

October 21, 2008**Members Present:**

Judy Coffman	OR Department of Environmental Quality
Jay Flint	Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (phone)
Deb Marriott	Estuary Partnership
Doris McKillip	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Cathy Tortorici	NOAA Fisheries
Deborah Johnson	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Seattle (phone)
Dale Blanton	OR Department of Land Cons and Dev't (phone)
Steve Purchase	OR Department of State Lands (phone)
Audrey O'Brien	OR Dept. Environmental Quality
Larry Pfund	Port of Astoria (phone)

Staff

Bill Blosser	WRB Consulting
Catherine Corbett	Estuary Partnership
Lauren	NPCC

Welcome/Introductions

Bill Blosser welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room. Catherine Corbett reviewed developments that had occurred since the last Policy Work Group meeting.

Trask Consultancy Change

Deb Marriott explained that Trask and Associates was no longer working on the project and that LCREP staff would take over their duties. She explained that the LCREP board wanted to put more emphasis on the partnership's sediment-related work, so it was logical to do the work in-house, rather than to contract it out. Catherine Corbett will take over leadership of the work and they are planning to hire a new staff person to focus on sediment issues. Deb will send our group the job announcement, which she intends to get out soon.

Catherine reported that she anticipates a 1-3 month delay in completing the original schedule for the tasks.

Update on Planning Tasks

Doris announced that the Corps was asking for a budget allocation for Corps staff to work on the RSM project. She is requesting \$20,000 of staff time.

The main topic of the meeting was to discuss what river reach to use as a test location for Task 7 (Develop and Apply Criteria). Catherine recommends that we use a reach in the Kalama-Scapoose-St Helens area. They have already gathered a lot of information about this area and it fits with the recommendation of the group of Doris and Dianne who looked into this previously. Cathy Tortorici said the NOAA Science Center could help with developing the criteria: she will check into this. Dale Blanton noted that this reach would not be subject to the CZM program, which will simplify the work. The group suggested that Catherine contact the following groups for information on the reach: counties, watershed councils, NOAA, Corps, Dianne Perry. The Policy Work Group approved the recommended location for the Task 7 test.

Cathy Tortorici, Doris McKillip and Dianne Perry will be the key advisors, on behalf of Policy Work Group, to Catherine on this phase of the work.

Doris noted that the Corps has contracted with Trask and Associates to do some work on habitat restoration possibilities in conjunction with the pile dikes. Catherine said she was coordinating with them on this already. This work could be useful for Task 7.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Work Group will be in January or February. A date will be set in early January.