

MINUTES – OREGON SOLUTIONS – FLOOD PROJECT TEAM

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

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CO-CONVENERS:

Mark Labhart
Senator Betsy Johnson

PROJECT TEAM PRESENT: Judy Mammano (for Don Hurd), Stephen Wille, Joy Vaughan, Ross Holloway, Shawn Reiersgaard, Doug Clarke, Mark Trenholm, Ingrid Weisenbach (for Larry McKinley), Ken Bierly, Mark Ellsworth, Bub Boquist, Rudy Fenk, Bob Rees, Dale Buck, Rick Klumph, John Carnahan, Mark Gervasi, Cathy Tortorici, Paul Levesque, Dale Blanton (for Laren Woolley), Art Riedel, Deborah Boone, Denny Pastega, Tom Manning, Wendell Hesseltine, Chad Allen and project manager Dick Townsend.

GUESTS: Rick Kneeland, Gus Meyer, Kathleen Didier, Orella Chadwick, Bill Campbell, David Lindstrom, Fritz Graham, Tom Jayred, Rickard Kirkava, Pete Dickerson, John Gettman, York Johnson, Tilda Jones, Greg Beaman Ken O'Toole, Kevin Moynahan, Ray Naff, Bruce Apple, Wendy Yorkshire, and Robert Anderson.

ITEM NO. 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS: Convener Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m. at the Tillamook County Library meeting room. Convener Johnson thanked everyone for being here today and their hard work in the Committee process. The Team was divided into three (3) groups which have met a lot and done significant work. She acknowledged the Governor's office, Congressional offices, Mike Tully and Debbie Boone.

Convener Johnson said that there has been much hard work done at the Committee level inclusive of time, energy and heroic efforts to be at all the Project Team meetings. She said that this is an evolutionary process with no boundaries by which we make collaborative decisions and it is only done through authority of the Governor. Today we will be prioritizing the projects being brought forward by the Committees, leaving open possibilities for additional information and adjusting for new opportunities that might surface. There is still a long way to go to see projects come to fruition.

Convener Johnson introduced the Committee Chairs: Dale Buck, Rick Klumph and John Carnahan.

Convener Labhart thanked the Chairs for volunteering and thanked everyone for coming today. He said this is an important meeting as we will be making some decisions today.

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By the end of today we will figure out which projects will be going ahead. There are nineteen (19) projects being presented today and we need to stay on track. There are packets in front of everyone for voting and everyone was provided ahead of time the Project Evaluation Criteria sheets provided by the Committees, which everyone should have reviewed ahead of time.

Convener Labhart said the Committees have met about ten (10) times. The Project Team has now meet four (4) times but all the behind scenes work has been done at the Committee level. Conveners Labhart and Johnson will not be voting today. They will stay unbiased.

Convener Johnson said that she wanted to review a few issues. The Conveners are adamant that only the Project Team members are voting today. This was an executive decision, however, there are a few exceptions. Don Hurd is not hear today because he had a heart attach. We wish him the best. Judy Mammano is here to represent TBHEID. Vickie Goodman is not here from the State, nor is Geoff Roach. Laren Woolley's replacement is Dale Blanton. Replacing Larry McKinley is Ingrid Weisenbach. These will be the only proxies allowed today as their votes are very important to this process.

ITEM NO. 2: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES 06/27/07 AND 07/25/07:

Convener Labhart said that everyone should have received copies for their review. A motion was made by Dale Buck to approve and sign the Minutes for June 27 and July 25, 2007. The motion was seconded by Rudy Fenk. The motion carried unanimously. The Conveners signed the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 3: REVIEW OF COLLABORATIVE PROCESS AFFIRMATION OF COOPERATION:

Convener Johnson said this meeting will seem to establish winners and losers but this is not the case. Convener Johnson asked for everyone's affirmation to work together. The projects will rank higher and lower but they are all good projects. Convener Johnson asked that everyone acknowledge with a signature, to continue to work together to address the problems. She asked for a public affirmation to stay in the process and work towards the November signing of the Declaration. Today she is asking for consideration of an affirmation of everyone's willingness to work together and to prioritize. There is a temptation to say "my project ranked 5 and I don't want to play anymore". She is hoping that no one will do that.

