

Bradford Island Community Involvement Program

Community Involvement Committee (CIC)

Meeting Summary

Monday, October 23, 2006

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Bonneville Dam Auditorium

Cascade Locks, Oregon

CIC Members Present: Tom Jermann, City of North Bonneville; Rachael Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper

CIC Members Not Present: Ralph Hesgard, Mayor, City of Cascade Locks; Paul Pearce, Skamania County Commissioner; Lynne Kononen, Cascade Locks Planning Commission; Scott McEwen, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership; Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development Council; Diana Ross, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; and Ryan Sudbury, Nez Perce Tribe

Project Team Members Present: Mark Dasso, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mike McAleer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Bob Schwarz, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; John Hoey, Jones & Stokes; Meg O'Leary, Jones & Stokes

Audience: Frank Salber, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting facilitator, John Hoey of Jones & Stokes, thanked everyone for their participation. John reviewed the agenda and CIC meeting ground rules. CIC members and project staff introduced themselves.

Project Update

Mark Dasso stated that the design for the Non-Time Critical Removal (Early Action) in-water dredging has reached 95 percent, and the Biological Assessment phase is nearly complete. It is anticipated that the Biological Opinion will be issued in February 2007. Research continues on the Section 106 Cultural Resources analysis.

The dredging will be conducted in October 2007, rather than February 2007 as originally planned. Conditions in October are more conducive to doing the in-water work effectively and safely (i.e., lower flows, slower currents).

The project team is at work on a risk assessment/feasibility study. A work plan for the Bradford Island remedial investigation will be available for review by February 2007.

Definitions:

A *Biological Assessment* is a document prepared for the Endangered Species Act Section 7 process to determine whether a proposed major construction activity under the authority of a Federal agency is likely to adversely affect listed species, proposed species, or designated critical habitat.

A *Biological Opinion* states the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries Service on whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.

Long-Term CIC Function and Structure

Members were asked how they view the long-term function and structure of the CIC. The discussion was intended to cover a possible transition to self-facilitation and future roles and responsibilities, but due to the low attendance, the group decided to focus on confirming membership and determining the level of commitment of CIC members. Comments and questions included:

- Lack of attendance at CIC meetings is a challenge; membership has dropped to eight.
- Members wonder about the CIC time commitment. Is the USACE asking for one year? Two years?
- Given that the second CIC meeting (September 18, 2006) was well attended and productive, one member wondered why attendance was so low for the third meeting.
- Perhaps fact sheets could take the place of more regular CIC meetings.
- USACE is willing to distribute Bradford Island fact sheets at other local and regional public meetings to increase project outreach.
- Consider contacting all CIC members to assess commitment and interest in future participation.
- Perhaps existing members could refer new members to fill vacant seats.
- One member wondered how much there really is to comment on. It seems as though the USACE is simply reporting what they have already decided.

Community Involvement Activities

John provided a follow-up from the September CIC meeting and reviewed options for public information materials such as small FAQs and posters that are easy to email and distribute.

Key Messages

John asked members what format(s) would be most appropriate and useful and what key messages or issues should be highlighted in project materials.

Responses included:

- Include health risk factors.
- Include information about shellfish advisories.
- One team member reminded the group that USACE is not allowed to issue official health risk information; that is the job of the Health Department.
- People are interested and concerned about fish consumption, yet no official statements exist. Neither DEQ nor the Health Department has answers at this point.
- Consider including information about water-borne contaminants.
- Provide brief project background information and combine it with the timeline.
- Provide context and comparisons for toxicity levels. For example, how do the levels found compare to standard regulatory levels?
- Include website and contact information.
- Focus on single, simple format that is easy to hand out or email.
- No posters necessary, just a brochure/fact sheet.
- Consider 8.5"x11" tri-fold brochure/fact sheet.
- No mailing panel needed.
- Include color and photos if possible.

Wrap-up

The committee decided it best to poll all CIC members to determine the reasons for low attendance at the meetings. John will call members and assess their level of interest and availability to participate in future CIC meetings. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2006. Members will be asked to review the draft brochure/fact sheet format and content.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.