



CAPITOL LAKE — DESCHUTES ESTUARY

Long-Term Management Project Environmental Impact Statement

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: May 14, 2021

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Meeting Participants

Work Group Members

- Abby Barnes, Department of Natural Resources
- Holly Borth, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Eric Christensen, City of Olympia
- Lisa Dennis-Perez, LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Sam Gibboney, Port of Olympia
- Gwendolen Lentes, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Brad Murphy, Thurston County
- David Palazzi, Department of Natural Resources
- Dan Smith, City of Tumwater
- Leanne Weiss, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Department of Enterprise Services

- Kevin Dragon
- Carrie Martin
- Ann Larson
- Linda Kent

EIS Consultants/Facilitators

- Tessa Gardner-Brown, Floyd|Snider
- Ray Outlaw, Floyd|Snider
- Karmen Martin, ESA
- Susan Hayman, Ross Strategic
- Tori Bahe, Ross Strategic

Observers

- Jack DeMeyer
- Daniel Einstein
- Sue Patnude
- Steve Shanewise

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Martin welcomed the group, noting it has been some time since the group has met. She introduced the new participants to the meeting. Susan Hayman and Tori Bahe, from Ross Strategic, joined to facilitate breakout discussions later in the meeting. Gwen Lentes, with WDFW, is replacing David Kloempken and Director Sam Gibboney joined on behalf of the Port of Olympia, as the Port considers who will replace Rachael Jamison.

Tessa Gardner-Brown reviewed the agenda and the team's excitement to get some very important feedback regarding the draft preferred alternative decision-making process.

Next Steps for EIS Process

Tessa explained that the team is making great progress and is on schedule to deliver the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on June 30, 2021, consistent with the date prescribed by the Legislature.

Tessa described the contents of the Draft EIS (see slide 3 of meeting presentation) and noted that it is not common to see benefits discussed in an EIS, but this EIS is unique, and benefits will be included.

Tessa also reviewed the list of technical disciplines that were analyzed for the Draft EIS and noted that full technical analyses would be included in discipline reports attached to the Draft EIS. The list of disciplines includes:

- Hydrodynamics and Sediment Transport
- Navigation
- Water Resources
- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Air Quality and Odor
- Land Use, Shorelines, and Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Visual Resources
- Environmental Health
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Economics

Tessa explained that between late May and October 2021, the EIS Project Team will collect additional water quality samples. This is consistent with the water quality monitoring conducted in 2019 in support of the Draft EIS water quality analysis; and is consistent with sampling performed by Thurston County between 2004 and 2014. These additional data will be evaluated

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

by the EIS Project Team after the sampling is completed, between the Draft EIS and Final EIS, and included in the Final EIS.

She explained that the preferred alternative selection process will be described in Chapter 1.

Question: Will the alternatives and construction methods be defined with some level of detail, such as how sediment would be dredged and the impacts from constructing a boardwalk?

Response: Yes, those details will be included.

The Draft EIS will be available online to print in full or by chapter. Carrie explained that each TWG entity may request one print copy of the Draft EIS without appendices for their respective offices. She asked that entities requesting a print copy notify her by the end of May.

EIS Outreach

Ray Outlaw described the outreach activities planned during the Draft EIS comment period (June 30 – August 13, 2021). He explained that due to COVID-19 most activities will occur online. The activities include (see slide 4 of meeting presentation):

- Public comment period (extended from 30 to 45 days)
- Work Group meetings
 - Describe key findings and answer clarifying questions (early July)
 - Revisit Preferred Alternative selection criteria and preview steps between Draft and Final EIS (fall 2021)
- E-newsletters and other notices
- Online open house (available throughout comment period)
- Interest group and jurisdictional briefings (as requested, in July)
- Online public hearing (July)
- Parkway and Heritage Park Trail Loop Self-Guided Open House
- Online office hours

Question: Will you be posting information at Tumwater Historical Park and Brewery Park?

Response: We are considering options for signs in the project area and will find out if those are possible.

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Definitions

Tessa reviewed the key components of the draft preferred alternative selection process (see slide 6 of meeting presentation).

Enterprise Services plans to identify the preferred alternative after the Draft EIS and public comment period. This process expands upon the Phase 1 project goals to include other important decision-making factors (criteria) like cost and stakeholder perspectives. This process aims to deliver a durable decision using a process that is improved based on past experiences.

