

Bradford Island Community Involvement Program

Community Involvement Committee (CIC) Meeting Summary

**Wednesday, February 7, 2007
6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Bonneville Dam Auditorium
Cascade Locks, Oregon**

CIC Members Present: Rachael Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper; Matt Burlin, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership; Darrell Driver, Cascade Locks City Council

CIC Members Not Present: Tom Jermann, City of North Bonneville; Paul Pearce, Skamania County Commissioner; Lynne Kononen, Cascade Locks Planning Commission; Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development Council; Ryan Sudbury, Nez Perce Tribe

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

Audience: Frank Solber and Brian McCavitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Welcome and Introductions

John Hoey began the meeting and led a round of introductions for attendees. In attendance were three CIC members, three staff members from the Corps of Engineers, and 2 Jones & Stokes consultants. John provided an overview of the Bradford Island project community involvement program for the benefit of Darrell Driver, a new CIC member representing the City of Cascade Locks.

Project Update

Mark Dasso, the Corps' project manager for the Bradford Island investigation and cleanup, provided a quick overview of the project status. The short-term focus is on sediment removal and dredging along the northeast side of Bradford Island. Electrical equipment that was dumped in the water near Bradford Island in the late 1960's or early 1970's was removed in 2002. Post-removal sediment samples indicate river sediment is contaminated with PCBs. A contractor has prepared plans and specifications for the cleanup. The Corps must complete Endangered Species Act review of the proposed cleanup action with two federal agencies. A Biological Assessment has been completed and is awaiting a

concurrence letter (if the federal agencies agree with the proposed actions), or a Biological Opinion (if the agencies disagree with the proposed actions). The Corps will then prepare an Action Memo and proceed with the cleanup. The Corps will issue a bid for the cleanup work in March 2007, and a contract will be awarded in June 2007. Dredging is scheduled to begin in October 2007, and will take 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

The longer-term action at Bradford Island is a Remedial Investigation for the entire site, including a risk assessment for human and environmental health. River sampling for risk assessment is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007. The overall remedial investigation is expected to take 3 to 5 years to complete. The results of the investigation will recommend final remedial actions for Bradford Island.

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.

Review of Draft Bradford Island Fact Sheet

The primary focus for the CIC is to get the word out to the local communities about the PCB contamination at Bradford Island, the associated risk factors, and the Corps' proposed cleanup efforts. Jones & Stokes has prepared a draft brochure-style fact sheet for distribution throughout the local communities. The focus of the fact sheet is on the risk factors associated with the PCB contamination, especially related to fish consumption. The CIC reviewed the draft fact sheet and provided the following comments:

- The Corps should consider producing the fact sheet in other languages for the different populations in the vicinity that may be fishing in the river around Bradford Island. Matt Burlin stated that the City of Portland Columbia Slough project is a good example of a similar project that produced communication materials in other languages. He offered to provide examples or a point of contact for that project.
- The fact sheet should be made available electronically.
- Provide a link to the fact sheet via local Web sites.
- "Forebay" and "Anadromous" may not be familiar words; consider revising these.
- Include more detail (i.e., quantities) for fish consumption guidelines.

- The front panel “title” needs to stand out more. The purpose of the fact sheet should be very clear (i.e., risk factors); consider removing words “fact sheet” and increasing font size for “cleanup” or “contamination”.
- Distinguish relative risks for baking vs. frying fish.
- Clarify whether PCBs are actually tasteless (Bob Schwarz/DEQ will check on this).
- Revise or remove the “risk thermometer”; consider focusing on ingestion and just briefly mention other means of exposure (inhalation and direct contact).
- Consider replacing the thermometer with a large colored arrow indicating the relative risks.
- Consider replacing blue area indicating “in-river contamination” on inside bottom right panel with red to indicate contamination and risk.
- Make sure fact sheet reads well when printed in black and white.
- Under “Shellfish Advisories,” Department should be capitalized.
- Notify Oregon Department of Health agency contacts that they are listed on the fact sheet to ensure their cooperation.
- Update listed Web links.
- Clarify relation of Bonneville Dam to Bradford Island in “Introduction”.
- Consider including a link to fact sheets in other languages.
- The Bradford Island photo on the inside left panel is reversed.

Fact Sheet Next Steps

- Jones & Stokes will work with the Corps to edit the fact sheet and will distribute the revised draft to the CIC for final approval.
- The final fact sheet will be printed and distributed to CIC members in March 2007.
- A PDF version will be made available to committee members for easy electronic distribution to other interested parties.
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Fact Sheet Distribution Methods

John asked the committee members to identify potential distribution methods for the fact sheet and number of copies that they would like to distribute.

- The Corps plans to distribute the fact sheet via email to their stakeholder list.
- River Keepers will need about 100 hard copies for their information packets.
- The Corps should consider sending a press release to local newspapers (Portland, North Bonneville, Stevenson, etc.) announcing the availability of the fact sheet.
- Place copies in libraries, post offices, city halls, visitor centers, local hotels, etc.
- Make copies available at local fishing/tackle shops, docks, and boat ramps.

Other Potential Communication Materials

John asked the committee members to identify any other potential communication materials that could be produced as part of a long-term community outreach effort.

- Consider multi-lingual outreach to Asian, eastern European, and Spanish-speaking communities (e.g., Vietnamese, Russian, Spanish).
- Matt has a contact at the City of Portland for translation services.

Long-Term CIC Function and Structure

John facilitated a discussion of the long-term function and structure of the CIC, asking committee members about their ongoing interest and commitment to serving on the CIC, and asking about the ideal size and function of the committee for the long-term. The committee's main focus in the short-term is on distributing outreach materials to local communities prior to a fall 2007 public open house. One committee member suggested that two key questions are "what remains to be done by CIC members?" and "what level of involvement is necessary?" The Corps should consider soliciting the mayor or a city council member from each local community to attend the CIC meetings. Cascade Locks has had attendance of the mayor and a city council member. North Bonneville has had attendance from a city planner. Stevenson has had no representation on the CIC. John will follow up directly with CIC members who have not been involved in recent meetings. If they are not interested in continuing participation on the committee, he will ask them for recommendations regarding CIC member replacements.

Next Steps/Wrap-up

- Jones & Stokes will distribute the revised fact sheet for final CIC approval.
- Jones & Stokes will print the final fact sheet in March 2007.
- Jones & Stokes will initiate email check-in with CIC members in April/May 2007.
- Possible CIC meetings will be held in spring and summer, prior to fall 2007 public meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.