MEETING NOTES

Columbia Near-Shore Project Partners Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 2004 – 1:30 PM
OSU Seafood Lab, Astoria, Oregon

In attendance:

Project partners:

Jim Bergeron, Convener
Doris McKillip, USCOE
Hal Weeks, ODFW
Dale Beasley, CRCFA
Paul Klarin, DLCD
Renee Davis-Born, INR
Greg McMurry, DLCD
Kathi Larson, USFW
Dave Hunt, CRCC
Rob Cook, Port of Portland
Greg Smith, USFWS
Christy McDonough, CREST
Bob Burkle, WDFW

Interested parties:

Chuck Gale, Southwest Washington Coastal Communities
Dan Cox, Oregon State University

I. Announcements – Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Application

Steve Greenwood reported that the Lower Columbia Solutions Group grant application to the Northwest Fish and Wildlife Foundation for $150,000, to help with data collection efforts for the Columbia Near Shore project, was rejected.

Steve said that the application was rejected at least in part because the amount requested was too large. There is not any information at this time about a potential "second round" of funding. Dale Beasley said that we shouldn't take "no" for an answer, and should meet with Krystyna Wolniakowsi to discuss the reasons the application was not accepted. Others agreed that a meeting with the foundation would be a good idea, in part to better compete if there is a second round of funding.

Paul Klarin volunteered to go with Steve to meet with NWFWF, should there be a second round of funding.

II. Report on Technical Issues Phone Conference

As a follow-up to some of the technical issues raised in the last project meeting, a phone conference was held, involving several technical experts: Dan Cox, Guy Gelfenbaum of the USGA, Rod Moritz of USCOE, and Jonathan Allen of DOGAMI.

Among the subjects discussed were the proposed 40-foot depth for dispersal, and whether or not sediment disposed at that depth would stay in the littoral zone. The technical group agreed that "the closer in the better", but felt that existing evidence was inconclusive on the question of 40-feet, and it was well worth conducting a demonstration to determine where the sediment would go.

In addition, Guy Gelfenbaum had noted that the *concept* of dispersing sediment to help protect the south jetty was scientifically sound. Without doing something, he said, the erosion would likely get worse. However, he warned that if the sand were built up in the wrong manner, it might actually *increase* the amount of wave energy hitting the jetty.

Dale Beasley asked if he could get a copy of the recent data that Rod Moritz had distributed prior to that technical phone conference. Steve said that he would distribute copies to the group.

Dan Cox of OSU said there is a general need for more long term monitoring to see more precisely where the sand is currently migrating. He strongly recommended that the group utilize the Delft model of sediment movement to help develop an effective monitoring program for the planned 2006 Demonstration.

Dan also mentioned the wave simulator at Oregon State University as being potentially helpful in the future on this project, but probably much too detailed for the group's needs at this point.

III. Institute for Natural Resources – Technical Papers and Workshop

Renee Davis-Born of the Institute for Natural Resources handed out a list of potential and confirmed technical paper authors, who would also presented the papers at a spring workhop. The leading candidates were:

Sediment migration, wave and current patterns:	Dan Cox, OSU
Dungeness crab biology and distribution:	Walter Pearson, Battelle
Benthic infauna and razor clam distribution	Ralph Elston, AquaTechnics
Andadromous and other fish distribution	Bill Pearcy, OSU

Marine mammal biology and distribution Jan Hodder, Or. Inst. Marine Biol

Marine Bird biology and distribution Craig Strong, Crescent Coastal Research

Renee said that the intent was to have the white papers completed in mid- to late-February, and then to have the papers presented at a workshop in March.

It is hoped that the white papers and workshop will provide information on many of the key issues being looked at by this project group, and related to the larger issue of how to address the depletion of near shore sands. The workshop will be a 2-day workshop, with the 2nd day open to a greater audience.

