

Oregon Solutions-Columbia Levee Improvement Project
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)

July 20, 2015
2:00-4:00 p.m.

***Draft* Notes**

Meeting Participants

Steering Committee: Travis Ruybal.

TASC Members: Nancy Hendrickson, Sara Morrissey, Eileen Argentina, Bob Hoffman, Tammy Wood, Megan Neill, Tom Braibish, Sean Batty, Mandy O'Hara, Rod Moritz, Keith Duffy, and Bill Ryan

By Phone: Mike Moran

Facilitation Team: Rick Mogren and Julia Babcock

Other Attendees: Martha Johnston, Peter Stroud, Gary Kunz, and Ron Delp

Meeting Objectives

- To finalize the TASC operating protocol for Phase II.
- To review and provide input into the Climate Change models proposed by USGS and USACE.
- To update the TASC on the Oregon Solutions Team process and activities.
- To review a proposed scope of work to provide QA/QC for interior drainage modeling done by MCDD in Pen 2 [Added by Sara Morrissey]

Next Steps

- Share the tentative recommendation that the Corps and USGS run their climate change model for "Option 2040s" (time period 2030-2059) with the full TASC. If there are no objections from other TASC members, then present this recommendation for approval at the next meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee.
- Set up subcommittee meetings for the Environmental Resource Inventory and the Economic Subcommittee as needed to finalize SOWs. The intent is to conduct a final review of the SOWs and present them at the next Administrative Subcommittee meeting.
- Send out a revised SOW for Cornforth Encroachment Evaluation.
- Send out work task order for QA / QC review of the interior drainage modeling done by MCDD for PEN 2 to be conducted by WEST consultants.

Brief Meeting Summary

Encroachment Evaluation

- Encroachment evaluations will soon start. The Communications and Outreach Subcommittee has begun reaching out to affected community groups and individual homeowners to explain why the surveys are necessary, how they will be conducted, and how the results will be used.
- The survey work will start with those properties with easements in place. Property owners will receive individual request letters where access for survey work is needed. Those letters will be distributed this week.
- Survey work will document the lowest floor elevation of structures. The purpose of the survey will be to document locations, if any, of structural encroachments and to gauge levee function in a high water event around these encroachments.
- Homeowners are concerned about unknowns including how evaluations could impact insurance rates. MCDD is working to communicate information upfront about how the evaluations will help provide more definitive information for understanding levee function as well as how to set up a plan for flood fighting based on property conditions.

Climate Change Presentation

- See presentation slides and the climate change proposal distributed with the meeting materials.
- Tamara Wood-USGS, Rod Moritz-USACE and Keith Duffy-USACE presented their proposal for assessing climate change scenarios using state-of-the-art hydraulic models that simulate conditions that describe extreme but plausible events in a future climate. The model uses as boundary conditions sea level changes at the mouth of the Columbia and flows at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls.
- USGS and the Corps presented two options for the modeling with associated budgets and timelines. Both options would be cost-shared between USGS, USACE “Planning Assistance to States” funds, and OST.
 - Option 1 (“Option 2040s”) consists of estimates of future hydrographs modeled for the period of about 2030 – 2059. The cost of this option to OST is estimated at approximately \$101,000. Findings and conclusions would be available by the end of September 2016, with a peer-reviewed final report by December 2016.
 - Option 2 (“Option 2080s”) will provide a longer-term hydrograph projection, going out to about 2100. The cost of this option to OST is approximately \$136,000. Findings and conclusions will be available by end of June 2017 and a final peer-reviewed report by end of September 2017.

Climate Change Presentation - Questions and Discussion

- What wasn’t done in CRT work that could be modeled more accurately now? The level of resolution of modeling done for the CRT was not at a scale useful for the Portland levee analysis. Furthermore, since Columbia River Treaty modeling, ResSim has been updated with data focused on the project area, allowing more specific and precise data projections.

- For infrastructure investments, it may be best to have the farthest projections available for us to make decision for the life of the infrastructure.
- It may be a struggle to justify additional costs given the degree of uncertainty in the models and that longer-term projections are, by their nature, more speculative. Thinking from a taxpayer perspective there may be skepticism around paying for models with such a range of uncertainty.
- Is there an opportunity to start the 2080s model and then stop if you don't need information past 2040s data set? There is an opportunity to model 2040s data first and then apply for PAS funding for additional modeling.
- Based on the foregoing, **the TASC members in attendance tentatively agreed to recommend proceeding with Option 1 (Option 2040s) and then phase in modeling for the 2080s as needed/desired.** This tentative agreement is to be reviewed via email with the full TASC and, if no objections received, to be presented at the next meeting of the Administrative Subcommittee for approval.

Interior Drainage Work Task Order

- Staff at MCDD have done stormwater modeling of PEN 2 and are creating the Interior Drainage Report that will be submitted to FEMA as a component of the PEN 2 accreditation package.
- Under the task order, WEST Consultants, Inc. will operate as a technical advisor for PEN 2. The role of the technical advisor is to assist PEN 2 and prevent any undesirable outcomes for landowners. Specific tasks are shown on the task order distributed at the meeting and available from MCDD.
- The first task is to ensure that the interior drainage report satisfies the requirements of CFR Title 44 Section 65.10 (levee accreditation).

Next TASC Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2:00 – 5:00 (PSU Urban Center).