During this meeting, the focus is to solicit group input on the preferred alternative selection criteria. Enterprise Services is interested in whether the criteria are comprehensive, and if any key considerations are missing. We will facilitate an exercise to understand which of the criteria are most important or should be most influential in decision making, from the perspective of the Technical Work Group

The Draft EIS will include the proposed decision-making process, offering the public and stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback.

After the Draft EIS comment period, the EIS Project Team will have two types of comments that would support the decision-making process.

- Comments on selection criteria
- Comments on technical analysis

After the Draft EIS comment period the EIS Project Team will come back to the Work Groups and describe the public comments that result in additional analyses. At this time, Enterprise Services and the engaged stakeholders will be most informed on results of the Draft EIS and potential updates for the Final EIS, and Enterprise Services will solicit input on the preferred alternative.

Tessa introduced Susan who has joined the meeting to facilitate an exercise with the Technical Work Group on relative importance of the preferred alternative selection criteria. Tessa noted that this exercise would be used for all Work Group and CSB meetings to ensure a consistent process.

To start the discussion, Susan asked the group to think about the interests they represent so the team can be sure key interests are considered in decision-making. The group then posted their feedback in the meeting chat.

Comments included:

- Wildlife habitat

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

- Impacts/benefits to water quality downstream of the lake in Budd Inlet
- Water quality (in the lake and in Budd Inlet)
- Water quality and public access
- Economic impacts to Olympia waterfront and habitat value of restoring the estuary
- Impacts to cultural resources
- Sediment quality and nexus with dredging
- Water quality - Budd Inlet / salmon
- Climate change
- Water quality and public access
- Sediment management
- Flooding at Heritage Park

Tessa then reviewed the proposed selection criteria by describing the macro or broad criteria (A-F) and the sub-criteria (bullets) as follows.

- A. Performance Against Project Goals
- B. Other Environmental Disciplines with Significant Findings
 - Impacts and/or benefits
- C. Environmental Sustainability
 - The ability to provide net environmental benefits over a 30-year time horizon; and the level of active management required to achieve project goals
- D. Economic Sustainability
 - The relative cost-effectiveness to construct and operate the alternative in a way that would meet project goals; and the potential impacts if there is a lapse in long-term funding
- E. Construction
 - Duration/magnitude of impacts
- F. Regional Sustainability
 - Based on findings in the Draft EIS, which alternative(s) are most likely to achieve long-term support by local tribes, stakeholders, and communities?

Tessa explained that to make the most informed selection, a decision should not be made only around the ability of an alternative to meet project goals; it should consider the range of important decision-making factors, which is why there are six broad criteria.

Question: Does Dredging need to be called out specifically or is that included in the costs overall?

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Response: Dredging is the primary cost driver for every alternative. It is reflected in the cost estimates and would be a fundamental component in the economic sustainability criteria.

Question: Is the cost for dredging just looking at the basin or does it include marine waters?

Response: The dredging approach differs across the alternatives. For the Managed Lake Alternative, dredging will only occur in the lake basin. For an open system (Estuary and Hybrid Alternatives) dredging would occur in impacted areas of West Bay, not in the lake basin.

Comment: It is not clear how water quality will be evaluated and if marine water impacts would be considered?

Response: Water quality would be evaluated for the study area, including the Lake Basin and Budd Inlet, and that is reflected under the project goals criteria. There are two other ways that water quality will be captured; water quality is a function of ecosystem services (the ability for the system to regulate or serve that ecosystem function) and within public services and utilities, impacts to LOTT were evaluated. Water quality also supports fish and wildlife. These are all captured in criteria related to other disciplines with potential impacts or benefits.

Questions: What about flooding at Heritage Park?

Response: Water levels under each alternative were modeled for the Draft EIS. There is a difference in the potential extent of flooding by alternative. Flooding considerations would primarily be considered in the decision-making process through public services and utilities and in ecosystem services, which are the other disciplines with potential impacts or benefits.

Question: The criteria seem to cover wildlife habitat - but I am curious on the extent of what that section covers to make sure it extends beyond fish and aquatic life. Washington Audubon mentioned there might be new data for birds, was it incorporated?

Response: The analysis does include birds and bats, and this would be considered in the decision-making process as part of the other disciplines with potential impacts or benefits.

Question: For open systems there would be sediment flushing into Budd Inlet, was that integrated into the analysis? What about invasive species being flushed into Budd Inlet?

Response: The Draft EIS looks at how water and sediment quality would change under each alternative. We also analyzed the potential containment or spread of invasive species.