Group members raised other studies and efforts to assemble data on the near shore environment that may help or be helped by the workshop: the Corps' Regional Sediment Management workshops, the Pacific Northwest Coastal Ecosystem Regional Study (funded by NOAA fisheries), and the recent Congressional allocation for a Washington litoral drift study. Chuck Gale suggested the group talk with Phil Osborne of Pacific International Engineering about the latter study.

Renee said that she will be meeting with the presenters soon, and will then circulate the draft scope of the white papers to our group for any comments. Dave Hunt emphasized that these white papers represent a great opportunity for compiling scientific information to inform our process and it is extremely important that the right questions are being addressed. Dale again reiterated his concern that future studies of crab populations use more than a one-time sample.

IV. **2005 Demonstration Project**

At our last meeting the group had unanimously endorsed an idea by Doris McKillip to conduct a very limited demonstration in 2005 that is designed to measure the per-dump accumulations of the enhanced dumping method.

- The demonstration would take place in the proposed project area
- It would involve 4-8 "passes" of the dredge, with a total of only 20,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of material deposited.
- Because of the scientific purpose and limited amount of material, the Corps would need to receive, relatively quick regulatory review and approval – getting a "take" permit for Endangered Species Act purposes.

There was some discussion about whether this limited demonstration would require collection of baseline data and/or subsequent biological monitoring. The

answer was that given the limited amount of material involved and the narrow focus on the study, it was felt that neither would be required. However, Steve said that a meeting will be arranged in the coming weeks with the regulatory agencies to discuss exactly what process and requirements there would be.

Christy McDonough of CREST said that they would be willing to take the lead in putting together the necessary regulatory applications. DLCD is willing to contribute the approximately $15,000 needed for that effort.

The remainder of the cost of the 2005 Demonstration will be for the monitoring/measurement of the accumulations. One estimate, using multi-beam technology is that the cost of measurement would be $30,000. Because of the current Corps budget concerns, the money for measurement will have to be generated by the group.

Dale Beasely began that discussion by offering his boat for the project “at one-half of any other legitimate offer” for the work.

There ensued a discussion of the options, costs, and relative advantages of various measurement methods. Sediment Profile Imagery, which some believe might be the best measurement option, could cost as much as $200,000. Chuck Gale said he would talk with their oceanographer, to see if there are better ideas. Dan Cox from OSU suggested that perhaps the most accurate measurement technique would be a low-cost/low tech alternative: “divers and coffee cans”. Others in the group thought this option should be explored, and Dan said he would talk to others at OSU about it.

Doris said that she will talk with George Kaminsky about the use of vibracores as a measurement method. She also indicated that the Corps may need to do multi-beam measurements in any case, to verify the “fate model” that they use for sediment dumping.

Steve said that once these follow-up efforts have been completed, and a method (and costs) more fully developed, he would send an email out requesting further contributions toward the cost. Hal Weeks, and others, suggested that the request be detailed enough so that decision-makers could understand how and why the money is being requested.

There was further discussion of the regulatory requirements. One question raised was whether or not a permit would be required from the state of Washington. Steve said that question would be raised in the upcoming meeting with regulatory agencies. Doris suggested that CREST first meet with the Corps Regulatory staff.

In terms of timing, Doris emphasized the urgency, and that the project funding, and regulatory issues need to be worked out by the end of January.

V. Next Steps

Prior to the next meeting, the following steps need to be taken:

- Discussion with the Pacific Northwest Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to get a better understanding of why our proposal was not funded (and how to be more competitive next time).

- Send a copy of the Rod Moritz sediment data to the group.

- Confirm white paper authors, and meet with them – after which we will solicit comments of the white paper scopes from the group.

- Check out various measurement options for the 2005 Demonstration on "enhanced dumping". Estimate costs, and send out request for help to project team members/agencies.

- Meet with all the regulatory agencies about the 2005 demonstration, to clarify issues and requirements.

- The next meeting will be announced after some of these follow-up tasks are completed.