



## Meeting Notes Summary

**Date:** January 10, 2019

**Time:** 9 to 11 am

**Location:** Jefferson Building

**Topic:** CLLDW EIS: Technical Work Group Meeting

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### Meeting Participants

#### *Work Group Members*

- Holly Borth, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Matthew Curtis, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Lisa Dennis-Perez, LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Andy Haub, City of Olympia
- Brad Murphy, Thurston County
- Laurie Pierce, LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Joy Polston-Barnes, Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
- Leanne Weiss, Department of Ecology (Ecology)

#### *Department of Enterprise Services*

- Debra Delzell
- Kevin Dragon

#### *EIS Consultants/Facilitators*

- Tessa Gardner-Brown, Floyd|Snider
- Karmen Martin, ESA
- Jessi Massingale, Floyd|Snider
- Ray Outlaw, EnviroIssues

#### *Others*

- Dave Peeler, DERT
- John DeMeyer CLIPA/Olympia Yacht Club
- Bub Wubbena, CLIPA
- Jack Havens, CLIPA

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- Sue Patnude, DERT

## Meeting Notes Summary

### *Welcome and Introductions*

Jessi Massingale welcomed the group to the Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting and led a round of introductions.

### *Agency Coordination*

Jessi welcomed the new work group participants from LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Going forward LOTT will be represented on all three work groups. DAHP will participate in the TWG providing expertise around cultural resources and historic properties. The Port of Olympia is reassessing staff assignments. The Port's new executive director arrives on Jan. 22 and will be making assignments after that date. The project team is ensuring Commissioner Zita and others are up to speed during this transition. Port participants are expected by the next round of work group meetings. Commissioner John Hutchings will join the Executive Work Group (EWG) as Thurston County's new representative.

Over the last month, the project team participated in or has scheduled agency coordination meetings with each agency represented on the TWG to identify agency programs and/or projects with a nexus to the EIS (environmental impact statement). The goal is to ensure the project team is well aware of this information when moving forward with the EIS. Jessi thanked the group for staffing these meetings and helping maximize and leverage existing data.

Meetings have been completed with Port of Olympia, LOTT, Olympia, WDFW, WDNR, US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and DAHP. Meetings with Tumwater and Thurston County are scheduled for the week of January 14.

The Corps is not routinely participating in the TWG due to resource limitations but will be a resource going forward through guidance and materials sharing.

The project team also reached out to the US Geological Survey (USGS) but has not yet received a response.

### *Scoping Comments and Initial EIS Scope*

Jessi explained the project team will present major scoping comment themes and content (see presentation) that will be reflected in the upcoming scoping report. Moving forward, this format is how the project team will approach sharing information and soliciting feedback. The project team does not anticipate providing draft documents and asking for redlines. The project team

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will use these opportunities to generate discussion and input and incorporate that feedback into documents as appropriate.

Jessi emphasized the need to hear from the TWG through questions and comments as the project team refines the EIS scope within a constrained budget. This feedback will help to identify the work needed to assess impacts of the various alternatives while being mindful of not creating mini-science projects.

Jessi began the presentation by identifying the list of primary technical disciplines and teaming partners leading those disciplines, noting there are other supporting partners not on this list.

Tessa Gardner-Brown and Karmen Martin, the project team's EIS lead, began summarizing primary scoping comment themes. Tessa explained the project team is working to define what the scoping comments mean in terms of how to move forward with the EIS.

Karmen provided a general overview of scoping. The project team received approximately 250 submissions from individuals, agencies, organizations, and the Squaxin Island Tribe. They reviewed and categorized these submissions into over 900 individual comments.

Karmen reviewed comment themes in each of the following categories (see presentation) and Tessa summarized how those comments likely affect the scope of the EIS.

**NOTE TO READER: The anticipated approach to the EIS analyses reflected herein and discussed with the work groups reflects the assumption for the scope of the EIS as of January 2019 and is subject to change. The information was provided to each of the work groups as an opportunity to provide input, for project team consideration before the EIS scope is finalized.**

## Water resources

The analysis will begin by reviewing existing and available data. The project team anticipates the collection of water samples but is considering what that might look like. The project team may look at issues in the upper watershed if they contribute to the impact analysis for water quality.

*TWG question: How do you resolve the two opposite opinions around water quality?*

The project team will look at the lake water and nutrient budgets. They will also examine Ecology's existing work for the estuary alternative and use this opportunity to fill a data gap through additional sampling, if needed.

*TWG question: Why is there no mention of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations?*

TMDL load allocations will be addressed in the water resource section. There were comments about TMDLs received during scoping. The agency coordination meeting the project team had with Ecology also provided a detailed understanding of the TMDL timelines and how this intersects with the EIS.

