

**Lower Columbia Solutions Group
DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**November 12, 2009
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Port of Vancouver, WA**

Participants

Greg Wolf, LCSG Convener	Deb Marriott, LCREP
Jane Bacchieri, OR Governor's Office	Catherine Corbett, LCREP
Brian Lynn, WA Governor's Office, WA DOE	Val Brennis, LCREP
Larry Paulson, Port of Vancouver	Doris McKillip, USACE (for Kevin Brice)
Dianne Perry, Port of Portland (for Bill Wyatt)	Mike Ott, USACE
Jim Neva, Port of Ilwaco	Bridget Moran, WA DNR
Larry Pfund, Port of Astoria	Lionel Klinkoff, WA DNR
Mike DeSimone, Pacific County, WA	Dale Blanton, OR DLCD
Dale Beasley, Columbia River Crab Fishermen	Kathy Roberts, USFWS
Hobe Kytr, Salmon for All	Dan Guy, NOAA
Glenn Vanselow, Pacific NW Waterways Assoc.	Nick Jeremiah, NOAA
Lisa Pomasl, Columbia River Channel Coalition	Fritz Graham, Senator Wyden's Office
Dan Jordan, Columbia River Bar Pilots Assoc.	

Staff

Mikell O'Mealy, LCSG Program Manager
Kim Travis, NPCC Project Coordinator
Jim Owens, Project Manager with NPCC

Welcome and introductions

Greg Wolf, Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG) convener, thanked Larry Paulson for hosting the meeting at the Port of Vancouver. Greg welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting objectives. Participants introduced themselves.

Signing a Declaration of Cooperation for Lower Columbia Upland Disposal Facility

Mikell O'Mealy, LCSG Program Manager, gave a brief overview and history of the problem. Since 2007, the LCSG has been working on a solution to help lower Columbia River ports dredge and dispose of sediments that are too contaminated for in-water release. These sediments require disposal in an upland permitted facility to protect aquatic species and water quality. LCSG recognized this as a regional problem and has been working collaboratively to find a regional solution.

Phase 1 activities in 2010 are focused on siting and design. A site was identified within the City of Warrenton, OR. This site is an unused lagoon that is already partially engineered to handle contaminated material. When built, the facility will hold approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material. Facility design and permitting will cost approximately \$400,000, including project management, community involvement, and initial analysis of redevelopment uses.

Mikell invited the LCSG partners to sign a Declaration of Cooperation outlining funding contributions, technical assistance, and facility design support. To date, LCREP has funded the initial assessment and

siting work, and \$35,000 has been committed by various partners for feasibility and design work. The Declaration of Cooperation will help leverage additional funding.

Project partners are seeking approximately \$400K to complete the feasibility study and do the initial design work. A proposal for \$50,000 has been submitted to the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment and a request has been made to the Corps of Engineers. Partners have approached the U.S. Economic Development Administration for support and are working on funding available through the Oregon Business Development Department. There is also a new WRDA bill with funding possibilities for FY 2010 or FY 2011.

Regional Sediment Management Planning progress report

Bill Blosser, NPCC Project Manager, provided a progress report, the Declaration of Cooperation from 2008, and the current scope of work for the Regional Sediment Management Planning (RSMP) project. LCREP is the lead for Phase I of the RSMP work, as outlined in the Declaration of Cooperation, and a policy committee has met to provide guidance for the project. The LCSG will need to develop a Declaration of Cooperation for Phase II of the RSMP project. Funding is not yet available to fully complete this work.

Deb Marriott explained that the Phase I deliverables, as referenced in the original scope of work should be nearly completed by the end of this year. The policy and technical committees are identifying the questions that still need to be answered, as well as the questions we can answer now with the information that is currently available. LCREP is also reviewing RSMP work from other parts of the country.

Going forward, the RSMP will need to coordinate with the work that the USACE is doing, particularly with respect to the MCR. It is important for the LCSG to recommit to the RSMP project and prepare a new Declaration of Cooperation next year. Next steps include a meeting between the Oregon and Washington Governor's representatives, along with Greg and Deb to help put together a formal structure along with conveners for going forward and what staffing is needed.

