



MEMORANDUM

TO: Willamette Falls Locks Commission Members
FROM: Turner Odell, Oregon Solutions (OS)
SUBJECT: DRAFT Meeting Summary from May 2 Commission Meeting #2
DATE: May 29, 2018

This memo follows up on the 2nd meeting of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission held at the West Linn City Hall in West Linn, Oregon, on May 2, 2018. The memo includes proposed future meeting dates, identified action items, meeting attendance, and summaries of key topics discussed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Location
Commission Meeting	June 6, 2018 1:00 to 4:30 PM	West Linn City Hall <i>and</i> Willamette Falls Locks
Commission Meeting	July 18, 2018 1:00 to 4:30 PM	West Linn City Hall

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Who	Date
1. <u>Action Items</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare draft Action Items memo and distribute to Commission Members	Turner (OS)	Complete
2. <u>Website</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Update Website with future meeting dates and past meeting materials	Turner (OS)	Complete

<p>3. <u>Site Visit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive to include site visit to Locks at next Commission meeting • Explore other on-river field excursion options to assess opportunities 	<p>Turner (OS) and Project Support Team</p> <p>Turner (OS) and Project Support Team</p>	<p>By next meeting</p> <p>As possible</p>
<p>4. <u>Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Support Team to generate public outreach recommendations 	<p>Project Support Team</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present:

Russ Axelrod (*West Linn*), Joe Bernert (*Wilsonville Concrete and MIC*), Sam Brentano (*Marion County*), Gary Burke (*Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*), Sandy Carter (*Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation*), Danielle Cowen (*Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs*), MG Devereux (*OPRD*), Jack Giffen Jr. (*Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde*), Dan Holladay (*Oregon City*), Karen Homolac (*Business Oregon*), Rep. Mark Meek, Paul Scarlett (*ODOT*), Martha Schrader (*Clackamas County*),

Facilitation and Project Team:

Andy Cotugno (*Metro*), Kristine Evertz (*Summit Strategies*), Lance Heisler (*Coates Kokes*), Lisa Naito (*Naito Public Affairs*), Turner Odell (*OC*), John Southgate (*John Southgate LLC*), Sue Van Brocklin, (*Coates Kokes*), John Williams (*West Linn*), Kristen Wright (*Oregon Solutions*)

Other Attendees

Raihana Ansary (*Regional Solutions*), Audie Huber (*Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*), Michael Karnosh (*Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde*), MeeSeon Kwon (*Sen. Wagner's Office*), Greg Leo (*Wilsonville*), Mini Sharma Ogle (*PGE*), Taylor Steenblock (*We Love Clean Rivers*)

MEETING NOTES

Brief Summary Of Key Themes and Discussion

Welcome, Overview and Introductions

The facilitator, Turner Odell (Oregon Solutions) welcomed Commission members to the second meeting of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission. He reviewed the agenda, including the overall process objectives and the meeting objectives as stated on the agenda, as well as the agenda for the meeting. Following that there was a round of introductions.

Leadership

The facilitator reminded the group that at their last meeting nominations had been received for Commission leadership roles (Chair and Vice Chair). A total of three nominations were received: West Linn Mayor Russ Axelrod, Clackamas County Resident Sandy Carter, and Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader. Between meetings that nominees had conferred with the facilitator and each other and had proposed that leadership duties be shared as follows: Russ Axelrod as Chair, Sandy Carter and Martha Schrader as Co-Vice Chairs.

- ◆ With a majority of voting members present, a motion was made and seconded to approve the leadership slate as proposed. All approved with no objections.

Repaired and Reopened Locks Visioning

The facilitator explained the process to be used by the group to generate input for the Project Support Team.

The purpose of the exercise was to provide more detailed input to Project Support Team on Commission member visions, ideas, concerns, and values regarding a restored and reopened Locks facility – building on the core values/ideas generated at the first Commission meeting. The process would be as follows: Commission members will into three groups and move from station to station (in approximately 15 to 20 minute intervals) providing input on one set of interest areas at a time. Staff will record input at each station.

Station topics will be as follows: (1) Commercial, Transportation and Resiliency values, (2) Recreation and Tourism values, and (3) Tribal, Cultural, Historical values. At each station, Commission members will asked to discuss (brainstorm) the following questions:

- What is the vision for this value/benefit?
- What level of service is needed to achieve it?
- Who benefits and how can they share in covering the costs?
- What information do you need to make decisions about this?

When the exercise is complete, and after a short break, staff recorders from each station will report several highlights, to be followed by a brief group discussion.

The Commission members divided into three groups and began the exercise.

Detailed notes – transcribed directly from the handwritten flipchart notes – are attached.

