

**Lower Columbia Solutions Group
Meeting Notes**

**October 22, 2010
Port of Portland – Chinook Room
7200 N.E. Airport Way
Portland, Oregon
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Participants

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| Greg Wolf, LCSG Convener | Alejandro Bancke, CREST |
| Brian Lynn, WA Governor's Office, WA DOE | Seth Otto, Maul Foster Alongi |
| Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland | Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots |
| Larry Pfund, Port of Astoria | Robert Anderson, NMFS |
| Bill Hunsinger, Port of Astoria | Jim Owens, Cogan Owens Cogan |
| Dale Beasley, Columbia River Crab Fishermen | Larry Paulson, Port of Vancouver |
| Brian Wright, Columbia River Channel Coalition | Jim Neva, Port of Ilwaco |
| Deb Marriott, LCREP | Herb Florer, Port of Astoria |
| Catherine Corbett, LCREP | Nancy Pustis, ODSL |
| Mike Ott, USACE | Kristin Meira, PNWA |
| Zoanne Zock, WA DNR | Jesette Hugo, Representative Brad Witt's office |
| | Patrick Corcoran, Oregon Sea Grant |

Staff

Jane Bacchieri, LCSG Program Manager
Lauren Beoney, Oregon Solutions Program Coordinator

Welcome and introductions

Greg Wolf, Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG) convener, welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting objectives. Participants introduced themselves.

Bill Wyatt provided background and operations information about the new port office where the meeting was held.

Benson Beach Beneficial Use Project and 2010 MCR Dredging Season update

Mike Ott from the USACE presented information about dredging and disposal activities in the MCR area for the 2010 dredging season. From Baker Bay about 17,000 cubic yards have been dredged. Have also placed 367,000 cubic yards in the inter-tidal zone at Benson Beach and 20,000 cubic yards in the North Jetty Berm placement. More material was not placed in order to focus on the objective of tracking and tracing the material.

Mike also provided an overview of plans for the area of the MCR over the next 2 years. The activity that which will occur over the next two years will be the monitoring of the material placed for the SW Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Project. The activities will include sampling of sand tracer for the next 18 months along with the Argus Camera observations from the North Head Lighthouse. The

reporting will occur in the Summer of 2011 and Summer of 2012. There are a number of scales and data points which will be used to paint the full picture of the sediment movement in the area of the MCR. This will provide the ability to forecast and quantify propagation, which will help to determine the effectiveness of intertidal sediment placement. Additional information on the morphology of the sandbars and radar measurement of the bathymetry of the waves is being gathered and shared. All these tools tell a part of the story, and when put together provide a very comprehensive picture of what is happening in the area. With all this information, it will be possible to make better determinations of how best to manage the sediment at the MCR. Additionally, the 2008 sediment tracer study is still ongoing and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mike closed his presentation saying that there are a number of projects taking place at the mouth of the Columbia River, and by leveraging resources and having a large number of partners it has been possible to get very robust research and to be able to plan more precisely. This is due in large part to the work done by, and the connections with, the Lower Columbia Solutions Group.

MCR Regional Sediment Management Plan

Jim Owens, Project Manager from Cogan Owens Cogan, provided an update on the MCR Regional Sediment Management Plan (RSMP) project to establish new nearshore or on-shore beneficial use placement sites in Oregon and Washington. Jim explained that the project goals are to develop a network of beneficial use sites for sediment disposal and management, and also to engage stakeholders and scientists from the beginning to ensure that multiple perspectives are included through the entire process. Jim reported that there are three primary parts of the RSMP: 1) to analyze what is known and information needs in order for scientists and policy makers discuss possible actions; 2) development of a database of sites; and 3) to connect the plan with broader efforts to develop regional sediment management planning in the Lower Columbia River.

The project was initiated at the beginning of 2010, and Cogan Owens Cogan is working in partnership with the Institute of Natural Resources/ Sally Duncan, who is assisting with the science and the research part of the project. The project also has a Steering Committee, and most of these members also participate in the LCSG. A Policy Workshop for the project held in August provided helpful information and a good starting place, and a Science-Policy Workshop is scheduled for November 15 at the Port of Vancouver offices. There are a number of goals for the November 15 workshops that need to be achieved, so the agenda is aggressive and what is typically a two-day forum is being squeezed into one day.

A member of the group asked why the team was refraining from deep water disposal options. Jim responded that since the MCR has known erosion problems deep water disposal doesn't aid in addressing that problem.

Another member of the group asked if the MCR team was looking at the economics of deep water versus nearshore disposal. Jim responded that the current circumstances of nearshore disposal funding require a matching partner, so that will be a consideration in moving forward. As part of the MCR RSMP project, a matrix is being developed which will show funding opportunities, needs, and permitting requirements.

Mike Ott added that there is a “zone of feasibility” in the nearshore area, which is driven by the deep water site location. If a site is within the radial curve, it falls into the Corps’ funding zone and therefore a match would not be needed. The zone includes proximity and methodology consideration.

Jim closed his presentation by mentioning that though the project is to create a long-term plan, it is not intended to be a long-term planning process. It is anticipated the team will have a plan set this winter for implementation next summer.

Progress on the Regional Upland Disposal Facility

Alejandro Bancke, Coastal Planner for CREST, reported on progress made on the Regional Upland Disposal Facility project that is under development for disposal of contaminated sediments in the Lower Columbia River region. Currently the project is being funded by grants from the Oregon Business Development Department, with matching funds provided by the Port of Astoria, Port of Ilwaco, the City of Warrenton and CREST. The project is also being funded by the USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS), with an additional match from CREST.