Convener Johnson read the Public Affirmation (see attached). There was no discussion. The Affirmation was send around the room for signature.

Convener Johnson asked that there only be discussion about the projects from the Project Team. No audience participation will be allowed.

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ITEM NO. 4: PRESENTATION OF WORK GROUP PROPOSALS AND PROJECT

TEAM VOTING: Dick Townsend described how the meeting will proceed. Barb Townsend passed around the attendance sheet.

Mr. Townsend said there are nineteen (19) projects which the Committees will present. There is a colored sheet for voting for each project. There will be a presentation about the project, a discussion period, then voting. Ms. Townsend and Wendy Yorkshire will tally the votes.

The voting sheets are attached to each project's Criteria Sheet. Each project will be ranked from one to five (1 – 5) in five (5) categories. Five being the worst.

Kathy Tortorici asked "what if we don't feel comfortable answering the question, do we pick a neutral number or don't answer the question"? Mr. Townsend said don't answer the question. He said to look at everything from a total perspective.

Convener Labhart said that there is one gentleman here today that he would like to acknowledge and that is Ray Naff from the Governor's office.

Mr. Naff said that the Governor is following this project with great interest. He receives updates regularly and has a deep appreciation for the leadership of Conveners Johnson and Labhart and for each participant here to lead us to solve this problem. There are a multitude of potential solutions to reduce flooding and this is the most significant project that Oregon Solutions has tackled. Oregon Solutions has made a commitment in this critically important issue to the economic health of this area. He gave his thanks on behalf of the Governor.

A) LAND USE WORK GROUP: Jon Carnahan said thanks to the group for their participation. They have identified ten (10) different projects that met the goals and ended up with four (4) for the Team to review.

1) Implement City and County Flood Mitigation Plans – Short Term: Implement City and County Flood Mitigation Plan using the following Scope of Work:

- i) Review City and County Flood Hazard Overlay Zone Ordinances for consistency with each other as well as with FEMA Flood Insurance Policy language. Make recommendations such as increasing the building elevation requirements from twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36).
- ii) Work with Federal and State agencies to assure that the County and City have the best infrastructure possible for flood mapping, utilizing the latest technology. (LIDAR)

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iii) Identify the highest and best use of vacant, deed restricted parcels. As part of the permit process, ensure cleanup of sites like the Dean property. Make recommendations for ways to reinstate and improve the community landscape.

iv) Coordinate peer review of engineering "No-Rise" Reports; hold workshops for records protection and maintenance in the flood zones and general education of flood mitigation for individual land owners to achieve the best Community Rating System score related to land use.

Length of time five (5) years. Estimated total cost Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) Dollars; One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars per year. No permits required. Funding sources: DLCDD, OPR, DEQ, OWEB, OECDD & others.

2) Comprehensive Community Vision & Strategic Plan – Long Term: Community vision and alternatives analysis that would produce long-term strategies, provide assistance and create land-use alternatives for re-locating potentially willing businesses out of harms way, with emphasis on maintaining their viability within the community.

Length of time two (2) years +. Estimated total cost One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars. No permits required. Funding sources: Federal, State and local agencies.

3) Implement Storm Water Management Plan – Long Term: To implement a City and develop a County-wide Storm Water Management Plan. The City's Storm Water Drainage Master Plan was prepared in October of 2004 by the LDC Design Group, Inc. and approved by the Tillamook City Council in November of 2005. The City's Storm Water Drainage Master Plan is a comprehensive, planning level document by which the City and other entities can prioritize and implement improvements to both the conveyance and the quality of the City's urban storm water runoff. The results of this Plan are numerous, and are depicted both in the written sections of the City's report and on the detailed maps that are included within the report. All of the recommended capital improvements will benefit the hydraulic capacity of the City's storm drainage infrastructure. Also, some of these capital improvement recommendations, plus the operations/maintenance and design guideline recommendations, will have a significant beneficial affect on the quality of the City's runoff that is discharged to the receiving water bodies.