Breakout Group Review Comments/Questions:

Following a short break, the Commission reconvened as a whole to hear a brief recap/highlights of the discussion at each of the three stations. Following the summaries, Commission members engaged in additional discussion and questions on various topics, including the following:

- **Funding:**
 - Support was expressed for the suggested broad-based tax with some charges for commercial, or other users. Exempting locals, especially those with small craft, from these charges is desired. This was seen as both encouraging non-motorized traffic and would incent local support.
 - A suggestion was offered that it may be beneficial for the group to complete a formal funding model/strategy. This may include elements like impact investing, or foundation models.
- **Example Models:** One member shared that there may be a challenge to find like models in nation from which to learn.
- **Automated Operation:** A question was raised about the possibility to fully automate locks, and others responded it was uncertain at this time.
- **USACE cost estimate:** Some felt estimate was high and indicated there is opportunity to do another assessment of costs. Federal contracting likely impact USACE estimates. \$6million estimate is the bare minimum for operation, and does not include seismic retrofitting.
- **Repair/Transfer:** Question was raised about whether repair before transfer is being addressed. It was shared that the Army Corp (USACE) disposition study only indicates a creation of a concrete dam (referred to as concrete bulkhead by USACE). The regulatory impacts of this structure are unknown. USACE has an interest in reinforcing upper doors and ensuring they are sound for seismic event as breaching these would have big implications.

Operating Principles and Public Engagement

Attention was directed to the proposed Operating Principles for the Commission – previously provided to members at their first meeting. Reasons for and content of operating principles was summarized briefly for the group. There was a suggestion that alternates may be needed, but after explanation of the legislative mandate and other impacts of alternates, the group did not proceed with adding a provision allowing alternates to the operating principles.

- ◆ Motion was made and seconded to approve operating principles as proposed. All approved with no objections.

There was discussion about the Commission requirement to offer opportunity for public comment during at least two meetings per year. Points included the following:

- A press release is currently being formulated by the project team, which will outline the formation of committee, election of officers, and the work of the group.
- Intent of having some meetings with an opportunity for public comment was to acknowledge the greater community interest in this effort. Targeted outreach to specific segments of the population or interest groups would be a good idea. Some identified the need to do this early and to establish rules for how public testimony would take place.
- The group agreed that project team should generate outreach recommendations and bring back to commission at the next meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

There was a brief discussion of the future meeting schedule:

- The June meeting was set for the regular 1st Wednesday time slot (Wednesday, June 6th from 1-4 PM). There is a possibility for a tour at that meeting.

- The July meeting was set for Wednesday July 18th from 1-4 PM. Suggestion was made to include public outreach on July agenda.
- The August meeting will be skipped because of likely conflicts with summer vacation plans.
- The September meeting was set for the regular Wednesday time – Wednesday September 5th from 1-4 PM. .
- All upcoming meetings will be posted to website.
- The facilitator agreed to send out calendar invitations (in addition to an email) with caution that changes made to invitation may not update on everyone's calendar.
- Other on-the-water tour opportunities may be available like kayak or boat tours. There was some interest in seeing the area above locks. Joe Bernert and project team will work to establish these optional opportunities.

Tribal Outreach

At the request of the tribal representative, it was agreed that updates from meetings of Commission could be shared with other tribes. There was also a request to tribal representative for assistance/input on how to reach out to other tribes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.

ATTACHMENT 1
Notes from Commission Breakout Session
on Repaired and Reopened Locks Visioning
Meeting #2 – May 2, 2018

Commercial, Transportation, Resiliency

Vision

- Commercial/transportation
 - Predictable, operational, functional Locks
 - Good maintenance program to ensure reliability
 - Tug/Barge/Industrial traffic and cruise boats can pass as needed
 - Locks traffic creates vibrancy
 - With locks open marine construction up-river would be facilitated
 - Operation of Locks should not impede access for native to lamprey and salmon
 - Shift of load to water very important due to heavy trucks
 - Consider for commuting

 - Consider dredging from Newberg to Salem to open up more markets
 - Revisit access to the States dredge

 - Need access across the Locks to the island to support redevelopment
 - Need to design in the bridge and integrate with surrounding road network
 - Check size of Portland Spirit

 - Industry and Recreation users are co-equal

- Resiliency
 - Need seismic upgrade
 - Operation would need to be quickly operational
 - Bridge repair from water would be possible
 - Bridges down would block the river, Needs removal
 - Seismic failure could disrupt native access to fish
 - If seismic failure results in run-of-the-river bypass need a plan to recover
 - Cities up river should integrate Locks access into their plans
 - Bring in local law enforcement
 - Clear log debris
 - Be prepared for floods – is there an upgrade need?
 - Consistent access
 - Need highest level seismic upgrade with funding help from Corps.
 - See Newport, OR example
 - Build the seismic resiliency “case” for why it’s important compelling piece!

