

Status Report

Committee: Levee Ready Columbia Oregon Solutions Team Meeting

Meeting Date: September 14, 2016

Committee Facilitator(s): Dan Vizzini, Oregon Solutions

Convener Commissioner Jules Bailey

Attendees: Phil Ralson, Kevin Brice, Tim Couch, Lance Helwig, Henry Burton, Steve Fancher, Michael Jordan, Bobby Lee, Doug Wise, Karen Keetum, Neil Saelstrom, Maryhelen Kincaid, Bobby Lee, Reed Wagner, Corky Collier, Craig Ward, Ken Rust, Tim Warren, Mark Wigginton, Councilor Craddick, Carla Kelly, Susan Kinney, Corrina Chase, Sara Morrissey, Joel Schoening, Allison Boyd, Amy Keiffer, Becky Bryant, Mark Landauer, Jim Cower, Ava Stevens, Brian Eberhardt, Walter Valenta, David Letzner, Rick Mogren, Susan Kenney, Angela Carkner, Colin Rowan, Allison Boyd and Commissioner Shirley Craddick

Report created by: Julia Babcock, Oregon Solutions

Agenda

- Opening Comments
- Future of the Convener Role
- Federal Agenda: FY 2017 New Start Designation
- State Agenda: 2017 Oregon Legislative Initiatives
- NAFSMA Conference
- Oregon Levee Workshop
- Levee Ready Columbia Project Updates
 - Certification Activities
 - Rehabilitation & Inspection Activities
 - Communication, Outreach and Media
- Strategic Planning, Governance and Finance
- Open For Public Comments
- Technical Forum

Issues Raised

- Congratulations to Commissioner Jules Bailey who is stepping into the role of Chief Stewardship Officer (CSO) for the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) full-time starting January 2017. Jules is expecting to be able to maintain his role as convener for Levee Ready Columbia through his transition as well as work with Multnomah County to find a representative to maintain a high level of engagement at the Oregon Solution table.
- Commissioner Bailey drafted a letter on behalf of Levee Ready Columbia letter to the congressional delegates to build support for this year's application in the Corps New Start Program to run in parallel with the technical work underway.

- Neighborhood Associations and other partner organizations are encouraged to send letters of support.
 - Levee Ready Columbia partners discussed the need to have a plan b if our levee system does not make it to the top of the priority list this fiscal year.
- The NAFSMA Conference brought leaders from the Corps, FEMA and flood management districts around the country to Portland. Colonel Aguilar, Congressman Blumenauer, Michael Jordan and Commissioner Bailey were well-received in their opening remarks. The conference also led to fruitful follow up discussions with Corps leadership about next steps for Levee Ready Columbia regarding the federal accreditation process and funding.
- The Oregon Levee Workshop was well-attended by levee managers from around the state. Senator Betsey Johnson was there to listen to the discussion as well as remind folks about the urgency for resources as well as the realities of this legislative session. Dan Vizzini is working on behalf of the state through Oregon Solutions to move the discussion forward and develop the state ask through Business Oregon and other partners to:
 - Address flood risks and set priorities.
 - Support the IFA loan program and demonstrate the need for expanding the amount of funding available. Participants reflected that there is a need for a higher percentage of grants to loans.
 - Document the need for levee system maintenance and repairs.
- MCDD and SDIC documentation review is underway by Cornforth Consultants and West Consultants which entailed an evaluation of relevant archival documents and a gap analysis of information that is needed to 65-10 certification requirements. Based on the limited geotechnical information available, substantial drilling and field work will be needed. Working to get FAA permit within fly zone to begin geotechnical investigations in October. In December, an RFP will go out for interior drainage assessments.
- The Climate Change Study is underway through USGS and USACE and is 20% complete in modeling the upstream and downstream boundary conditions using 2040 out to 2060 assumptions.
- The Levee Environmental Conditions Assessment is being conducted by Parametrix as a synthesis of over 19 maps sets to create an interactive database that visually communicates the changes to the environment over time in the area as a result of the levee design.
- Joel shared updates about all of the communications and outreach conducted over the summer; including over 100 community events and 25 presentations. Special thanks to Hatfield Fellow Falon French for all her hard work in the field this summer representing Levee Ready Columbia across the region.
- The Administrative Subcommittee is working to develop a strategic framework for the Levee Ready Columbia project to help develop questions and assess needs in anticipation of the transition from Phase II to Phase III including what financing and governance models should be assessed to ensure we maintain

appropriate staffing and capacity levels for flood protection and project management.

Next Steps

- Develop and share federal ask timeline to help partners communicate their support for the New Start designation.
- Oct 19th there will be a historical geology presentation on the Columbia River at MCDD.
- Next Meeting: November 9, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., PSU SMSU 238