Length of time two (2) + years. Estimated total cost Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand to Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand (\$885,000 - \$4,129,000) Dollars. Permits are required. Funding sources: City funds, bonds & SDCs.

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4) Study of Drainage/Diking District Issues – Long Term: Explore the feasibility of the formation of a Flood Control District which will include the watersheds of the Wilson, Trask and Tillamook Rivers. The goal will be to improve flood plain condition. Optimize the Watershed's hydrologic characteristics to move water from the uplands to the estuary decreasing conflicts with human habitation or development while improving the ecosystem. Specifically, identify, design and implement projects that delay runoff (e.g. flatten storm hydrographs), increase flood plain storage capacity and facilitate drainage where appropriate. Each of these projects will be done in a matter that is consistent with fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement.

Length of time three to five (3 – 5) years. Estimated cost One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars. No permits required. Funding sources: Federal, State and local agencies.

B) IN-STREAM WORK GROUP: Rick Klumph said that this was an active group. They were flooded with proposals. They prioritized thirteen (13) items. Twenty-two people attended, no more than fourteen (14) participated in the process. He thanked TEP who put the maps together.

1) Upper Basin Storage – Long Term: A long term phased project that would consider the feasibility and development of a water resource storage/management plan. Flood flow and storm water retention in Upper Basin Reservoirs would be managed to provide benefit during the summer when it is needed for beneficial purposes. Development of a Tillamook Water Resources Management Plan; Upper Basin Reservoir Storage/Flood Control System. The benefits would include; environmental (summer flow restoration), flood control, regional water supply for municipal, industrial, irrigation, power generation and recreation.

Length of time twelve (12) years. Total cost not given. Permits required. Funding sources: FEMA,. USACE, OWRD, grant options and others.

2) Maintenance Dredging – Long Term: Implement a Tillamook Bay Drainage Maintenance & Flood Structure Improvements Program to restore and maintain drainage systems to pre-1972 conditions and implement and maintain flood improvement structures to accelerate flood water drainage. The program is to protect people and property and sustain the economy and environment long term.

Length of time: begin in 2008. Total cost Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$750,000) Dollars. Permits required. Funding sources: Oregon Solutions, City of Tillamook, Tillamook County, drainage districts, ports and other groups.

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3) Bay Dredging (East Channel) – Long Term: (Purple on the map) Tillamook Bay sediment removal, phase 1, Tillamook Bay East Channel project. This proposal is to accelerate flood water momentum of discharge and hydrologic flows out of the Tillamook Basin flood plain, to the ocean. This proposal considers flood water management through decreased rise elevations and shorter duration flood water retention. This removes excessive siltation from the Tillamook Bay East Channel. The proposed project extends from the Trask River/Tillamook River confluence to Barview. Included would be sediment removal from approximately the lower one hundred (100) yards of the Trask River and two hundred (200) yards from the Wilson River. Enhanced flood water management, improved water quality, public safety and reduction of flood damage loss.

Length of time: four (4) years. Total cost: Fifty to Seventy Million (\$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000) Dollars. Permits required. Funding sources: Congressional, EPA, Coast Guard, Oregon Solutions leverage money, EDC and local work in-kind.

4) Bay Dredging (Multiple Sites) – Long Term: To restore volume & bathymetry and reduce flooding and the adverse impacts of flooding while incorporating environmental, social and economic values in the development of short and long term solutions.

Length of time: long time. Total cost: unknown. Permits required. Funding sources: Tillamook Port District, benefited businesses, US Government, State of Oregon.

5) Wilson River Dredging – Short Term: (Green on map, ten [10] tide gates): To restore volume & bathymetry to reduce flooding and the adverse impacts of flooding.

Length of time: one (1) year. Total cost: Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$750,000) Dollars. Permits required. Funding sources: Government & drainage district budgets.