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

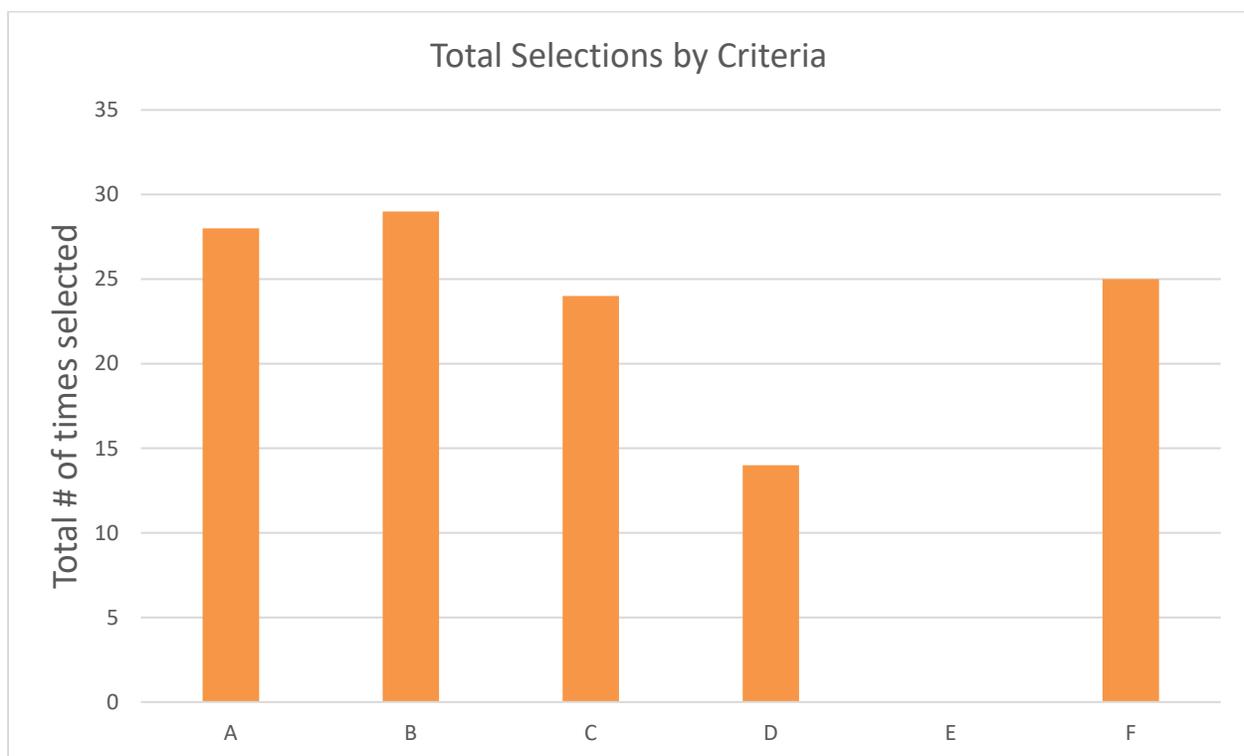
Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Preferred Alternative Selection Process – Criteria Prioritization

Susan explained a small-group exercise to solicit feedback on criteria priorities. Observers were welcome to view the exercise, but feedback was only completed by work group members. If an organization was represented by more than one person, that entity only submitted one response. However, feedback was not attributed to specific individuals or organizations.

Susan explained the exercise, called pairwise, which evaluates each criterion in pairs then asks the question which one (of two) would be most important to you if you were making the preferred alternative decision. This exercise was intended to evaluate relative importance, not to eliminate any of the criteria from consideration.

The group broke into two smaller groups, completed the exercise, then reviewed the results.



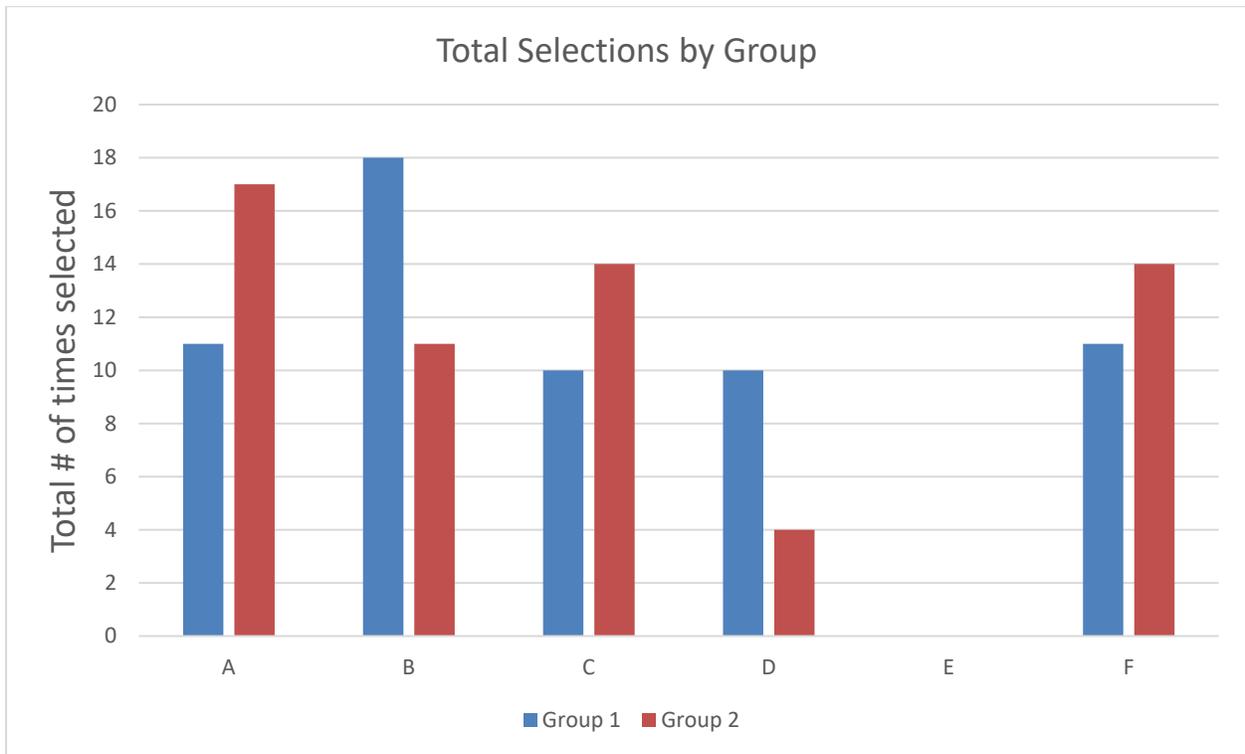
Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting



Susan explained that this exercise did not create the answer for Enterprise Services – it provided good feedback for the project team to consider. We will be asking the same question of the Executive Work Group and the Community Sounding Board.

Carrie expressed gratitude for the group’s participation, noting it is a difficult exercise.

Next Meeting

The next TWG meeting is planned for Wed., July 7, 2021, 9-11 AM, one week after the Draft EIS release. That meeting will discuss key findings and takeaways from the Draft EIS; we will specifically talk in more detail about water quality understanding its particular importance to this group.

Public Comment

Comment: I have a question about the hydrodynamics/sediment analysis outside of the Lower Deschutes. Are you looking at other potential sediment management options that could direct sediment, like a jetty?

Response: We did evaluate that, and it will be summarized in the EIS.

Meeting Notes Summary

Date: June 2, 2020

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Topic: Technical Work Group Meeting

Comment: Under the selection sub-criteria, item F (regional sustainability). You should include tribes on that list as a separate entity rather than as part of the work groups. Tribes should be called out individually.

Adjourn

Carrie adjourned the meeting – noting appreciation for the participation and the request to send her an email if entities would like a hard copy of the Draft EIS.

Appendix

Group 1 Pairwise Exercise

Criteria	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
A. Performance Against Project Goals		★ A or B ✓	★ A or C ✓	★ A or D ✓	★ A or E ✓	★ A or F ✓
B. Other Environmental Disciplines with Significant Findings			★ B or C ✓	★ B or D ✓	★ B or E ✓	★ B or F ✓
C. Environmental Sustainability				★ C or D ✓	★ C or E ✓	★ C or F ✓
D. Economic Sustainability					★ D or E ✓	★ D or F ✓
E. Construction						★ E or F ✓
F. Regional Sustainability						

Group 2 Pairwise Exercise

Criteria	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
A. Performance Against Project Goals		✓ A or B	✓ A or C	✓ A or D	✓ A or E	✓ A or F
B. Other Environmental Disciplines with Significant Findings			✓ B or C	✓ B or D	✓ B or E	✓ B or F
C. Environmental Sustainability				✓ C or D	✓ C or E	✓ C or F
D. Economic Sustainability					✓ D or E	✓ D or F
E. Construction						✓ E or F
F. Regional Sustainability						