Level of Service

- When the markets are fully developed operation should be 7 days/week – days are scheduled maintenance closures
- Ability to schedule special moves – i.e. Ferries
- Ferries remain in operation

- Consider limited public operating model w/certified barge operators – self-serve thru the locks
- Consider fully automatic operation, fully self-serve – needs oversight but not full time staff

Who Benefits

- Benefits – specific industries businesses and their taxes generated
- Benefits – take load off roads and rails including reduced emissions
- Taxes/fees should be collected on a broad base
- Any taxes/fees collected to repair and operate should not over-burden those taxed
- Maybe future business that are not yet evident
- If there is a user fee = it should be on a base of a broad based fee
- Is the Heritage Area boundary appropriate?
- Consider a broader plan and funding program – not just Locks

Information Needed

- Info needs: survey potential users/business groups
- Beware of high labor costs including at Port of Portland
- Need comprehensive assessment of river facilities

Recreation and Tourism

Vision – Potential Uses and Benefits

- Island near locks as a destination (parking issue)
- Legacy project, Riverwalk connection
- Eco tours conservation groups (non-motorized access)
- Incorporate into courses for kids / outdoor school (public school)
- Events and festivals
- Races: regattas and other boat races, fishing tournaments (unlikely), SUP
- Jet boat to Eugene
- Heritage tours
- River-facing interpretive information
- Incorporate into bike tour loops
- Wine country access – pleasure cruises
- Infrastructure build-out potential
 - Champoeg link
 - Newberg new port
 - Future riverfront sites:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Linn – 1 or 2 ▪ Oregon City ▪ Wilsonville ▪ Canby ▪ Newberg ▪ Canemah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Butteville ▪ St Paul ▪ Mission Bottom ▪ Wheatland ▪ Keizer ▪ Wallace Marine
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- Challenges/Parameters
 - Water skiers and wakeboarders
 - Tribal fishing rights – impact of increased recreational on tribal fishing
 - Commercial vs. tourism – ensuring both can be accommodated without disruption

- A public education campaign effort will be essential

Level of Service

- Recreation for locals - seasonal and weekend at a minimum – 8-9 months of the year
- Weekend access good for festivals and events
- Weekday access could accommodate more tourism
- Salmon fishing?
- Hours – mostly day, however some demand for commercial access at night (e.g. river cruises)

Who Benefits

- Fees for recreational use are a given, expected
 - Advantages to “pay to play”
 - Season passes
 - Possibly free for non-motorized boats
 - Need to ensure cost to administer fees/tolls does not exceed revenues
- Other stakeholders
 - Marine board
 - County parks
 - Yamhill locks, Lafayette
 - Foundations – heritage, cultural

Information Needed

- Status of current river access and infrastructure → map of ownership of riverfront property from Falls to Salem and downriver to Portland (both public and private)
- How much commercial/industrial use will need to be prioritized? Determine realistic interface between industrial use and tourism/recreation
- Cruises: what happens in other states or countries with similar locks where they allow. What types of fee systems do they utilize?

Tribal, Cultural, Historical

Vision

- An interpretive center with a timeline illustrating the history of the falls and include experiences of the various cultures and groups who have interacted with the place including stories about the once thriving trading center for tribes, how industrial development and transportation changed the river, as well as the story and shaping of the other side of the river. This story telling should include more than just the locks. This center could include geological and hydrological information of the falls as well.
- Connected passage between upper and lower river.
- Revival of cultural celebrations that once occurred in this place.
- Opportunities for tribes to restore traditional practices.
- Events for specific segments of the population not open to the public – like tribal ceremonies, recreation or tourism events, etc.
- Any vision of the future should ensure the existing treaty-related activities are able to continue.
- Any vision of the future should include consideration of continuing any National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 protections.
- Opening/updating of current museum.

Level of Service

- To be able to open locks for passage.
- Upgrade operations to make them more simple to operate.
- Year-round operations would be ideal but allow for operations support seasonal needs of salmon passage, recreation, fishing, or tribal practices. Consideration also for operations that also impact warm water species that have been part of fishing traditions.
- Ensure operations do not impede treaty-related activities
- Would like to have ability to take/respond to requests to operate locks for certain events, etc.
- Access improved to the facilities and space between locks and river, including parking, etc.

Who Benefits

- Tribes
- Fishermen
- Local residents
- Downtown Oregon City, West Linn, Willamette
- Visitors / tourism including: conservation organizations, international conferences, tours,
- Education interests, like: schools, scouts, Outward Bound type of education programs, Mazamas, community groups
- Clackamas County
- Heritage Area Coalition (WFHAC)
- State Parks
- Historical Society
- Small craft industry like microbreweries, micro distilleries who might see a “local” product connection with this opportunity.
- Other funding options to consider: historical/cultural grants
- State of Oregon – Agencies and general public

Information Needed

- What current signage exists wayfinding and cultural/interpretive information?
- Would like to better understand the demographics of potential users.
- What is the status and condition of the museum and what would that mean for transfer policies?
- What would be the cost to repair/improve to allow operations of locks? Need technical/engineering feasibility.
- Some have seen studies that museums don't draw visitors but experiences do. Would like to know more about what experiences draw people and what demand is out there for educational opportunities/groups. Relatedly, what events might draw people? One thought was to find out what historical events took place here that might be brought back.
- Would like to know status of related projects like the Legacy Project and the National Heritage Project. The National Heritage Project has completed a feasibility study that may have information helpful to this effort.
- Would like to know seasonal calendar of events for tribal events/traditions/celebrations as well as potential recreational events that might impact how locks are operated.
- Would like information on possible demand to inform what would be good hours of operations.
- Would like to know more about the implications of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- What policies and processes might be needed to ensure operations?