



# CAPITOL LAKE — DESCHUTES ESTUARY

Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

## Meeting Notes Summary

**Date:** April 15, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1500 Jefferson St., Olympia, WA

**Topic:** Executive Work Group Meeting

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### Meeting Participants

#### *Work Group Members*

- Jeff Dickison, Squaxin Island Tribe
- John Hutchings, Thurston County
- Pete Kmet, City of Tumwater
- Chris Liu, Department of Enterprise Services
- Cynthia Pratt, LOTT Board Member
- E.J. Zita, Port of Olympia

#### *Department of Enterprise Services*

- Bill Frare
- Carrie Martin

#### *EIS Facilitators/Consultants*

- Tessa Garner-Brown, Floyd|Snider
- Jessi Massingale, Floyd|Snider
- Meaghan McClure, Envirolssues

#### *Observers*

- John DeMeyer
- Steve Shanewise, DELI
- Sue Patnude, DERT

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Jessi welcomed Executive Work Group (EWG) members to the meeting and noted the next meeting will be in June, generally continuing the quarterly schedule. She referenced the agenda and other materials and encouraged members to participate throughout the discussion.

#### *Community Sounding Board Update*

Tessa updated the group about progress in forming the Community Sounding Board (CSB), which includes completing recruitment and the first CSB meeting. The recruitment process resulted in 69 unique applicants from the greater Olympia area. Applicants identified their primary and

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secondary interests from 13 general categories. We received applications with primary interests in each of these categories, a good indicator of the diversity of interests. Most applicants were from Olympia, but the overall geographic diversity was good.

A neutral third-party facilitator completed the first six steps of the review of applications as follows:

- Sorted by representation first (organization or personal interest): to ensure those organizations that have engaged in the past are part of the CSB
- Sorted by interests: to ensure diverse representation of all 13 categories
- Reviewed narrative responses describing why applicants were interested in the CSB: to further ensure a diversity of interests; focused on the representation of community interests not technical background (which is the role of the Technical Work Group)
- Considered geography and gender (inferred)
- Facilitator recommended a list of 22 applicants.
- Enterprise Services reviewed the recommendations and selected the final 25 participants.

Tessa reviewed the CSB charter that establishes roles and responsibilities, clarifies authority and summarizes expected outcomes. In the charter, operational protocols are also established.

The first CSB meeting occurred on April 8, 2019, with 22 of 25 members in attendance. It included a brief project overview to ensure all participants have similar baseline knowledge, review of the charter and discussion of the Measurable Evaluation Process (MEP). Generally, positive responses were received following the presentation of the MEP, with insightful suggestions and observations to consider.

All participating generally agreed to function under the draft charter, with minor revisions forthcoming. A final charter will be posted to the project website when available.

No public comments were provided orally or submitted in writing.

Carrie Martin agreed it was a productive meeting and expressed gratitude for community members interested in the process. The list of CSB participants is posted on the project website.

## ***Measurable Evaluation Process***

The EIS project team has developed a MEP to assist in developing a range of alternatives for the EIS analysis, comparing the alternatives and ultimately identifying a preferred alternative. This allows for transparency in the process and ensures we are measuring the alternatives in an objective manner.

