

OREGON SOLUTIONS TILLAMOOK FLOOD PROJECT TEAM  
Minutes from January 30, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 by Senator Betsy Johnson. Those present introduced themselves. They were: Commissioner Labhart, Rick Klumph, Bob Gustavson, Bob McPheeters, Mark Gervasi, Doug Clarke, Denny Pastega, Judy Mammano for Bub Boquist, Geoff Roach, Vicki Goodman, Mark Trenholm, Shawn Reiersgaard, Paul Levesque, Larry McKinley, Laren Wooley, Dale Buck, Rudy Fenk, Chad Allen, Mark Ellsworth, Cathy Tortorici (by phone) and Staff Dick Townsend. Also attending were Greg Beaman, Orella Chadwick, Gus Meyer, Tilda Jones, Kathleen Didier, Ingrid Weisenbach, Ross Holloway, Andy White, Richard Krikava, Tracy Johnson, and Ken O'Toole.

Dale Buck moved approval of the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Senator Johnson discussed the Design Committee functioning as an executive committee for the Project Team. She stressed the importance of the Design Committee keeping the Project Team informed and up to date. Rick Klumph invited anyone to get in touch with him when there are questions. He will be happy to provide the answers. There being no objections, the Design Committee will function as an executive committee, effectively immediately.

Headlight Herald's Ken O'Toole took a picture of Co-conveners Labhart and Johnson, and Oregon Solutions' Dick Townsend with a ceremonial check for \$500,000.00. Senator Johnson explained that the real check is "in the mail," and that the amount is for ½ of the money appropriated by the Legislature for the Tillamook Flood Project. She recognized Representative Boone's efforts toward the funding. The money was sent by the state to Portland State, which houses Oregon Solutions, and will now come to Tillamook County to be held for agreed upon projects and leveraging other funds. Commissioner Labhart described how the County will serve as the fiscal agent, the money will be in a separate Oregon Solutions account, there will be no administrative charges, and all interest will stay in the account. Applause was given to Senator Johnson for procuring the funds.

Doug Clarke from the US Army Corps of Engineers explained the recent work with "Advance Measures." The main lessons learned in the initial assessment were that in locating spillways, the lower and wider, the better. The Corps however, cannot recommend the spillways as the affect is not significant enough to warrant the cost in the Corps' cost benefit analysis. Commissioner Labhart thanked the Corps, including Pete Dickerson and Jeremy Weber for all of their work, which involved changing their holiday plans to accommodate the time frame. Rick Klumph pointed out that the value of Advance Measures assessment was gaining the modeling necessary for the spillway projects. The cost of this assessment will not be borne by the Oregon Solutions Project. The County will now take the lead on the construction of the two spillway projects. Because the Governor has declared an emergency, they will be exempt from public procurement laws, and the design/construction would be done through a contract with Nehalem Marine. The design/build contract that includes engineering, will soon be

developed and presented to the Commissioners. Rudy Fenk asked about the type of soil in which the spillways will be built. He was assured that permitting agencies will be taken to the sites and that Larry McKinley would be “looking over the shoulder” to assist the county as work progresses. Doug Clarke has also offered Pete Dickerson to work with Paul Levesque on preliminary specifications and location of the spillways. It was noted that the new tidegates will be constructed behind the old levies so there will be little impact on the ocean side and a benefit to the environment and the flood issues on the other side. Rick Klumph added that the Design Team (Dale Buck, Mark Trenholm, Mark Gervasi, Paul Levesque, Chad Allen, Joy Vaughan, Robert Anderson, Doug Clarke, Larry McKinley and Rick Klumph) has had many meetings and worked hard on this project. Senator Johnson recognized the exceptional efforts of Rick Klumph who serves as the chair of the Design Committee.

Commissioner Labhart described the nature of the Oregon National Guard’s assistance to the flood mitigation efforts. The Guard will move into the 4H dorm at the fairgrounds on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will begin assessing their tasks on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Among their projects is clearing the road to the Tone Road Spillway site. They will also move the Dean dirt pile out of the floodway. Additionally they will be constructing the “foot print” for the new seating at the fairgrounds. Senator Johnson explained that it is due to the Governor’s order that we are fortunate to have General Caldwell and the Guard assisting us at this time.