6) Mediated Gravel Agreement/Stream Corridor Management Plan – Short Term: (Blue spots on map) The Agreement and Plan are an outgrowth of a moratorium on in-stream gravel extraction imposed in 1991 after the listing of Coho Salmon under the Endangered Species Act. The Mediated Agreement was entered into between various State agencies, local governments and aggregate producers in Tillamook County and included land use planning requirements and adoption of a Plan. In 1999 the Mediated Agreement was amended to address completion of the unfinished Stream Corridor Management Plan. A draft of the plan was completed in 2000, but an impasse was reached primarily due to concerns by DLCD. All other parties were willing to accept the Plan at that time. Since then the Plan has been rewritten and a new agreement prepared.

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Length of time: six (6) months. Total cost: Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars +/- No permits required. Funding sources: Oregon Solutions.

7) Wilson/Trask Spillway - Short Term: (Pink square on map) Install a spillway and tidegates with mitigator next to the ten (10) tidegates on the Tillamook Bay levee for added flood water drainage.

Length of time: one (1) year. Total cost: One hundred Twenty Thousand (\$120,000) Dollars +. Permits required. Funding solutions: Oregon Solutions.

8) Tone Road Spillway – Short Term: This proposal would install a second gated spillway gate just to the north of Tone Road, to convey nuisance level over bank Trask River flood waters from the Trask Drainage District.

Length of time: one (1) year. Total cost: Three Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$350,000) Dollars. Permits required. Funding sources: Trask Drainage District, NRCD assist in search, Oregon Solutions & OWEB.

9) Dougherty Slough Permanent Structure – Short Term: The Dougherty Slough permanent structure replaces the US Corps of Engineers temporary log dam at the headwaters of the slough/Wilson River. The NRCS proposed rock weir structure concept controls Wilson River flood waters, preventing the slough from becoming the river's main channel again and preventing flooding of City of Tillamook and North Main Avenue. (See NRCS concept drawing)

Length of Time: one (1) year. Total cost: Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000) Dollars +. Permits required. Funding sources: Oregon Solutions and partners.

10) Trask Hook – Short Term: Install a box culvert to remove the Trask River hook channel created when the new SR 131 Bridge was constructed over the Tillamook River. The old Trask River channel currently directs flood waters against the flow of the Tillamook River, in the Trask Drainage District. This creates a head wall of water, increasing flood water levels in the lower Trask Drainage District cell. This project removes the hook to allow flood waters to move freely into the Tillamook River, relieving some head pressure.

Length of Time: one (1) year. Total cost: Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars +. Permits required. Funding sources: USDA, RCDS to seek funding, Trask Drainage District committed Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) Dollars to previous design.

11) Wilson River Restoration – Short Term: (Pink line on map) Increase channel capacity of the lower Wilson River, from the mouth to RM 4.0, by combining the channel

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widening modification alternative with setback levees, riparian plantings and large wood structures to further decrease peak stage, lower water surface elevation, increase channel conveyance capacity and achieve ecosystem benefits. Setback levees should be set at a minimum distance of twenty-five (25) feet.

Length of time: three to ten (3 – 10) years. Total cost: unknown. Permits required. Funding sources: DSL, DLCD, Corps 404, section Rivers and Harbors Act, section 305(b) Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat, 401 water quality certification.

12) Old Trask Channel Restoration – Long Term: Increase capacity of Old Trask channel via widening and setback Trask and Stillwell levees. Combine channel widening modification alternative with setback levees, riparian planting sand large wood structures to further decrease peak stage, lower water surface elevation, increase channel conveyance capacity and achieve ecosystem benefits. Setback levees should be set at a minimum distance of twenty-five (25) feet.

Length of time: three to ten (3 – 10) years. Total cost: unknown. Permits required. Funding sources: DSL, DLCD, Corps 404, section Rivers and Harbors Act, section 305(b) Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat, 401 water quality certification.

