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This is most significant progress

Prospective Warrenton dredge storage stems from Col. River Solutions Group

When government agencies cooperate and pool their intelligence, good things can happen. Cassandra Profita's Dec. 16 story about a prospective home for Port of Astoria dredge spoils illustrates the power of collaboration.

The Lower Columbia Solutions Group was created in 2002 by the governors of Oregon and Washington at a time when there was disagreement and uncertainty about depositing spoils from Columbia River channel deepening.

The solutions group includes stakeholders from public agencies bordering the Columbia, fishing interests, conservation groups and state and federal governments. The membership of 30 will swell to attendance of 50 for a major discussion.

Waterborne contaminants are one sub-chapter of the solutions group's main topic, which is a regional sediment management plan.

For nonscientists, the basic concept is that of a funnel. Contaminants from upriver find their way to the Columbia River estuary and specifically to the Port of Astoria, which must dredge its moorage annually. Profita noted that traces of DDT have been found in the East Mooring Basin.

The great value of the Lower Columbia Solutions Group is its pairing of policymakers and scientists. The group's discussion illuminates commonality, and it leads to solutions such as the prospective Warrenton dredge spoils site. That is first-rate progress.