There was some discussion concerning keeping track of in-kind efforts. Everyone should begin noting in-kind work as the projects progress. Mark Trenholm said it is important to identify the date, type and source of the in-kind work. Doug Clarke added that the key task that is being worked on must also be identified. Dick Townsend agreed to be the keeper of this information.

Rick Klumph then described the Trask Hook project as primarily a relief valve that will dump the Trask River flood water into the Tillamook River. Steve Blanton of Entrix is helping the Design Committee with this project. There is a new property owner who is open to allowing access to the property. The project has been scaled down from the original idea and will be out of ODOT right-of-way. Models will be run in order to give some project options.

Dick Townsend gave some background on Project Exodus. He described it as a combination of several other projects that are near Hwy 101 being combined to form one large project. He referred the group to a handout describing the different approaches to designing the project through the US Army Corps of Engineers. The recommended route will cost \$120,000.00, \$30,000.00 of which would be paid by Oregon Solutions Tillamook Project money. Judy Mammano asked why the Feasibility Study design is not being used. Doug Clarke explained that the project being contemplated is different from those in the Feasibility Study. There was discussion concerning whether the project was being designed for flood reduction. Chad Allen asked if there would still be grants available from federal sources if the Corps designs the project using the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program. Doug Clarke said that using the PAS program would

limit the Corps from financially helping with engineering and construction but, if the Corps does the project design they can continue to offer advice and can consult. Paul Levesque expressed concern about limiting the ability to get the needed money for what could be a \$20 million project. Doug Clarke explained that if they were directed by Congress, they could do some things eventually. Richard Krikava described the difficulties of getting Congressional earmarks, but added that there are accounts that do not “double dip” the Corps. The group agreed to move ahead on the PAS option.

Senator Johnson suggested that the Project Team wait to focus on the Comprehensive Community Vision and Strategic Plan project until some of the projects discussed today are underway. The group agreed to set this project aside for the near future.

Rudy Fenk asked about maintenance responsibilities for new structures such as the spillways. Paul Levesque explained which areas are the responsibility of the county and which are the responsibility of Drainage Districts. It was agreed that, once built, maintenance of proposed projects is a critical component.

Dick Townsend reported that it is time to diligently work on funding. He said there are many small grant opportunities available, but coordinating this might be difficult. There was talk of a “funding quarterback.” Senator Johnson said she may have someone in mind for that kind of task, but would like to discuss it with the potential QB before going further with this. Dick Townsend said he has begun applying for Congressional funding and is getting needed assistance from Richard Krikava. Cathy Tortorici suggested getting in contact with Mary McArthur, Megan Callahan, and Becky Atkinson for grant opportunities. Chad Allen asked if we will ask for money for specific projects or for the Oregon Solutions Tillamook project in general. Senator Johnson said “yes” to both. Chad Allen pointed to the importance of spelling out the plans with specific budget requirements and asking for money in increments to meet different pieces of the projects. Geoff Roach stated that the consensus that has already occurred with this group is a big step in the process and is essential to moving forward.

Tilda Jones explained how TBHEID has paid \$2,100.00 for the soil testing on the Dean dirt pile. Senator Johnson cited this as a good example of the partnership that has been forged by this process. Senator Johnson also explained that local entities will be used whenever possible as projects develop. Tilda Jones said TBHEID would like to be involved in the procurement and funding of equipment for projects. Senator Johnson said Paul Levesque would coordinate these efforts.

Dick Townsend reported that Turner Odell, Natural Resources Program Manager of the Oregon Consensus Program will be finishing an assessment of the Gravel Agreement in the next ten days.

Tracy Johnson asked for clarification on funding mechanisms for the spillway design/construction. Paul Levesque explained that the Design Committee would be agreeing on the amount to spend and that they hoped to be “turning dirt” in 30-45 days.

Senator Johnson reminded everyone of the importance of a sense of urgency and keeping the momentum on the fast track. She then suggested that Dick Townsend email possible dates for the next project team meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30.