13) Tomlinson Slough Connection/Restoration – Long Term: Reconnection of slough with setback levees and riparian plantings and large wood structures to further decrease peak stage, lower water surface elevation, increase channel conveyance capacity and achieve ecosystem benefits. Setback levees should be at a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet.

Length of Time: three to ten (3 – 10) years. Total cost: unknown. Permits required. Funding sources: DSL, DLCD, Corps 404, section Rivers and Harbors Act, section 305(b) Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat, 401 water quality certification.

C) ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FEASIBILITY STUDY WORK GROUP: Dale Buck asked that he have Doug Clarke review the potential projects for this group. Mr. Clarke said that Pete Dickerson from the Corps will show what modeling and the feasibility study can do for these projects.

1) Hall Slough Project – Long Term: This project would reconnect an historic slough to the Wilson River that became disconnected in the 1950s at the upstream end. Set back levees would also be constructed. Not only would it have flood reduction benefits of just

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under one (1) foot in the North Tillamook City area in nuisance floods, but it would also restore valuable salmon habitat and refugia as a result of the slough reconnection.

Length of time: five to seven (5 – 7) years. Total cost: Four to Seven Million (\$4,000,000 - \$7,000,000) Dollars. Permits required. Funding sources: Congressional, OWEB and local match.

Mr. Dickerson said that flood reduction concepts were federally funded through environmental allocations and did not focus merely on flood control.

Mr. Dickerson said that the Wilson River channel flows at twelve thousand (12,000 cfs) cubic feet per second during the annual flood. A one hundred (100) year flood would flow at approximately forty thousand (40,000 cfs) cubic feet per second and up. The gauge at the Narrows does not have the capacity to hold annual flood waters.

The waters need to get out of the Wilson River in a controlled manner into a channel or swale and all the way to the Bay. The Hall Slough alternative as seen in Figure 4 is designed as an overflow out of the Wilson River. It would cross under the Wilson River Loop Road Bridge and join with the Hall Slough channel. There would need to be excavation down to the Wilson River to accommodate tidal waters, set back levies with riparian plantings and a wider channel in some places.

Another solution would be to have water flow under Hwy 101. There is little capacity for the water to flow other than over Hwy 101. Elevating the highway on piers would allow water to flow underneath and have off ramps to the businesses. More modeling is required for this alternative. There is a need to get water from the east to the west side of Hwy 101. The railroad is also a hindrance

Both scenarios would cost Four to Seven Million (\$4,000,000 - \$7,000,000) Dollars. This represents the actual work but not the new bridge. ODOT would have to be significantly involved, if this project were to go ahead.

Highway 101 is a dam that keeps water from moving. It is a flat spot. Water flows out of the Wilson River, through fields and behind buildings and gets into a low spot at Dougherty Slough and then crosses Hwy 101. (See map of Tillamook Bay where red is high ground and green is low ground) Levees do not have to be removed as they are usable ninety (90%) percent of the time.

Convener Johnson asked that in light of this new information is this a project that is feasible. There was positive feedback. It was decided not to vote on this today until more information can be gathered. The Feasibility Study got the second highest vote for community acceptance.

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2) Modified Wetland Restoration & Swale – Long Term: This project implements the Modified Wetland Acquisition alternative presented in the Feasibility Study. The acquisition area consists of 375 acres of land forming a peninsula between the Trask and Wilson Rivers. Tillamook County purchased these properties with Federal grants (USFWS and NOAA) raised by TEP.

The dominant feature of this project is the construction of a new levee dividing the area roughly in half, east to west, separating a fully tidal area to the north with a flood storage area to the south. The full-time saltwater marsh to the north would be reconnected to the Wilson River by removing an earthen plug at Blind Slough, removing levee segments at several locations and creating an overflow from the left bank of Hall Slough. To the east of the wetlands acquisition area, a swale would be constructed from the project boundary eastward to a point to be determined, most likely Hwy 101 or the Averill's property boundary. (A swale is simply a large depression that would remain dry for most of the year. During flood conditions, storm water from the Hwy 101 business corridor and overflows from Dougherty and Hall Sloughs would end up in the swale and be swiftly evacuated to Tillamook Bay during the ebb tide. The swale would be located in fields used for grazing of dairy cattle. The project assumes this use would continue.)