The USACE, with the assistance of CREST and the LCSG, is putting together a technical advisory committee (TAC) which will be responsible for reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering services, selecting the team which will be awarded the job, and will have oversight of all engineering deliverables and products.

It is anticipated that in November the TAC participant list will be finalized and the design/engineering RFP will be issued. A firm should be selected and be performing contracting work before the end of the year. There will be more information available at the January meeting.

WCGA Grant proposal

Jane Bacchieri, LCSG Program Manager, provided an update on a proposal submitted by the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW), LCREP, and the LCSG to the Pacific Marine States Fisheries Commission (PMSFC) for grants available under the West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA). The group was awarded a \$15,000 grant. The award will go toward funding a workshop with the CSMW to discuss best practices and lessons learned of wide-scale regional sediment management.

Progress on Regional Sediment Management Planning and next steps

Deb Marriott, LCREP Director, provided an overview of the work that the Estuary Partnership has completed on a Regional Sediment Management Plan for the lower Columbia River and reviewed potential next steps. The Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) for the Regional Sediment Management Plan needs to be reviewed and updated. Many of the tasks committed to have been satisfied, but the document is lacking agreement language from the Oregon and Washington governors’ offices. It was requested that members review the document and bring and suggested changes to the January meeting.

As a point of clarification, Jane Bacchieri mentioned that Jim Owens is working on the Mouth of the Columbia River specifically, which the Regional Sediment Management Plan is about the wider Lower Columbia River system.

Deb reviewed the matrix summary of the tasks for the RSMP, which was provided in the meeting materials. She pointed out that the Biological chapter has been drafted and is with NOAA/NMFS for review. The Economic chapter has also been drafted. Deb noted that some of the work will continue as it aligns with the goals of LCREP, but as the LCSG moves forward with the RSMP they may want to consider finding out more about what the USACE is working on regarding dredging and sediment management and decide if they want to work with or separate from those efforts. Deb suggested that the group think about how the MCR goals are very similar to those of the RSMP, but the MCR group has gotten more done in less time; waiting for that effort to be well underway before moving on the regional plan may be useful as the MCR work will be very informative. The MCR process could be a model for leveraging resources and getting agreements in place for policy making. It could also demonstrate how, when there is a plan in place, progress can still be made even when there are funding constraints or changes. Deb pointed out that now may also be a good time to pause on the RSMP efforts due to funding availability.

The group responded that the USACE funding only covers dredge material management and beneficial placement, which is not the same as crafting a sediment management plan. There was also a comment that at a recent event where there were many agency representatives, when questions were posed to them regarding regional sediment management, all the responses were in line with what has been laid out in the current RSMP from LCREP.

There has been an FY11 appropriations request made for this effort, which includes funding for the studies and projects that the technical group has identified. The larger LCSG group will need to decide if they want to put forth additional funding requests, and consider that it will be very difficult to move forward without the studies and information gained from them. It was noted that there are additional efforts going forward in an endeavor to obtain funding.

Update on Columbia River Restoration Act and appropriations requests

Deb Marriott provided an update on the Columbia River Restoration Act (CRRRA). She informed the group that the requests, which were made through Senator Merkley and Representatives Blumenauer, Baird and Wu to authorize \$40 million over the next five years for the Columbia River Basin, were unanimously passed but with many amendments. There continues to be a concern from eastern irrigators as to the role of the EPA, as there is a fear of additional regulation and that finding out what is in the river, where it's going, and getting it out have all been voluntary processes up to this point. There is work being done in order to maintain language in the bill that is non-regulatory and have it be specifically be for authorization. At this point it is unclear and unpredictable as to when the responses will be incorporated and the act will be passed.

FY12 Appropriations Requests

Greg Wolf asked the group to start thinking about what LCSG should support for appropriations requests for FY11. The topic will be discussed in further detail in January, but considerations should be made as early as possible.

Mike Ott and Deb Marriott both provided brief descriptions of their appropriations requests processes, as their organizations each make annual requests. Deb noted that the LCSG should consider requests which will receive support and also to ensure there are no competing interests with individual members'

requests. Deb shared that LCREP makes request for support of the LCREP program, support for work with the USACE, and support for the toxics reduction program, which is where funding for the RSMP work comes from.

The Port directors were specifically asked if they had requests that the LCSG might be asked to support. No immediate response was given, but it was mentioned that the LCSG as a group is a powerful supporter, and that has been appreciated for leveraging additional support and funding. It was noted that there is a current exploration of tying the Port of Ilwaco in with the Chinook/MCR project in order to leverage additional funding. This would include the impacts of the MCR on Baker Bay. It was requested that if anyone in the group had thoughts or recommendations for the appropriations discussion in January to send them to Jane.

LCSG Budget

Jane Bacchieri and Greg Wolf reviewed the current budget, and stated that the group was currently moving along with funding from Oregon Solutions and the Columbia River Channel Coalition. The Channel Coalition is having a board meeting in November and more information as to their continued funding support will be available after that discussion.

Looking ahead – location and agenda items for next meeting

Greg Wolf noted that at the next meeting there will be a new governor in office, which provides a good opportunity to get out the LCSG charter and review whether or not it still frames the group appropriately and whether or not the focus of the group should be shifted in any way. It is hoped that there will be engagement from the new governor's office, and the group was again requested to share any thoughts or ideas on the topic prior to January with Jane for inclusion in the next meeting.

Next steps

Greg Wolf summarized the next steps as:

- Reviewing and updating the LCSG Charter
- Reviewing and updating the RSMP Declaration of Cooperation
- Considering appropriations requests to submit and/or support

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.