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## Sediment Transport and Geomorphology

This is an important issue and area of technical focus. The starting point is existing and available data. Existing bathymetry data collected over different time periods will allow the project team to better understand bathymetric trends. The project team plans to develop a numerical model to evaluate hydrodynamics and sediment transport for each alternative, which will inform plans to manage sediment.

Matthew Curtis (WDFW) noted good work has been done related to sediment, but data are somewhat old for Capitol Lake (last sampled in ~2007). The Port of Olympia has newer data for Budd Inlet.

Jessi explained it is important to understand current chemical qualities of the sediment for a variety of reasons and that additional sediment sampling will help fill this data gap.

Scott Steltzner noted it's also important to look upstream with regard to sediment sources.

Tessa and Karmen explained the project team does not yet have methodology or final details on the geographic scope of the sediment analysis. The project team will keep this in mind but also must factor in that Enterprise Services manages the basin from the falls down.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

The analysis will start with existing reports to understand existing conditions and then look at how that changes under each alternative. The analysis will also look at potential control methods for each alternative.

*TWG question: Are there a lot of different invasive species?*

There are several invasive and nuisance species including the New Zealand mudsnail, purple loosestrife, Eurasian watermilfoil, nutria, and Canada geese.

## Fish and Wildlife / Wetlands and Vegetation

Analysis will begin with existing conditions/reports. The project team plans to prepare habitat maps and conduct spatial analysis and then look at how habitat changes for each alternative and the potential impacts and benefits to various species.

## Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

Coordination with the City of Olympia is ongoing. The project team plans to complete numerical modelling to understand water levels and resiliency of each alternative at different water elevations. WSDOT sea level rise standards are expected to be used as a guide.

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## Air Quality and Odor

The analysis will begin by documenting historic conditions; it is important to understand how conditions that contributed to odor before the lake was constructed have changed. The project team will then look at existing conditions and how conditions change under each alternative. The EIS will also consider construction-related emissions.

*TWG question: How will you describe odor concentration which is subjective in terms of effects?*

This is an important element; the project team includes an air quality and odor expert with skills in analyzing and describing different conditions.

Laurie Pierce noted LOTT has past odor studies they can share. The studies are mostly based around the facility but describe the kinds of odors and types of measurements. **Follow-up with LOTT (Laurie Pierce) to obtain previous odor studies.**

*How is it determined which elements to include or exclude from the EIS scope of work?*

This presentation summarizes feedback received during scoping, as submitted by the commenter, and has not been evaluated for accuracy. The project team has had preliminary conversations with subject matter experts (SMEs) from the various sub-consultants. Each topic will be revisited with discipline leads to determine the scope of work for the EIS. There will be different thresholds of information for each resource or issue. The project team is reviewing information and always asking “what helps best, most effectively evaluate the impacts of the resources and evaluation of alternatives.”

*TWG question: Who is responsible for prioritizing the issues to be evaluated?*

That responsibility falls on the project team, but the purpose of today’s meeting is to understand if work group members see more or less value in different issues.

It was noted that scoping comments do not capture everything that will need to be included in the EIS. All scoping comments are available for review on the [project website](#).

## Recreation and Land Use

The analysis will begin with a high-level consistency analysis to understand the compatibility of the long-term management alternatives with local area plans. The EIS will document existing recreational opportunities in the project area and evaluate how the recreational opportunities change under each alternative. For example, trails will likely look different under the various alternatives, and the project team will evaluate whether the opportunity to walk or run around the waterbody is maintained across the alternatives.

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## Visual Quality

The EIS will include visual simulations from a number of view points in the project area for each of the various alternatives. The project team received a number of comments regarding the visual connection between the Capitol Campus and Capitol Lake.

## Economics

The project team is in the early stages of assessing how best to evaluate economics but anticipates including an analysis of direct downstream benefits/impacts, ecosystem services, and planning level costs. The Funding and Governance Work Group (FGWG) will also be providing input and guidance on the economic analysis. The FGWG has a parallel task of identifying a shared funding and governance model. In the next round of work group meetings (anticipated to be in April), the project team will present analysis methodologies, including sharing the economics approach with the FGWG, for feedback.

## Historic and Cultural Resources / Tribal Resources

The project team will identify built environment and archaeological resources in the area and the potential impacts to them. The EIS will also document the historical significance of Capitol Lake in the context of historical plans. Regarding tribal resources, the analysis will examine potential impacts to usual and accustomed areas and tribal treaty rights even though tribal treaty rights are not typically included in a SEPA EIS.

## Sediment Quality

The project team is aware of the Ecology South Puget Sound Regional Background report with data for Budd Inlet, and is communicating with the Port of Olympia relative to the Port's existing Budd Inlet sediment data and potential cleanup plans. However, the sediment data for Capitol Lake is older (2007) so there is an opportunity to fill a data gap through a focused sampling effort in Capitol Lake, while being mindful of budget constraints. This will help improve understanding of how conditions have changed over time which may help identify trends.

## Transportation

The analysis will start by classifying existing transportation facilities and how they are used, then look at how those facilities may be impacted by construction of each alternative. The analysis will include construction traffic, dam removal and long-term changes to facilities either directly or indirectly.

## Scoping Summary and Work Groups Review

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The project team will walk each of the work groups through the scoping comments in a similar format.

Overall the EIS analysis can be characterized or grouped into three tiers: using existing data only, sampling/data needed, and modelling needed.

*TWG question: Did anyone suggest looking at visitor rates at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge before and after restoration? Did visitor rates change after the restoration?*

Nisqually was mentioned in the comments, but not specifically in this context.

## *Scoping Report*

The project team is reviewing the draft scoping report now, which goes deeper into the comment themes and what those themes could mean for the analysis. The document is on track to be issued in February. At the same time, the project team is working with Enterprise Services to develop the full EIS scope of work.

*TWG question: Does the scoping document spell out priorities for analysis?*

The scoping report summarizes the feedback received but does not prioritize the analyses. However, the project team understands that some disciplines have codified standards that must be met, like water quality, which could influence the later work around measurable evaluation criteria.

SEPA outlines elements that must be included but the EIS will include other elements, like Tribal Resources and Economics; these are not required by SEPA but are clearly important.

## *Next Meeting*

The current plan is for work groups to meet quarterly (roughly) for 2019. The next series of meetings will be in mid-April. **Jessi will send a Doodle poll to identify a date.**

At the next meeting, the scoping report will be complete and public. The plan is to review the approach and construct for measurable evaluation criteria that will be used to screen alternatives. Each of the work groups will be asked to review and provide feedback in a format like today's discussion.

Following discussion of measurable evaluation criteria, the work groups will move to a discussion of analysis methodologies.

## *Refinement of the Project Name and Logo*

During scoping, Enterprise Services heard feedback regarding the project name and logo. Based on this feedback Enterprise Services determined a name refinement was needed to ensure the project name reflects the project area, both present and past.

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The refined project name, Capitol Lake / Deschutes Estuary Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement, changes from Lower Deschutes Watershed. A Steelhead Trout was also added to the logo.

The name refinement does not indicate a change in scope for the EIS; the EIS will evaluate, at a minimum, the three primary alternatives previously identified.

## ***Community Sounding Board***

Ray Outlaw provided a brief overview of the Community Sounding Board formation and recruitment process. The board will be a diverse group of stakeholders engaged in focused discussions to help inform the EIS analysis. The group is separate from existing work groups and will be comprised of individuals with specific interests in the project (see presentation).

The group will meet on a schedule similar to the current work groups. The project team will work to form a diverse board through an application process that will begin after the release of the scoping report. The first meeting is expected in early spring.

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

*TWG question: Will the presentation be available to the group?*

The project team will discuss this and respond as this is a preliminary view of content to be included in the scoping report.

## ***Public Comment***

Bob Wubbena commented that the presentation captured most of the input from CLIPA and said he anticipates a good dialogue and discussion going forward. He noted the project needs a clear definition of each of the alternatives. For example, if the dam is removed alternatives range from 80 to 650 feet for the opening size. Dredging parameters would be very different between alternatives.

Jessi explained there will be a section in the scoping report that summarizes the three primary alternatives as well as alternatives submitted through the scoping process.

Dave Peeler commented on the need to consider how one-time sampling events are treated in a dynamic system. He then explained that the timing of TMDL allocations, which are incomplete, and Ecology's nutrient reduction program have the potential to create timing issues. Dave also noted the railroad trestle existed before dam was built.

Dave said some data have been developed around tourism potential and current uses.

Dave encouraged the project team to consider potential federal permits required and also to think about the permitting / construction timeline.

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Jack Havens commented on the importance of the Governor's Orca Task Force and noted persistent hydrocarbons are a key issue for Orcas. Removing the dam may expose juvenile salmon to substantially more hydrocarbons.

Sue Patnude commented that the term *impact* is used a lot and that *benefits* are also important. Sediment and how to manage it is important, but sediment is also important to the web of life. Sue encouraged the project team to look to other estuaries to understand the potential benefits to tourism. Blue carbon and sea level rise are important and Sue encouraged the project team to look at how it is working in areas like Snohomish River. Sue also noted the life cycle of the dam is important and asked that the project consider the age of the dam and if it could be re-permitted should it fail completely. Sue is working with tribal and non-tribal youth and encouraged the project team to bring youth into this Community Sounding Board.

John DeMeyer submitted a three-page scoping letter but only two pages are available on the website.

Tessa explained the project team is working on this issue and it will be resolved soon. The letter was printed double-sided and was scanned incorrectly. [The revised letter was added to the project website on Jan. 11 and will be incorporated into the scoping report in its entirety.]