

**Willamette Falls Locks Task Force
Action Items and Meeting Summary
Final Draft**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Clackamas County Services Building

Task Force website: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/willamette-falls-locks-task-force>

Task Force Members present: Jack Griffen, Jr., Commissioner Tootie Smith, Pat Dyke on behalf of Kevin Brice, Commissioner Carlotta Collette, Mayor Dan Holladay, Mayor Russ Axelrod, Chris Didway on behalf of Representative Brent Barton, Sandy Carter, Peggy Sigler, Fred Meyer, John Mullen, Representative Julie Parrish, and Rian Windsheimer.

Facilitation Team: Peter Harkema and Amy Delahanty

Staff and Interested Parties: Andy Cotugno, Gary Schmidt, Lisa Naito, Kimberlee DeSantis and Trent Wilson

Action Items	Who	By When
Process Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute meeting summary and action items 	OS	By COB 7/11
Governance Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop governance structure recommendation options for full group consideration at the September meeting • Consider potential roles your agency/organization/entity might play through the disposition study and vet with appropriate decision making bodies 	Core Team Task Force members	July/August For September meeting
Commitments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider what resources your agency/organization/entity might contribute to the ongoing success of the Locks effort, independent of disposition study 	Task Force Members	For September meeting
2017 Legislative Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for the legislative session and determine if an “ask” will be made. • Consider and pursue opportunities to “on-board” any new representatives, including a possible tour as part of the orientation process. 	Core team with TF members Core team with TF members	In advance of September meeting Through fall 2016
Information Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send any corrections to the summary sheet to Oregon Solutions 	Task Force members	By COB 6/30

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

Project Manager, Peter Harkema, thanked everyone for their continued participation and shared that Governor Roberts sends her regrets that she was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Harkema then reviewed the topics of discussion with Members. This review included a brief overview of where the Task Force has been, where they are now, and confirmed that while there is a small break in meetings over the summer, there is not a break in the work. Thus, the Task Force is likely to surface a set of action items of things they would like to work on prior to the upcoming September meeting.

Task Force Member Updates

Peter invited members to share updates on task force related activities since the last meeting.

- Work group party / volunteer effort went very well. There were 18 volunteers and staff members from the Corps in attendance and considerable work was accomplished in cleaning up the area adjacent to the Locks.
- After 10 years, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was authorized through a rule making process to construct a platform at the Falls and, for the first time in 135 years harvested 15 fish in a traditional way at the Falls.
- Carlotta Collette shared that the Willamette Falls Riverwalk Board met for the first time and that there is a lot of energy in the group. Peter noted Oregon Consensus has been asked to do an assessment exploring ownership options on the Riverwalk. The assessment will be done over the summer and results provided in September.
- Peggy Sigler stated the Corps, The President's Advisory Council, and the SHPO office, agreed on section 106 in the MOA and are awaiting feedback from partner agencies for approval.

Lead Partnership, Ownership, Operations and Financing Options

Peter reminded the group that at the last meeting Governor Roberts requested that all parties at the table confer with their respective agencies and constituencies to both update them on progress and gauge interest in ongoing participation, particularly as it related to the disposition study. Peter then asked each member to share any updates or feedback they received from their agencies. The following is a summary of that feedback:

- Oregon State Parks and Recreation hopes to remain involved in any developments and there is a fair amount of consensus about being part of a potential partnership/consortium of partners.
- Fred Meyer will go back to Port of Portland to address any potential roles the Port could play, as well as ask if it could parlay the current / future mitigation efforts happening along the Willamette River to the Falls.
- Jack Griffen shared the Tribe is interested in owning the property, but currently there is a lack of expertise in the maintenance and operation of the Locks, though there is a willingness to learn. The Tribe is willing to be part of a partnership and offers their marketing expertise.

- Metro is willing to be part of a partnership. There was an acknowledgement that Metro and Clackamas County have been the primary funders and would like to see any potential partners be willing to contribute monetarily.
- Mayor Russ Axcelrod shared the City of West Linn is interested in the Locks, but there is a concern about financial commitments. There was interest in the process, but could be challenges in taking on a lead agency role.
- Mayor Dan Holladay shared Oregon City is 100% behind these efforts. The consensus shared by the Council was that the Locks should be operated by a private non-profit model, rather than a particular government agency. Staffing from Oregon City would be a challenge.
- Pat Dyke shared the Corps was always willing to support the effort and continue to be at the table. Additionally, the Corps is interested in determining the right local/regional solution for long-term efforts.
- On behalf of Representative Brett Barton, Chris Didway shared the Legacy Project is among the Representative's top priorities. Ms. Didway shared Representative Barton is not running again, however he is willing to help in whatever capacity he can until January. Committees will come together in September and can placeholder bills for any aspects the Task Force comes together on.
- Peter Harkema shared he had an opportunity to speak with Rachel Grant from the Oregon State Marine Board. Rachel shared with Peter that capacity is limited and they are primarily a granting organization, however their agency remains interested in the effort and is willing to provide some technical assistance, including outreach/surveys of registered boat owners.
- Representative Julie Parrish shared information about what is happening / foreseeable changes in the legislature. There are 17 new legislators coming on. There was a suggestion the Task Force should be thinking about ways to bring them up to speed on that issue, such as a potential boat tour. Any potential legislation will need to be crafted before the end of September and will need to understand any clear "asks."
- ODOT is willing to provide resources and project management support. There was a clarification that they do not have expertise on running a lock, nor do they work on rivers, or water resources.
- Commissioner Tootie Smith stated Clackamas County has been heavily involved in this effort and continues to offer meeting space, staff support, and resources. Clackamas County is not in a position to own/manage the Locks, but are committed to continuing to play an important role. The Board recommends a state agency become the lead facilitator/lead, and recommends a partnership model. She suggested that any asks to the legislature this year, the Task Force may want to frame this effort as a transportation project.
- The Willamette Falls Working Group and the Willamette Falls Heritage Area continues to remain interested in the Locks. To the potential ownership model point, Peggie Siegler stated most models have a state partner as the lead.
- Sandy Carter stated that One Willamette River remains committed to this effort and will remain engaged.

There was considerable dialogue regarding the Corps expectations of their preferred partner(s), timeline of their disposition study and preferred long-term ownership model. Pat Dyke stated they

are looking for a partner for the disposition study, this could be a partnership but often is one entity that serves as a lead. He also stated the Corps will continue the disposition study without identified potential partner(s) and will make final recommendations based on the Corps' needs. It was clarified the study would likely take about 3 years and that the results of the USACE disposition study would generate much valuable information but it would not be sufficient for purposes of the Task Force and many local/state interests. For example, the USACE will consider economic benefits of national significance but would not gather information about other important economic potential for the region that might be generated through reopening. It was noted that before any action on the locks (e.g. transfer or decommission), there will need to be a government-to-government Consultation, which can serve as a benefit to this group in terms of being aware of any changes.

Task Force members explored and discussed a number of governance options related to both long-term ownership and a lead agency partnership to work with the USACE during the disposition study. Some suggested that continuing the Task Force might be a pathway forward. Others suggested that in the long-term a construct similar to the Gorge Commission might be structure to consider. It was clarified that while some structures might require legislative action/establishment others could be pursued without action from the legislature. Some wondered whether a single entity might step forward to serve as a lead. Peter noted that to date no entity has done so and that, based on what members had stated earlier any lead agency would likely be a partnership formed from the state, Metro, Clackamas County, a city (or cities), and the Tribes.

Next Steps & Action Items:

Following this discussion, Peter summarized the discussion and stated a list of suggested actions to be taken over the summer (see above action items). He thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.