

# **Lower Columbia Solutions Group Agreement Document**

## **Purpose**

The Lower Columbia Solutions Group is a diverse bi-state group of local, state and federal stakeholders interested in and affected by dredge material disposal activities in the Lower Columbia River area. Stakeholders include crabbers, fishing interests, environmentalists, development interests, federal agencies and state and local government representatives from Oregon and Washington. The group's decisions and actions are independent of and separate from any ongoing or proposed dredging project in the lower river area.

## **Objective**

To identify and implement sustainable dredge material disposal projects. Dredge disposal placement is of concern to a wide cross section of stakeholders. A collaborative, sustainable dredge material disposal project that can be achieved within a relatively short time frame will help build trust and better working relationships between stakeholders.

## **Project Selection Criteria**

1. The project will use dredge material disposal materials.
2. Project selection is done according to sustainability criteria including economic, environmental and community objectives.
3. There is group consensus support for the project selection.
4. The project can be achieved in a relatively short amount of time.
5. There is a reasonable expectation that funding can be obtained from a variety of sources.

## **Solutions Process**

1. A problem or opportunity defined by the community that addresses at least one sustainable community objective
2. A neutral community convener from the local community, appointed by the Governor, who can lead a team to address the challenge
3. A solutions team of federal, state, local, and other governmental entities, businesses, non-profits, and citizens who can contribute to a solution
4. An integrated solution that leverages the resources of the Solution Team to meet the challenge at hand and sustainability objectives
5. A declaration of cooperation that team members sign that commits their resources and time in an integrated action plan

## Sustainable Dredge Disposal Projects

The Lower Columbia Solutions Group has agreed to support the following projects.

- **Bradwood:** Continue to work on the Bradwood site for upland disposal by supporting marketing efforts, transporting materials by rail, and sump development.
- **Benson Beach:** Expand Benson Beach pilot project, using dredge material for beach nourishment.
- **Ross Island:** Support the use of Lower Columbia River dredge material as fill for reclamation of Ross Island.
- **Klickitat County:** Explore Klickitat County opportunities for cleaning, reselling and transporting dredge materials to other areas using excess rail capacity.
- **Rice Island:** Develop options for increasing the capacity of Rice Island to handle additional dredge materials by developing markets for dredge material currently on the site.

## Future Project Selection

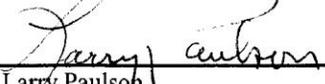
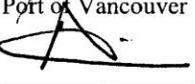
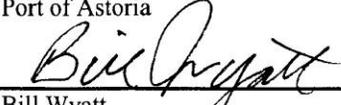
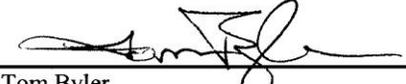
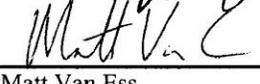
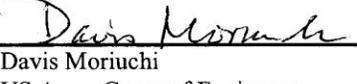
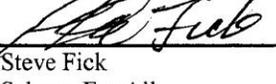
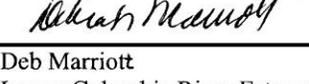
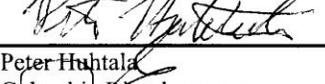
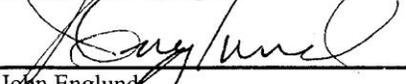
Additional dredge material disposal projects may be selected for future implementation. All future projects must meet the project selection criteria and be approved by the Lower Columbia Solutions Group.

## Policy Issues

The Lower Columbia Solutions Group has agreed to investigate the following issues.

- Explore the feasibility for small, consensus demonstration sites that test the potential for in-water disposal of dredge materials for ecosystem management, including habitat restoration.
- Determine whether the Corps can redirect commercial mining in the Columbia River to dredge maintenance areas.
- Explore dike removal as a tool to achieve multiple benefits by creating wetland areas and using fill for enhancement of agricultural land.
- Explore strategic opportunities for sumps and rehandle sites that can be used to facilitate upland disposal beneficial uses.
- Conduct research on transportation logistics relating to dredge material disposal and marketing.
- Investigate opportunities to implement alternative ocean disposal methods and sites.

Lower Columbia Solutions Group

	Date:
 Dale Beasley Columbia River Crabbers Association	02 Dec 02
 Larry Paulson Port of Vancouver	16 Jan 03
 Peter Gearin Port of Astoria	20 Jan 03
 Bill Wyatt Port of Portland	02 Dec 02
 Tom Byler State of Oregon Governor's Office	02 Dec 02
 Carol Jolly State of Washington Governor's Office	02 Dec 02
 Matt Van Ess Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce	02 Dec 02
 Davis Moriuchi US Army Corps of Engineers	10 Jan 03
 Steve Fick Salmon For All	02 Dec 02
 Deb Marriott Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership	02 Dec 02
 Peter Huhtala Columbia Riverkeeper	7 Feb 03
 John Englund Englund Marine Supply	02 Dec 02