

Report on Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration (Benson Beach) Project

Prepared for Lower Columbia Solutions Group

May 1, 2008 Meeting

Revised April 29, 2008

Background

The Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration (Benson Beach) Project grew out of efforts by the Coastal Communities of Southwest Washington (CCSWW) to develop a long-term strategy for disposal of dredged sediment in the littoral area north of the North Jetty. A two-day workshop in July 2007 with scientists, technical specialists and policy-makers discussed nearshore physical processes in Southwest Washington, their policy implications for sediment management, and a demonstration project at Benson Beach. As currently envisioned, this project would entail the placement of dredged materials in an area approximately 1,000 feet north of the North Jetty along Benson Beach in Cape Disappointment State Park. The project's goal is to restore the littoral drift, rebuild onshore sands, track sediment movement over time, and determine whether replenishing the littoral zone helps protect the North Jetty.

In response to a request of the representative from CCSWW, at its November 29, 2007 meeting the Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG) agreed to conduct an assessment of the LCSG serving as the convener and neutral forum for the project. Based upon the results of that assessment, at its January 31, 2008 meeting, the LCSG agreed that:

- LCSG would serve in the role of project convener, contingent upon commitment of full funding (estimated at \$20,000 per year) for project management costs.
- To help inform regional sediment management, the Benson Beach and South Jetty projects would be served by a combined technical team and a single project manager.
- To help ensure that the Benson Beach project maintain its distinctness from the Oregon Nearshore Project, a separate project team for the Benson Beach project would be established.

Status

Commitment of Funding

A commitment has been obtained from CCSWW for the full amount of funding needed for project management costs for one year. The National Policy Consensus Center has contracted with Cogan Owens Cogan, LLC for project management services.

Establishment of Science Advisory Team and Partners Group

An ongoing science advisory team to provide technical advice on the beneficial use of dredged spoils from the mouth of the Columbia River met on April 24 (see Report on Columbia Nearshore Beneficial Use Project). As part of its agenda, those in attendance for the science advisory team determined that the group's next meeting be a science-policy workshop in summer 2008 to review the sand tracer study results and address issues related to the Nearshore and Benson Beach projects and permanent disposal site options.

Staff is currently working with CCSWW representatives to establish the composition of a partners group for this project (see attached list). A first meeting is being planned for mid-May.

Convener

Jim Neva, Port of Ilwaco Manager, has agreed to serve as convener for the new partners group. Action by the Governor's Office is pending.

LCSG Action Requested

None at this time.

Next Steps

- Finalize Partner's Group composition and scheduling of first meeting..
- Organize a science-policy workshop to assess the Nearshore sand tracer study results and address issues related to the Nearshore and Benson Beach projects and permanent disposal site options.

Contacts

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