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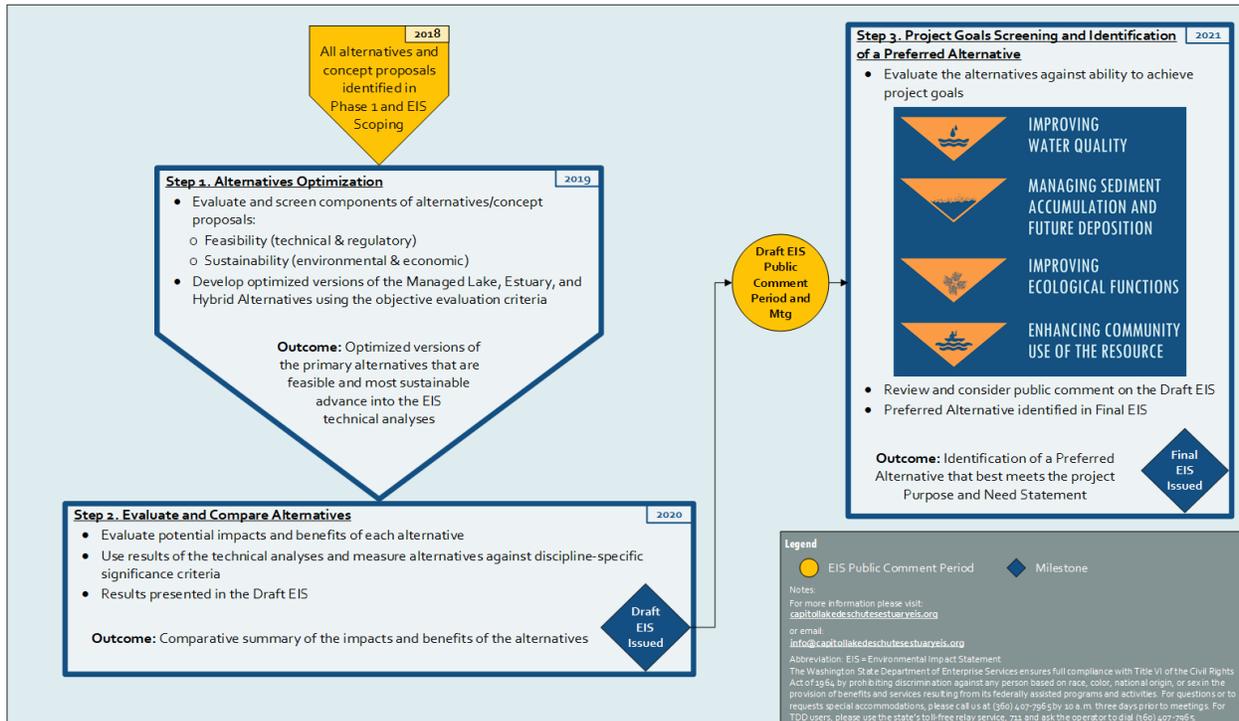
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Tessa referenced a flowchart (below) illustrating this three-step process. The plan was to focus on step one at this meeting and introduce how steps two and three will function in future phases.



In step one, the team will look at all alternatives and concepts and break them down to their separate components to understand their feasibility and sustainability. This process will identify optimized alternatives (estuary, hybrid, managed lake) using objective evaluation criteria that will be carried forward for analysis in the EIS.

Step 1 has a number of benefits:

- Avoids the potential for eliminating an alternative because one component doesn't work
- Screens out components that are not feasible or are not environmentally or economically sustainable
- Compares components to construct the best version of each alternative type (estuary, hybrid, managed lake)
- Ensures responsible expenditure of project funds by limiting alternatives analyzed in the EIS.

Jessi added there has been interest in evaluating various alternatives while others asked that the EIS be mindful of not carrying forward numerous alternatives. This approach balances these two types of feedback.

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Tessa explained that components would first be evaluated against the two feasibility criteria (technical and regulatory). Those determined to be feasible would then be evaluated against the two sustainability criteria (environmental and economic). Tessa described the criteria as summarized below.

Evaluation Criteria	Rating Scale	Notes
<b>Technical Feasibility</b>	High Medium Low	A component is considered technically feasible (1) if there are no apparent technical or logistical obstacles that would prevent the component from being constructed and maintained and (2) if there is technical uncertainty, it is at an acceptable level based on current, standard engineering practices.
		A component is considered to have regulatory feasibility if (1) permits and approvals could be secured within project schedule and budget and (2) it is within Enterprise Services' jurisdiction to implement and there are no legal protections on land, or other similar restrictions that could affect the feasibility.
<b>Regulatory Feasibility</b>		
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	High Medium Low Unknown	A component will support an environmentally sustainable outcome if it would provide net environmental benefits over a 30-year horizon, considering relative contribution to project goals.
		A component will support an economically sustainable outcome if it would be cost-effective in meeting the project goal. A proposed approach is considered cost-effective if its present value life-cycle costs over a 30-year time horizon are low relative to other proposed approaches within the same project component.
<b>Economic Sustainability</b>		

*EWG question: When you say "we" will evaluate, who do you mean?*

The EIS project team of interdisciplinary consultants and Enterprise Services.

Jessi added that today's presentation will be posted on the project website and shared with the EWG.

Tessa explained how feasibility would consider each component independently while sustainability would evaluate components relative to each other.

Jessi clarified that this process was developed by leveraging the experiences of the EIS project team's technical staff on other EIS project's.

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*EWG question: Do you expect that two components might have the same rating?*

Yes, that is something the team anticipates. There might be redundancy, and in that case, the two components would be analyzed individually. These criteria will help understand the components of alternatives, not alternatives directly.

Tessa introduced a table (below) describing how outcomes will be represented as an overall rating. She added that this process includes an option to come back to the evaluation if information changes.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Rating Scale</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Overall Rating</b>	Green Yellow Orange	Green = Achieved the highest rating and no low ratings. Yellow = Received a mixture of high and medium ratings, and/or one low rating. Orange = Received two or more low ratings, and/or the lowest rating overall.
<b>Selected for Optimized Alternative</b>	✓ / ×	✓ = Selected based on results of the evaluation. × = Not selected based on results of the evaluation.
<b>Component Rating Confirmed</b>	Y / N	(To be completed following technical analyses) Y = Yes, component is considered feasible and sustainable, based on current design, best available science, and EIS Project Team review. N = No, component has failed feasibility and sustainability review.

Tessa presented a sample step one matrix and explained how the EIS project team will sort through the alternatives to populate the list of components. An example, transitioning the south and central basin into wetlands is proposed under a managed lake scenario. When evaluated, it may be highly feasible and sustainable, so it could become a component of the optimized managed lake alternative. There will be a results table completed for each of the three alternatives.

The EIS project team will complete these matrices and be transparent throughout this process.

*EWG question: A component could be part of multiple alternatives?*

Tessa said yes, a component could be part of multiple alternatives. She noted the idea of cross-pollination also came up in the CSB discussion. Jessi explained this topic is on the agenda for the

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April 16 Technical Work Group meeting adding that the US Army Corps of Engineers will also be participating in the meeting to discuss the concept of regulatory feasibility.

*EWG question: If the sub-components change, could you end up with additional alternatives?*

Cross-pollination of components across various alternatives may occur, but optimized versions of the four primary alternatives (estuary, hybrid, managed lake, no-action) will move into the EIS.

*EWG question: Are these the actual components you plan to evaluate?*

Today's list was developed after an initial review and is a general example which will be expanded upon for each alternative. The EIS project team wanted to share this process with the CSB and Work Groups before starting to evaluate. The evaluation has not begun.

*EWG comment: I don't see sediment management on the list.*

It will be, the EIS project team has not included all components in this presentation and example.

*EWG question: Under water quality would there be a number of components that add up to that water quality approach?*

Yes, that is correct.

*EWG question: Does the CSB have any input into this process?*

They were asked globally about how they feel about this process and their response was generally positive.

*EWG question: You received feedback from the CSB, but they aren't involved in decision-making?*

Yes, that is correct. The technical leads from the EIS project team will be conducting the analysis.

*EWG question: Does the topic of sediment management in the region include Budd Inlet?*

Budd Inlet is included but that is an example of how the analysis will vary because the approaches to sediment management vary depending on the alternative.

*EWG question: How was 30 years decided on as a timeframe for evaluating sustainability? Is that the same timeframe used in previous evaluations?*

Jessi explained how the EIS project team established 30 years as the time horizon for both criteria to be generally consistent with other EIS projects and what's appropriate with regard to economics, engineering and design. **Jessi will follow-up with the time horizon used for CLAMP to see how it compares. (Note – the time horizon used for the alternative cost evaluation in 2008 and 2009 was a period of 50 years.)** Tessa added that the EIS project team wanted to ensure the time horizon encompassed the establishment period for restoration activities and avoids being speculative.

*EWG comment: Sea level rise projections are studied out to 2050, which is the 30-year time horizon.*

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*EWG question: Are you boiling economic sustainability down to only cost?*

No, we are not. We worked with those that will be leading the economic analysis and this will look at both benefits and costs so it is a holistic look of benefits and returns.

*EWG comment: Thinking of this in terms of financing, I could envision scenarios where the lowest cost strategy is not the easiest to pay for. Has that been accounted for in your characterization?*

Yes, that discussion has been led by our economist. What are the costs and what are the benefits realized from those costs, and how do those transition over time? In the next step, when we have well defined optimized alternatives, we will also consider economic benefits by alternative. **Jessi will follow up with some additional information around the terminology.**

*EWG question: Have you reached out to the Economic Development Council?*

**Not yet, Jessi will follow-up with Enterprise Services about this.**

Tessa revisited the MEP process graphic including the optimized versions. In Step 2, the EIS project team will move the optimized alternatives into the technical analyses and present the results in a comparative summary of impacts and benefits. Those results will be provided in the Draft EIS for public comment. The Final EIS will reflect review of those comments and the alternatives will be rescreened against the project purpose and need statement to identify the alternative that meets the goals of the project (preferred alternative).

## *Third-Party Review*

Carrie explained that Enterprise Services has heard consistently that certain technical elements should be reviewed by third-party technical experts. Enterprise Services agrees it is important to ensure the EIS uses industry-recognized best practices and includes a reasonable level of analysis. Carrie sent a request to the members of all three Work Groups for recommendations. We'll be looking for neutral and objective reviewers who are recognized technical experts in their disciplines but have not worked on the project or in the project area before. Reviewers will be asked to check the reasonableness of assumptions and will peer review methodologies and assumptions.

*Question from EWG: Are you still looking for candidates?*

Not at this time, but we will know more as the responses come in. We are looking for two third-party reviewers for each of three disciplines (water quality, hydrodynamics and sediment modeling, and economics).

Reviewers will conduct two separate reviews, first reviewing the methodology and later the draft discipline reports. They also may be called upon if questions arise during the analysis.

Enterprise Services will be reviewing applications this week and looking forward to having a third-party review.

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*EWG comment: This is going to help the process so much and strengthen community support of the outcome.*

Carrie said Enterprise Services wants the outcome to be strong and added that they have independent reviewers from outside the state.

*EWG question: Who should we send recommendations to?*

Please send any recommendations to Carrie Martin.

*EWG question: Do you have a hydrogeologist?*

Water quality applicants include a limnologist, and for sediment transport we've reached out to specialists in geomorphology and similar areas of expertise.

## ***Water Quality Methodology***

The water quality methodology is being developed now. We are fortunate to have the wealth of water quality data available that the analysis will rely heavily on. Starting in December, the EIS project team reached out to TWG members who have been great about providing what existing data they are aware of or has been collected by their agencies.

In addition, we are planning some additional water quality sampling in Capitol Lake between May and October this year.

*EWG question: What is the timeframe you are aiming for?*

Late-May is when we want to start, but it could be delayed due to Ecology's spill response and cleanup activities. Sampling would continue through the end of October.

## ***Upcoming Project Activities***

Jessi explained the EIS project team is developing multiple methodology memos that we will overview with the EWG and TWG in June. TWG members have been very helpful in sharing data and reports that increase our efficiency. We are very appreciative of their assistance.

We are working to conduct a bathymetric survey of Capitol Lake, which was last surveyed in 2013. We are planning to do that soon but the survey can only be conducted following completion of Ecology's spill response activities. This work will help us understand the lake depth and the amount of sediment entering the lake between 2013 and 2019. This information will inform the sediment transport modeling and the volumes of dredging that may be required.

Water quality sampling will start soon, and sediment sampling will occur in the fall. Potential recreation surveys in summer will help us understand how people are using this resource, where they are coming from, and how they would like to use the resource – all of which informs the economic analysis.

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We have also had coordination calls with USGS. It has been very helpful to connect with those who did sediment modeling in the past relative to existing data and lessons learned.

We are also coordinating an EIS consultant team site visit.

*EWG question: How are you conducting recreational surveys considering multiple activities are restricted?*

The team is meeting later this month to discuss the goals and methodology and will follow-up with more details in June.

*EWG question: Is there going to be any sampling done to verify sediment distribution in Budd Inlet?*

The EIS team is still developing the sediment modeling methodology, and coordinating with other agencies to collect existing information and understand how to move forward with the analysis. We do have access to past bathymetric data for the navigation channel.

EWG question: Are potential recreation surveys limited to the lake?

We anticipate the surveys won't be limited to just the lake area.

*EWG question: Have you contacted anyone from LOTT about water quality sampling?*

Yes, we have connected with LOTT and have data from older studies. However, we don't have resources in our scope/budget to do water quality sampling in Budd Inlet.

*EWG question: Will these slides be available to the public?*

Yes, the presentation will be posted online.

*EWG comment: I am struck with how well you are handling this process. It is incredibly complex, and you are thinking it through at a deep-level.*

It is a fascinating project, full of interconnected issues.

### ***Upcoming EWG Meeting***

The intention for scheduling meetings is to align with the workflow of the EIS process to ensure the best use of your time and our ability to bring substantive content to each meeting. The team will meet with the TWG on April 16, and we think it will work best to meet with the TWG and EWG next in early June. The team will not be meeting with FGWG this quarter but will continue to coordinate with teaming partners regarding the economic analysis methodology and will also be meeting with the FGWG in June.

Jessi led a discussion about the group's availability during two identified days that work well for the EIS project team. A few EWG members had preferences, but no date was identified. **Jessi will send a Doodle poll to identify a date that works for the majority.**

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## ***Round-Table Feedback***

Jessi asked for constructive feedback of what had been presented so far. The EIS project team is working towards providing materials prior to meetings to allow time for EWG members to review materials in advance.

*EWG question: How is the spill in the lake affecting this EIS process?*

Ecology is doing some shoreline sampling and clean up in the area and based on our coordination we will not be able to conduct water quality sampling or the bathymetric survey until cleanup actions are completed. We believe due to the nature of the spill, Ecology's sampling is focusing on PCBs and hydrocarbons, where our EIS sediment sampling will include a more comprehensive analyte list.

*EWG question: What about testing for PHAS which tend to be used in cleanup processes?*

That is a good question. We have been in touch with the Ecology lead for the spill response and will ask them about the cleanup methodology and what/if chemicals are being used.

*EWG question: How will the USACE participate in the TWG?*

They will participate on equal standing with other TWG members, but they will focus on the regulatory feasibility aspect.

## ***Public Comment***

Steve Shanewise thanked the facilitators for finishing up in an hour and a half.

Sue Patnude asked about including sea level rise in the analysis process.

Tessa explained that sea level rise is one of the key things to be evaluated during Step 2, whereas Step 1 is for assembling features of the alternatives.

Sue then asked about sediment management of wetlands in the south basin. She wondered if the team would analyze the management of saltwater and freshwater wetlands differently and look at the value of each in the context of greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration.

Tessa emphasized that the wetlands and vegetation methodologies are being developed right now.

Sue stated relative to the sediment management process - what could be a restored estuary and how that sediment might help with capping toxic sites and how over time that would build into cleaner sediment.

Tessa replied that this something the EIS project team is considering.

## ***Adjourn***

Jessi called the end of the meeting at 2:30 p.m.