

# Columbia River Levee Repair and Accreditation Project

Oregon Solutions Meeting Notes  
January 27, 2014 – Metro Council Chambers

## Welcome & Introduction

The project meeting was convened by Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Multnomah County Chair Marissa Madrigal. Mayor Hales opened by stating the purpose of the meeting was to outline the timeline and criteria for accreditation and to clarify decision making roles and responsibilities of the various jurisdictions.

Oregon Solutions project team members in attendance:

Participant	Organization
Maryhelen Kincaid	East Columbia Neighborhood Association
Karen Kane	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Jane Van Dyke	Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Bob Sallinger	Portland Audubon Society
Corky Collier	Columbia Corridor Association
Vic Stibolt	Jubit Corporation
David Ratte	Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region X
Tim Warren	Multnomah County Drainage District Board
Reed Wagner	Multnomah County Drainage District
Mark Wigginton	Peninsula Drainage District #1 Board
Dick Shafer	Peninsula Drainage District #2 Board
Phil Ralston	Port of Portland
Jackie Dingfelder	Office of Portland Mayor Charlie Hales
Kimberly Tallant	Portland Bureau of Development Services
Mike Abbate	Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Doug Morgan	City of Portland – NFIP
Casey Filice	Office of Multnomah County Chair Marissa Madrigal
Scott Robinson	Metro Regional Government
Christine Svetkovich	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Christine Shirley	State of Oregon – NFIP Coordinator
Mike McCabe	Oregon Department of State Lands
Kevin Brice	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Portland District
Dean Marriott	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Several interested parties from governmental, commercial, environmental and neighborhood organizations attended the meeting. Those attendees included:

Attendee	Organization
John Donovan	Metropolitan Group
Mark Brodesser	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Andee Shork	Office of State Representative Tina Kotek
Brock Nelson	Union Pacific
Lance Helwig	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Andy Cotugno	Metro
Byron Woltersdorf	MCDD
Claire Oas	Multnomah County Drainage District
Nancy Hendrickson	Bureau of Environmental Services
Robert Pile	TMT Development
David Peters	Portland Water Bureau
Shanna Brownstein	NW Natural
Craig Gibons	Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission
Karen Myers	Peninsula 2 Board
Sunny Simpkins	Multnomah County Drainage District
Hong Huynh	Miller Nash Attorneys
Walter Valenta	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Jeff Condit	Miller Nash Attorneys
Jonna Papaefthimion	City of Portland
Nils Tillstrom	City of Portland
Arwen Bird	Woven Strategies
Bob Wiley	West Mult. Soil & Water Conservation District
Lisa Peffer	Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation & Development
Cristin Bansen	TMT Development
Brian Stipak	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Guy Fielding	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Marc Siegel	Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley
Leslie Sawyer	Bridgeton Neighborhood Association
Dick Springer	West Mult. Soil & Water Conservation District
Carla Kelley	Miller Nash Attorneys
Brian Vincent	Multnomah County
Dave Hendricks	Public
Bill Fullerton	Tetra Tech
Angela Carkner	Multnomah County Drainage District
Kayla Mullis	Multnomah County Drainage District
Ron Delp	Oregon Solutions
Eric (Rick) Mogren	PSU - Center for Public Service
Steve Greenwood	Oregon Solutions
Amanda Siok	FEMA
Deane Funk	PGE
Mark Landauer	Special Districts Association of Oregon
Mindy Brooks	Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Tim Crail	Office of Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Natividad Zavala	Office of County Chair Marissa Madrigal
Skip Klarquist	Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement District
Mike Meyer	Cornforth Consultants
Karen Stewart	CenturyLink

## **Overview of FEMA Accreditation Process and Criteria**

Chair Madrigal introduced a presentation by MCDD Project Manager Kayla Mullis with support from FEMA representative David Ratte in answering additional questions. Chair Madrigal also introduced Steve Greenwood as the Facilitator for the meeting. The presentation addressed the following criteria for certification:

- Design criteria.
- Operations plan.
- Interior drainage.
- Maintenance plan.

Mayor Hales asked if floodwalls could be an acceptable part of the design. David Ratte replied that FEMA would take floodwalls into consideration as a part of the entire levee system. Chair Madrigal asked for a possible timeline for meeting FEMA accreditation requirements. David replied that it would depend on the timing of submissions of data and documentation from the requesting parties, and on FEMA's priorities for floodplain mapping in Region X. Chair Madrigal proposed a workgroup to assess the process timeline and define targets for submissions. The Chair also requested a visual representation for clarity.

(All slideshow presentations from the meeting are posted on the Oregon Solutions website at <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/MCDD>).

## **Governance Roles**

Mayor Hales introduced a presentation from MCDD Executive Director Reed Wagner on governance roles in the accreditation process. Reed reported that MCDD had received clarification from its attorneys quite recently and introduced Miller Nash attorneys to explain MCDD responsibilities and authority. Their legal research concluded that MCDD:

- As part of their agreement with the Corps have a responsibility to remain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rehabilitation and Insurance Program (RIP).
- Cannot directly participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) because MCDD does not have the legislative "authority to adopt and enforce flood plain management regulations."
- Can work in coordination with the NFIP "community" on accreditation and defined "community" in this context as the City of Portland.
- MCDD has a mandate to operate and maintain the levee system, but has limited authority for financing repairs.

Mayor Hales' Policy Director Jackie Dingfelder proposed that a Governance Subcommittee be set up to include the various City, County and Drainage District jurisdictions effected and their attorneys to clarify the legal obligations around accreditation. The identified participants in that subcommittee will be:

- Peninsula 1 Drainage District
- Peninsula 2 Drainage District
- Multnomah County Drainage District
- City of Portland
- City of Troutdale
- City of Gresham

- City of Fairview
- State of Oregon DLCD
- Port of Portland

### **Legislative Affairs Subcommittee**

Chair Madrigal introduced Reed Wagner for an update on the Legislative Affairs subcommittee. The group approved the following membership of the subcommittee:

- City of Portland
- Multnomah County Drainage District
- Metro
- Oregon Legislators
- Senator Merkley's office
- Senator Wyden's office
- Congressman Blumenauer's office.
- Port of Portland
- Governor's Regional Solutions Center

### **Report from Engineering Consultant**

Mike Meyer from Cornforth Consultants provided a presentation on the investigative phase necessary for testing the integrity of the levee system to achieve certification standards. Mike also provided a tentative timeline for the consultant's final report (see Oregon Solutions website <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/MCDD>). The presentation outlined the following investigation phases:

#### **Phase 1**

- Review Diking District Archives
- Review USACE Portland District Archives
- Look for available subsurface information
- Determine if engineering studies have been performed
- Determine what needs to be done in Phase 2

#### **Phase 2**

- Subsurface Investigations
- Lab Testing for engineering parameters
- Engineering studies (Stability, Seepage, Scour)
- Interior drainage modeling
- As-Built Maps
- Operation & Maintenance Manual

The presentation raised several questions about the certification process including whether the geotechnical study takes into account the impact of earthquakes, who sets compliance standards, and if standards are measured against the flood of record.

Kimberly Tallant from the Portland Bureau of Development Services offered to assist the consultants in the process for acquiring boring permits for the study. Christine Svetkovitch from the State Department of Environmental Quality offered to coordinate the various state agencies' permitting requirements.

The consultant estimated that they could possibly be able to identify potential trouble areas by late May or early June.

### **Next Steps and Follow up Actions**

Facilitator Steve Greenwood announced that the next meeting will be held in the Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union at 1:00 PM on March 11th.