in the South Jetty area and described the work of the partners group to develop projects and address issues. Jim pointed out the area of a sand tracer study that was endorsed by the partners group to provide critical information to guide beneficial use decisions. Attendees discussed issues and opportunities related to use of dredged sediments in the area and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved.

Welcome and introductions – Greg Wolf

LCSG members and participants met at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center for lunch and the formal meeting after the tour. Greg Wolf, LCSG Convener, welcomed everyone and summarized the agenda, and attendees introduced themselves.

What we're learning on Regional Sediment Planning – Bill Blosser and Catherine Corbett

Bill Blosser, LCSG Project Manager, gave an overview of the goals for the Regional Sediment Management Planning (RSMP) project and described its connections to other LCSG project activities. He emphasized that having a Regional Sediment Management Plan will improve our understanding of sediment processes in the lower Columbia, provide clear rationale for placement of dredged sand for habitat restoration and navigational needs, and support regional management of contaminated sediment. The LCSG's RSMP subcommittee, which includes technical and policy-level partners, agreed on a scope of work for Phase I of the project to be completed by spring 2009. Phase I includes developing baseline information to support the plan and conducting initial pilot projects.

Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership), gave an overview of progress on RSMP and how it relates to the Estuary Partnership's work on shoreline mapping and habitat restoration in the lower Columbia. The Estuary Partnership and the LCSG's RSMP subcommittee will seek broad review and feedback on this work at the appropriate time.

Recommendations for siting a Regional Upland Disposal Facility – Jay Flint

Jay Flint, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), gave an overview of the LCSG's work to explore options for upland disposal of contaminated sediments to assist lower Columbia ports. Since 2007, a LCSG subcommittee has been investigating the possibility of constructing a regional upland disposal facility that could be used by multiple ports, located in an area that make sense considering sediment transportation costs, environmental conditions and community interests. Phase I of the project involved interviewing the lower river ports to estimate approximate amounts of contaminated sediment that would require upland disposal in the coming years. That work revealed that the Port of Astoria has an immediate need for upland disposal and the Port of Ilwaco and others may have needs in the near future. Phase II of the project involved identifying and prioritizing potential sites for constructing an upland disposal facility. Based on this analysis, the City of Warrenton's north sewer lagoon appeared as the most feasible site, and the LCSG endorsed moving forward with a rigorous feasibility study of the site.

In preparing for the feasibility study, the LCSG's subcommittee will talk with lower Columbia ports and others in an effort to build a broad coalition of support and highlight the importance of this regional issue. Steve Marx, representing Congressman Wu, expressed strong support for the project and offered assistance as needed in next steps.

Opportunities and needs related to the Columbia Nearshore Beneficial Use Project – Jim Owens

Jim Owens, LCSG Project Manager, gave an overview of progress made on the Columbia Nearshore Beneficial Use Project and an update on the sand tracer study that was initiated near the South Jetty to help guide beneficial use decisions over the coming year. Jim presented recommendations of the Columbia Nearshore Partners Group and the LCSG's Science Advisory Team, which included establishing a centralized research clearinghouse for additional research on the nearshore physical system at the mouth of the Columbia, asking the Science Advisory Team to develop a research agenda, sponsoring a science-policy workshop on biological research needs for a variety of potential disposal locations near the South Jetty, and making a request to NOAA and the Coast Guard to include wave measurement instrumentation on a new buoy that will be installed at the mouth of the Columbia.

LCSG members expressed appreciation for the work of the Partners Group and Science Team and discussed the recommendations. Members supported using the LCSG's web site as a place for posting research information related to the project as needed, but encouraged using other existing databases rather than establishing a new research clearinghouse for the project. Given limited funding to support new research, LCSG members did not support tasking the Science Advisory Team with developing a research agenda. Acknowledging past science-policy workshops for the South Jetty nearshore area, which focused on the biological system in 2005 and the physical system in 2007, LCSG members did not support another workshop in Oregon in 2009, but recognized the need for similar workshops on the Washington side as part of the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Project. Cathy Tortorici, NOAA, offered assistance in coordinating with NOAA and the Coast Guard to have wave measurement instrumentation included on the new buoy.

Options for the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Project – Jim Owens

Jim Owens, LCSG Project Manager, gave an update on progress made on the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Project and obstacles to moving forward with a demonstration project to place

dredged sand along Benson Beach near the North Jetty. Jim presented recommendations from the Southwest Washington Partners Group and the Science Advisory Team to address the challenges, including LCSG support for a congressional request for new language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to allow use of a \$1.8 million federal appropriation, LCSG support for requesting \$1.7 million in match funding from the State of Washington, and LCSG sponsorship of a science-policy workshop focused on the biological system and alternative beneficial use sites in 2009.

LCSG members thanked the Partners Group and Science Team for their work and discussed the recommendations. Members voiced support for new WRDA language and a request for state matching funds to allow the Benson Beach project to move forward. Jim Neva, Convener for the partners group, and other LCSG members agreed on the need for a science-policy workshop in southwest Washington to address uncertainty about biological impacts and to explore possible alternative project sites.

Next steps – Greg Wolf

Greg Wolf thanked LCSG members and participants for their work and leadership on these important issues, and stated that the next LCSG meeting would be scheduled for January or February 2009. Lauren Beeney, LCSG intern, will contact members to identify potential dates.

Tour the North Jetty/Benson Beach project area – Mike DeSimone

After concluding the formal meeting, LCSG members and participants toured the North Jetty and Benson Beach project area with Mike DeSimone, a member of the partners group, and others. Mike explained the need for beneficial use of dredged sand near the jetty to address erosion of the beach and nearshore areas. Doris McKillip, Corps of Engineers, pointed out recent work to repair areas of the jetty that had breached and areas where beach sands had been supplemented. Attendees discussed opportunities related to beneficial use of dredged sediments in the southwest Washington area and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved.