

**MINUTES – OREGON SOLUTIONS – FLOOD REDUCTION PROJECT TEAM**  
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**CO-CONVEENORS:**

Senator Betsy Johnson  
Mark Labhart

**PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:** Dick Townsend, Chad Allen, Robert Anderson, Bruce Apple, Representative Deborah Boone, Bub Boquist, Dale Buck, Jon Carnahan, Doug Clarke, Mark Ellsworth, Rudy Fenk, Joy Friebaum, Mark Gervasi, Vicki Goodman, Wendell Hesseltine, Ross Holloway, Don Hurd, Rick Klumph, Tom Manning, Larry McKinley, Bob McPheeters, Denny Pastega, Rob Rees, Shawn Reiersgaard, Geoff Roach, Mark Trenholm and Laren Wooley.

**PROJECT TEAM ABSENT:** Paul Levesque and Art Reidel.

**GUESTS:** Orella Chadwick, Carolyn Decker, Bud Geinger, Fritz Graham, Rob Hallyburton, Ben Hathaway, Miriam Hulst, Tom Jayred, Tracy Johnson, Tilda Jones, Richard Krikava, Judy Mammano, Gus Meyer, Doug Rosenberg, Janet Stringer, Liane Welch, Su Yaremchuk, Greg Wolf, Kim Travis, Ray Naff, Sandy Bell, Margaret Paige, and Willard Berry.

**ITEM NO. 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:** The meeting was called to order by Convener Labhart at 2:28 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Forestry, 5005 Third Street, Tillamook, Oregon.

Mr. Labhart introduced Senator Betsy Johnson and stated that they were Co-Conveners of this project. Mr. Labhart read some remarks. Mr. Labhart said that Senator Johnson would have to leave early to be at a special session today. She has taken a leave of absence for this project. Representative Boone is sitting as a member of this Team. He handed out a letter to the editor that was in today's newspaper, from the Chamber of Commerce.

There are already some financial commitments to support this project. So far Tillamook County has given Fifteen, Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars, the City of Tillamook, Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars, the Adventist Hospital, Three Thousand (\$3,000) Dollars and the Tillamook County Creamery Association, Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars. Tilda Jones presented a check in the amount of One Thousand (\$1,000) from the Tillamook Bay Habitat Estuary Improvement District and said that this represents property owners,

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business owners, volunteers and a team staff person who have volunteered their time to this project. She said that they have also come prepared with ideas for projects.

Senator Johnson said that it is exciting to have so much knowledge and history in this room. She said this is a new process and a new chance to look at a different way to address flooding. She hopes that more ideas for projects will arise as we divide into subgroups. Oregon Solutions has shown confidence in the Co-Conveners and this can be a successful project working with both the public and the private sector. A contributor to the Oregon Solutions Project, Executive Director Greg Wolf helped resolve a difficult situation that took thousands of hours involving the Columbia River. She said, they signed a Declaration of Cooperation to conclude one of trickiest projects. They are very optimistic about this project.

Greg Wolf thanked everyone for participating and hopes that there will be a new approach to this problem which has existed form long time. All resources are represented and bring various opportunities to the project. He thanked Senator Johnson and Mr. Labhart and finds it important to have Conveners. The process brings people together who are respected in Community. The Governor has made this a priority in this State and agencies are fully involved at the Federal level. He feels that in some ways this project presents a real challenge and it is going to be a great success story that can be shown to other places.

**ITEM NO. 2: PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS:** Senator Johnson said that the Oregon Solutions Project has set this table through interviews in the Community. Senator Johnson asked that everyone around the table introduce themselves and where they are from:

Dick Townsend, Project Manager, Oregon Solutions; Bob Rees, Bay City Fishing Guides; Bob McPheeters, Mayor of Tillamook; Rudy Fenk, Soil & Water; Robert Anderson, National Fisheries; Joy Freibaum, Department of State Lands; Dale Buck Farm Bureau; Bub Boquist, Tillamook Bay Habitat Estuary Improvement District (TBHEID) and retired dairyman; Jon Carnahan, Tillamook Bay Community College; Wendell Hesseltine, General Hospital; Geoff Roach Trust for Public Lands Executive Director; Tom Manning, Director, Tillamook County Emergency Management; Ross Hallaway Oregon Department of Forestry; Chad Allen, TBHEID; Mark Trenholm, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP); Larry McKinley, Oregon Department of Transportation Area 1; Lauren Wooley, Department of Lands Conservation District (DCLD); Rick Klumph, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW); Mark Ellsworth, Governor Kulongoski's Office; Shawn Reiersgaard, Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA); Denny Pastega, TBHEID; Doug Clarke, Army Corps of Engineers; Bruce Apple, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Don Hurd, local businessman.

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Others in attendance introduced themselves.

**ITEM NO. 3: OREGON SOLUTIONS PROCESS:** Mr. Townsend assured the Project Team that with Senator Johnson presiding over these meetings they will move along efficiently. He thanked all for coming. He referred to a blue sheet which described Oregon Solutions and outlined the collaborative process. Tillamook, year after year, decade after decade, floods. At the end of last year a major flood hit. A letter was sent to the Governor showing the flooding conditions and there was a request that it be an Oregon Solutions project. The letter was signed by all three (3) Commissioners and Tillamook City. An assessment was done, through funds provided by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. The Governor then designated Tillamook flooding an Oregon Solutions project.

Mr. Townsend said that members of this team were drafted, some volunteered and he understands that everyone wants to address their own issues. He offered that members will all get a bigger picture by participating because they think they can make a difference.

What is the goal or vision? In the 2000/2001 Legislative session, a Bill was enacted which was extremely important to sustainability in the economy and environment. There was a Statement of Intent for the Governor to operate that way and about a year later Oregon Solutions picked up the ball and started the program at the Portland State University National Policy and Consensus Center. There is a staff of two (2) full time people and another part-time person. When this project came along Mr. Townsend was asked to be the Project Manager because he lived in Tillamook County. His wife and two (2) of his children were also born here.

The Oregon Solutions program is chaired by the Governor and a Board of ten (10) people. Townsend referred to a pamphlet that listed persons from the private, non-profit and public sectors who are involved in Oregon Solutions. There are three (3) basic aspects to the program: collaborative efforts, sustainability and a neutral process. Mr. Townsend, as an Oregon Solutions staff member will be neutral in his efforts on this project.

There will be a Declaration of Cooperation document which Mr. Townsend will draft after about the third meeting and then it will be edited by the members. Everyone is asked to be in the Declaration. What you can offer as a member are resources and experience to achieve whatever projects the team is working on. Townsend said he hoped the project might have some success within the next six (6) months.

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Oregon Solutions does not come with any funding. Six (6) State agencies represented on the Project Team were asked by the Governor to stand ready to help in any way they can. State agencies however can not turn their back on laws and rules.

How long will this last? Six (6) months, around Thanksgiving will be the end of Declaration period and after that will begin the (heavy lifting) working on specific projects. There will be frequent checks to ensure that the projects are on track.

Senator Johnson asked if there were any questions. There were none.

**ITEM NO. 4: WORKING PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE GROUP INTERACTIONS:**

Mr. Townsend said there are high expectations for your success, however, it will depend on how well team members cooperate using the following list of principles.

1. Be respectful – take great enjoyment in the diversity of interests at the table.
2. Develop trust and nurture honesty by saying something that opens doors. "I don't agree but I understand". There should be no hidden agendas. Information should be shared by this group when appropriate and don't wait too long to do it.
3. Decide by consensus and collaboration – strive to work by talking and coming to an agreement. There should be no voting or partnering up. Talk it out when consensus is not possible or put it up on the shelf and get back to it later or know that it may not be for the group to pursue further. Collaboratively agree.
4. Focus on the future – at the ceremony at City Hall today, it was said that it is great to look to the future. Don't delve on past problems or history of issues you are tired of discussing. State the purpose and intent of the goal.
5. Be flexible – don't say "No". Say, "What if we did this"? Or, "Think about another option". Be flexible to say "maybe".
6. Dueling data could be hazardous to this group. Decide up front who is going to get it and how are you going to decide to use it.
6. Pursuing two (2) processes – if, for example, Tillamook Estuary Partnership were to take the lead on the habitat restoration project, this project team can assist and support them. However, two different groups pursuing the same project on different tracks can be confusing or detrimental to the process. If this project team wants to pursue a project and another entity pursues it in a different manner that could cause problems. The Federal and State agencies will say, get your act together.

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7. Role of participants – attending meetings and workgroups is up to you. Tag team if necessary for attendance at meetings. Keep other persons or agency up to date. Agendas will be written by Mr. Townsend and approved by Conveners. Let him know in advance - send out a week in advance. Taking time to collaboratively deliberate on issues is important. Go at a comfortable speed with well reasoned decisions.

8. Support the Conveners and Facilitators – it is not as easy as it may seem for chairs or facilitators who come before the project team.

9. Public participation – beyond project team. It depends on Conveners whether or not there should be discussion from outside of team. All meetings are open to public. Communications with press and media should be done in a united fashion. This should be a group team process.

Ben Hathaway asked about how we arrive at ascertaining what we are going to do without funding. Senator Johnson gave an example of building a trail in Clatsop County. An underpass started from a good idea, consensus was built and then money followed. The Governor may direct State agencies to assist. There are a variety of sources for funding. Oregon Solutions looks for good ideas from the project team and citizens; they describe a doable and disciplined project and then ask for funds. We have private donations here already. Let the good ideas come first and then the funding will follow.

Wendell Hesseltine announced his retirement last week. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Labhart about it. Mr. Hesseltine wanted to know how the Team wanted him to proceed. He does not want to be a hindrance and he is looking for direction. He will be relinquishing his responsibilities over the next four (4) months. Mr. Labhart said that he would ask that he give the Team the next four (4) months and perhaps work with one of his staff and bring that person on board gradually. He would rather have whatever he can give than nothing since Mr. Labhart felt that he has a key stake in ambulance and emergency services. He has proven strong leadership in the past and would be an asset to the team. Mr. Townsend suggested Gina as a replacement.

Senator Johnson said that proxies are given in a trust relationship which is good but she would prefer limited use of proxies. Senator Johnson asked if anyone objected to Mr. Hesseltine staying on for four (4) months and then bringing Gina on board. There were no objections.

Geoff Roach asked to schedule meetings two (2) months out today so that they know in advance and can adjust schedules.

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**ITEM NO. 5: DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS ON PROJECT GOAL:** Senator Johnson asked if everyone was in agreement, that we should invite the team to engage in conversation of any other goals, other than flooding. There was consensus that reduction of unacceptable flooding is a good thing to address. Bruce Apple asked what was classified as "unacceptable"; to who or what circumstances define the depth of water that is acceptable or unacceptable.

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Mr. Labhart said we need to pursue some sort of approach or method, that doesn't alter systems already in the Community and to recognize other values such as eco-systems, economic and Community livability that impact any one of those. Mr. Manning said we need to recognize short and long terms solutions.

Senator Johnson said we wouldn't "alter" a conclusion to build a dyke or some structure but there needs to be agreement of the group on part of the solution. The Committee has to ensure other values beyond flood mitigation and evaluate any given alternative to flood mitigation through the mission statement. It needs to be identified as a Community project.

Some examples were given. Don Hurd said that water that is at floor board height in cars on Hwy 101 north might be two or three (2 or 3') feet. That would be a subjective discussion. Shawn Reiersgaard said that the Creamery Association needs to get its milk from the farm to the factory and if water prevents that, it is unacceptable. Mr. Manning said that unacceptable would be loss of personal belongings and the protection of lives. We were unable to get FEMA assistance for individuals and families for them to rebuild homes. There were people who lost everything and had no where to go.

Vickie Goodman felt that the County and City goal in the original flood mitigation plan after 1996 was to reduce economic impact of flooding that becomes an issue. Looking at building in the flood plain and continuing to allow that, the goal should be to reduce economic impact. She is looking for balance in the mission statement to address each of these values. Chad Allen spoke in support of the statement if all agree to reduce negative flooding impact. Don't tie the hands before we get started. There are problematic laws and rules already in place and we need to protect the environment and our resources.

Senator Johnson said we need to turn the release valve and talk about projects. When we begin to see these projects emerge, it will affect the mission statement.

Mr. Labhart read what he has come up with as a goal.

"Reduction of unacceptable flooding impacts in the Tillamook Basin that reduce the economic impact of flooding while recognizing environmental, social and human values in the short run, and in some cases, the long term."

**ITEM NO. 6: LISTING OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND GETTING WORK GROUPS**

**ESTABLISHED:** Mr. Townsend said he would like to get some ideas for projects. This will not be a definitive list, but will give us some idea of where we all want to go.

Don Hurd said that Doug Rosenberg has been President of the TBHEID for six (6) years and wishes him to make a statement.

Mr. Rosenberg said he is speaking on behalf of the District. He appreciates this effort for long term success. He mentioned reports and stacks of papers that are in Salem, most of which everyone is familiar with. There are a lot of conclusions and data available to everyone for short and long term solutions. This data came out of a feasibility study but don't get bogged down studying it all over again.

He wanted to emphasize that Tillamook Bay does not flood. This is a misconception. There is a two to four (2 – 4') foot differential on Highway 101. Some survey shows data that one (1) of the one hundred (100) year floods can't get water to the Bay. Two of the projects that were considered did not include restoration of the lower channels to previous capacity from 1974. There is too much pressure on the upper system now and there is no where for the water to go. All projects to date have been band aids and are only good for limited impacts. We need to find a way to get the water out more efficiently.

Precedents for restoration of channels were set in 1972. The first study was done in 1980 by Paul Levesque who reviewed all previous studies. This is adequate information. Don't recreate the wheel. Tillamook Bay is the biggest single restoration project on Oregon coast.

Senator Johnson said this is the value of having all these agencies present here today. She then gave her apologies for having to leave at this time to go back to Salem.

The following are suggestions offered by the Team for projects:  
Create drainage swales with voluntary landowners.

Create gravel traps in the lower Rivers.

Investigate/encourage buyouts in floodway/flood plain.

Comprehensive land use planning solutions for relocation of businesses out of floodway/plain including future use of vacated property.

Riparian restoration throughout the watershed.

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Remove the hook in the Trask River near KTIL and restore to its original path.

Permanent flood fish structure on Dougherty Slough.

Computerized water gauges (extend warning time) early detection and warning reverse 911.

Local control over State and Federal regulations.

Install gated spillway next to the ten (10) tide gates on the Wilson River.

Dean property removal of fill.

Gravel removal on lower Rivers to mouth of the canyon.

Using vacated property for mitigation.

Power company old roadway removal of blockage to drainage.

Debris removal from streams & sloughs.

Review project list for Corps of Engineers feasibility study.

Address reducing impacts of flooding in the upper watershed.

Inventory transportation infrastructure that impedes water flow (County, State & City).

Workshop for businesses on annual document protection.

Legislation to allow local land owners to take 250 cubic yards of gravel from the River.

Comprehensive review of a City/County Land Use Ordinances & maps.

Lower Wilson River bank remove near Hall Slough.

Flood bypass aqueduct to open channels to bay - pipe project.

Reclaim River systems back to 1975 levels.

Develop system of management & maintenance of flood reduction efforts.

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Mr. Townsend wants to make sure everyone understands the projects and then go up and print full name next to the project they are interested in. He asked that a person not sign up for any more than three (3) projects.

Participants signed up for different projects. (List is available through Project Manager)

**ITEM NO. 7: SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:** Mr. Townsend said if any Team members have projects to add, to e-mail them to Mr. Townsend at [consultown@comcast.net](mailto:consultown@comcast.net). Mr. Townsend requested that persons think about the goal statement for the Project Team and bring your thoughts and comments back to the next meeting.

Mr. Labhart said the goal of the next meeting will be to break into Project Teams and brainstorm.

The next two (2) meetings were set for Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the same time, both to be held at the new library.

Mr. Labhart thanked everyone for coming today and for giving their input and commitment. He said that this group will only be successful if we work as a group in a collaborative effort.

There being no further business, Mr. Labhart adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 27th day of June, 2007.