



## **CHARLESTON OREGON SOLUTIONS PROJECT TEAM MEETING NOTES**

**February 3, 2009**

The Charleston Oregon Solutions Project Team met for the seventh time on February 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the State Capitol in Salem.

### **ATTENDEES:**

Senator Joanne Verger, Representative Arnie Roblan, Representative Nancy Nathanson, Representative Paul Holvey, Steve Bryant, Oregon Solutions, Robin Elledge, SSNERR, Tom Elledge, SSNERR, Craig Young, OIMB, Mike Gaul, Port of Coos Bay, Louise Solliday, Department of State Lands, Jon Souder, Coos Watershed Association, Steve Denney, ODFW, Fred Tepfer, U of O, Martina Oxoby, U of O, Marley Bice, Coos Watershed Association, Christine Valentine, Governor's Office ERT, David Ford, Charleston Community Enhancement Corporation

Sen. Verger welcomed the attendees and guests and expressed appreciation to the participants and to Oregon Solutions for an outstanding collaborative process that brought the group to this juncture. Steve Bryant gave a brief history of the project beginning with the request from OIMB and the Port to the Governor's Office, followed by the Governor's designation of the project in March of 2008. He noted that this was the seventh meeting of the project team in addition to numerous meetings of the Building Users Committee over the past year. The result of these efforts is captured in the Declaration of Cooperation document that was passed out to the attendees. It includes an expansive vision for this project that includes the Charleston Marine Life Center and the broader vision for the multi-purpose facilities that together will encompass the Charleston Coast and Ocean Center. A longer term objective of the project includes relocation of the adjacent Coast Guard Housing complex to a site that is mutually beneficial to the Coast Guard and to the Coast and Ocean Center.

Rep. Roblan talked about the many benefits of this collaborative process including the new ideas that continued to surface through the active participation of the stakeholders. In addition, many of these stakeholders came forward during the process to offer contributions of staff time, financial resources, and expertise that added value to the project.

Fred Tepfer from the University Office of Campus Planning and Real Estate presented five site plan options for developing the Coast and Ocean Center project on the existing OIMB campus. Those site plan options, along with options for relocating the existing cottages, are shown in Exhibit 2 of the Declaration of Cooperation document. These concepts will be used to refine the project vision during the next few meetings of the Project Management Team.

Representative Nathanson asked about the project vision and whether it was “big enough” to encompass the growing interest in environmental studies, ocean resources, and growing student interest. Craig Young responded that, in fact, there was growing student interest in their programs and OIMB fully expects to reach maximum student capacity in the next few years. This facility will help with that capacity issue. Several other team members contributed comments indicating that they thought this facility will address the challenges that Rep. Nathanson raised.

Steve Bryant mentioned that Oregon Sea Grant will be serving in the role of “convener” for the Project Management Team through the efforts of the local Extension Agent, Jamie Doyle. He and Jamie have already had several discussions about transferring information to facilitate her role in the project. Another immediate task for the Project Management Team will be to design a public forum and other public outreach efforts to solicit the involvement of Charleston community in the project. In addition, the management team will be challenged with getting the project to a “shovel ready” condition in order to take advantage of emerging funding opportunities. Finally, Steve indicated that Oregon Solutions will be available to reconvene the full Project Team following the end of the current legislative session which is expected to occur in late June or early July.

Next the team members and agency representatives took part in the formal signing ceremony of the Declaration of Cooperation. Commitments have now been approved and signed by the following members: Sen. Verger, Rep. Roblan, the University of Oregon and OIMB, ODFW, the Department of State Lands and SSNERR, Coos Watershed Association, the Charleston Community Enhancement Corporation, the Charleston Merchants Association, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Governor’s Economic Revitalization Team, and the International Port of Coos Bay. Additional commitments are expected soon from Oregon Sea Grant, BLM, Coos County, and the South Coast Development Corporation. In addition, draft commitment language has been forwarded to the Confederated Tribes and to Congressman DeFazio.

Sen. Verger concluded the meeting by thanking the participants and expressing special thanks to the Oregon Solutions staff for keeping the group focused and moving toward implementation of a project that will have wonderful benefits for the Charleston area.

Submitted by,  
Steve Bryant  
Oregon Solutions