

Oregon Solutions Team

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Columbia River Levee Repair and Accreditation Project

Draft Meeting Notes

Oregon Solutions TAC Website

<http://orsolutions.org/osproject/columbia-levee-project-technical-advisory-committee>

February 23, 2015

Meeting Objectives:

- To discuss response to the Peninsula Drainage District No. 1 (PEN 1) Board memo and next steps for Railroad Embankment Subcommittee.

Brief Meeting Summary

- The PEN 1 Board wrote a memo to the Oregon Solutions Team requesting that evaluations be conducted to assess environmental and economic values to inform alternatives development for the railroad embankment. The Railroad Embankment Subcommittee responded by cancelling its last meeting and waiting for further discussion with the PEN 1 Board and guidance from the Oregon Solutions Team to determine timing, process and next steps.
- Discussion around the option to explore the railroad embankment as a levee. Clarification is needed on how to discuss the infrastructure within this area (west end of PEN 1) and distinguish between the following:
 - USACE's investments in securing that section of the levee through the RIP program and authorized projects
 - Cornforth's assessment of the current geotechnical deficiencies within this area
 - The railroads' interest in not having the railroad embankment act as a levee going forward
- Both MCDD and USACE are working to uncover additional information around the railroad structure's functional and political history and potential future condition.
- An executive summary of the additional analysis by Cornforth Consulting and WEST Consultants is being developed and will be available at the March 3rd Oregon Solutions Team meeting (previewed at the January 2015 TAC meeting).
- At the March 16, 2015 TAC meeting, it would be helpful to hear an update on climate change models from USACE and USGS. Specifically, USACE is working to develop a scope and methodology to calculate sea level rise. Additionally, USGS has been working on climate models and has found a potential for a decrease in snowpack and change in peak river elevations, which could mean global warming does not cause an increase in flood risk for our region—need to get a handle on different scenarios. Either agency will require funding and contracts to complete climate change modeling work.
- Utilities companies continue to participate in order to understand implications for encroachments and their current and future siting decisions.

Meeting Participants (by phone)

Interim Steering Committee: Mike Stuhr (City of Portland, Water Bureau) and Christine Svetkovich (DEQ)

TAC Members: Eileen Argentina (PP&R), Ken Willhite (Port of Portland), Mike Moran (Metro), Doug Morgen (BDS), Jeremy Britton (USACE), Lance Helwig (USACE), Mandy O'Hara (MCDD), Nancy Hendrickson (City of Portland, BES), Sheila Holden (PacifiCorp), Thomas Braibish (ODOI) and Brock Nelson (Union Pacific), David O'Longaigh (Portland Bureau of Transportation) and Christine Shirley (DLCD)

Facilitation Team: Rick Mogren and Julia Babcock

Other Attendees: Tom Archer (PBS Consultants), Gary Kunz (East Columbia NA), Karen Stewart (Century Link) and Ron Delp