The Feasibility Study team also discussed a muted tide concept, which would employ spillways at the western boundary of the property. Spillways may speed up the evacuation of flood waters during floods and if properly engineered, may improve habitats by allowing a partial tidal connection during dry periods. Spillways are also being discussed by the In-Stream Work Group.

Length of time: three (3) years. Total cost: Four Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$4,500,000) Dollars (in 2004), Permits required. Funding source: Sections 206, 536 of Water Resources Development Act and OWEB.

Mr. Dickerson referred to Figure 7 stating that the County owns the hatched area and areas south to the Trask River. This concept would turn the entire area to a saltwater marsh but did not have good community acceptance. There is no zero rise but it is a valuable storage area for flood water. This project would be more complex than what FEMA deals with. Risk analysis shows variability between tides and floods. This project would be easier to get a "no rise" certificate. There would be better benefits north of Blind Slough. This is out of the Corps range but if this was analyzed more, you may get more flood reduction.

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3) Other Corps of Engineers Recommendations: Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Clarke are here to see what the Project Team wants to explore further. There will be no voting on these projects.

Mr. Dickerson referred to another map showing Hwy 101 and buildings located along that road. He said that constraint must be used on the properties shown in orange that are owned by the City. They are available for open space. The concept would be to route the water out of the Wilson River down south then raise Hwy 101 or put in culverts to get the water from the east to the west side of Hwy 101. The blue area would be a swale. Take out the buildings and blacktop, and use the property to funnel water from the Wilson. During high floods this would protect businesses and publicly owned properties. These areas could also be used as parks during non-flood times. He said some flood insurance prevents certain uses and we need to get the most benefit to the public within limitations.

Convener Labhart reiterated that this would be a causeway on Hwy 101 from Hoquarten Slough to Dougherty Slough. There would be off ramps to the businesses so water flows under the highway. Another analysis to get water out to the Bay is to combine the wetland acquisition and then widen the Trask. It would work better if a wetland swale was already in place.

Convener Labhart said this is something to explore further. We will never solve the big floods. This is trying to get the water away from the businesses and out to the Bay. Tom Manning said he thinks it is a good idea but needs to heavily involve ODOT. Convener Labhart asked the question of the Project Team, "Do we go ahead with this?" There was affirmative response.

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VOTING RESULTS

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Convener Labhart observed that there was a two hundred (200) point spread amongst the projects.

ITEM NO. 5: OBSERVATIONS AND NEXT STEPS: Convener Labhart thanked Mr. Dickerson for being here today. He said he was scheduled for important stuff elsewhere. He also offered thanks to Mr. Clarke.

Convener Johnson said they will be getting this information out to you and start to figure out a preliminary idea for funding various projects. She gave thanks for the generous offer from the congressional folks to meet on the availability of federal funding opportunities. She is going to visit with the Oregon Solutions office this week to specifically address the continuity in staffing and figure out what to do with project management for the projects.

Richard Kirkava from Senator Wyden's office said that the Senator trusts local officials to make local decisions. He said that the Senator is pleased to see this process move forward with locals as we coalesce.

Fritz Graham from Senator Smith's office reiterated what Mr. Kirkava said stating that this is a complex problem and we are the only people who can solve it. We are saying what can fix this long term solution. This is a hard process.

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Convener Johnson said she appreciates both offices' involvement and their ability to leverage public, private, academic, corporate, philanthropic, State and Federal leverage.

Convener Labhart said we need to stay focused and engaged. He also thanked the Committee Chairs.

ITEM NO. 7: SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: Mr. Townsend said he would circulate some available dates to get a consensus of when everyone is available. He is suggested October 24th or 31st. He will e-mail everyone.

There being no further business Convener Labhart adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this ____ day of _____, 2007.

APPROVED BY:

Senator Betsy Johnson

Mark Labhart