Update on Sand Tracer Study

Michael Ott, USACE, explained that a full update on the results of the sand tracer study conducted Fall 2008 through Spring 2009 will be available in December. The analysis has taken longer than anticipated. Related to this work, there is a buoy installed south of the South Jetty with instrumentation for determining wave height and setting a baseline for wave activity, along with assisting in modeling efforts. LCSG identified the need for this buoy at the last Science-Policy Workshop (wave amplification workshop in April 2009). The buoy allows for real time data and the sand tracer study is one more element for understanding what is happening in that area.

Update on West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health – sediment management

Jenna Borberg, with Governor Kulongoski's Natural Resources Office, provided a presentation on funding requests related to the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health that support regional sediment management planning and priorities. The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health highlights the work of LCSG through its Regional Sediment Management Action Plan and associated tasks. To strengthen federal funding proposals for RSMP work, the LCSG can reference the West Coast Governor's Agreement and the west coast Governors could possibly write a letter of support. To view the presentation and the work of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, go to their website: www.westcoastoceans.gov

Proposed new LCSG project – developing a recommended sediment management plan for the mouth of the Columbia River

Mikell O’Mealy led the discussion about a potential LCSG project to develop a recommended Regional Sediment Management Plan for the mouth of the Columbia River that would establish new nearshore or on-shore beneficial use sites in Oregon and Washington. The project would look at the physical and biological science and identify what we know and what we don’t know, analyze what is known about the benefits and impacts of nearshore sediment placement, and identify knowledge gaps and priorities for developing additional information through studies and monitoring. Mikell handed out a project groundrules and expectations document to formally initiate this project. The timeline for the project calls for initial recommendations to be provided to the LCSG in September 2010 and for final recommendations in January 2011.

Dale Blanton kicked off the discussion by thanking the group for keeping the forward momentum on this issue. Both states have concerns about finding disposal sites for the MCR that provide for beneficial uses of sediment and that keep material in the littoral system. In Oregon, there are concerns about the shoals the jetty is built on and the need to rehabilitate the jetty because of the shoal erosion. There are also concerns with beach erosion. The entire area around the South Jetty is experiencing a considerable amount of erosion.

Brian Lynn said the path of putting sand directly on the beach is costly and the money to make it happen isn’t available. The issue with deciding when do we have enough information to move forward with near shore placement can hinder moving forward. Brian highlighted the benefits of Oregon and Washington working together on MCR sediment management, both to find the resources and to fill information gaps. Being able to provide one message from the group is helpful in getting the necessary resources for sediment management needs.

Thanks go to the Corps of Engineers for finding funds for this project. This is an exciting project because all parties are willing to work together to do what is necessary to establish new beneficial use sites for the MCR. Both Oregon and Washington are also providing funding for this effort.

Funding needs for Lower Columbia Sediment Management

The deadline is November 20th for WRDA requests. Authorization occurs through WRDA and the Energy Subcommittee appropriates funds. Every February for the past several years, LCSG has worked collaboratively in putting together federal funding requests. Early next year, LCSG members and staff will meet with Congressional staff to think strategically about opportunities to request funding.

Initial thoughts about federal funding include:

- Regional Upland Disposal Facility – money for constructing the facility and some of the upfront design work.
- Regional Sediment –either LCREP or LCSG take the lead on the request. Needs are data collection analysis and modeling information. Those pieces need to be identified and scoped. LCREP is still working on specific authorization for the Columbia River.
- Looking at WRDA bill to get sand on Benson Beach.

Next Steps

Greg summarized the next steps, including a meeting with Oregon and Washington Governors’ representatives and Deb Marriott to outline the next phase of Regional Sediment Management Planning, and to work on congressional funding requests. At the next LCSG meeting in Spring 2010, we will have an update on the sand tracer study and the MCR Sediment Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned before 2 PM.