

Columbia River Levee Repair and Accreditation Project

Governance Committee Meeting Notes

February 14, 2014 – MCDD Offices

Welcome & Introductions.

The Governance Committee meeting was convened to further explore issues around jurisdictional responsibilities and authority presented at the January 27th Project Team meeting and to bring the participants to a common level of understanding of the issues. The committee meeting was facilitated by Oregon Solutions Project Manager Steve Bryant. Attending the meeting at the MCDD offices was:

Participant	Organization
Steve Bryant	Oregon Solutions
Rick Mogren	PSU – Center for Public Service
Reed Wagner	Multnomah County Drainage District
Kayla Mullis	Multnomah County Drainage District
Sunny Simpkins	Multnomah County Drainage District
Angela Carkner	Multnomah County Drainage District
Bill Peterson	City of Wood Village
Allan Berry	City of Fairview
Mark Wigginton	MCDD Peninsula 1
Dick Shafer	MCDD Peninsula 2
Ron Delp	Oregon Solutions
Hong Huynh	Miller Nash Attorneys

Joining the meeting via conference phone was:

Participant	Organization
Steve Fancher	City of Gresham
Craig Ward	City of Troutdale
Jackie Dingfelder	City of Portland
Casey Filice	Multnomah County
Nils Tillstrom	City of Portland
Phil Ralston	MCDD/Sandy Drainage Improvement Company
Jed Tomkins	Multnomah County
Christine Shirley	Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development

Discussion of Issues.

MCDD Project Manager Kayla Mullis provided a background presentation about the certification and accreditation process. In discussion, it was noted that drainage and stormwater management within the area protected by the levee system must also meet

certification standards in order to achieve accreditation for the entire system. There was then a recommendation that the project title be changed from “Levee Repair...” to “Flood Control System Repair...” to better reflect the scope of the project. This recommendation will be conveyed to Oregon Solutions Project Manager Steve Greenwood for further consideration. It was also noted that once FEMA has drawn a new Federal Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the District, local jurisdictions will have 90 days to amend local codes to guarantee compliance. The issues of governance after accreditation and the potential need for legislative changes were also introduced for consideration.

MCDD Executive Director Reed Wagner discussed the limitations to the legal authority of special purpose districts. Although still in a discovery phase, MCDD attorneys advise that, under current law, the District has limited land use and regulatory authority beyond its easement, limited financial authority for bonding, and restricted revenue capacity to meet funding levels adequate to carry out potential repairs to the flood control system. Referencing the example of Sacramento, California, there was discussion to explore the potential of joint powers agreements with state and local jurisdictions to address these issues. A meeting of the attorneys of the various jurisdictions is to be scheduled to explore collaborative solutions in response.

There was also discussion around issues for communication of information, both to the public in general and to affected governing bodies and agency staff. It was agreed to convene a separate subcommittee to address providing a consistent and timely message, emphasizing that the levee system currently provides protection and that there is a process underway to assure compliance to certification and accreditation standards.

Next Steps & Follow up Actions.

- Convene a meeting of attorneys representing the various jurisdictions.
- Convene a Presentation Work Group to prepare timely and consistent information for governing bodies and the general public.