

# Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks Task Force

## January-March 2016 Summary Report of Activities

### Background and Purpose

The Willamette Falls Locks Task Force was established through Senate Bill 131 to compile information related to the historic, economic, cultural, recreational and other current and potential future values of the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks. The Task Force, which includes local, regional and state representatives (see list below), has met two times between January-March 2016 and is facilitated through the Oregon Solutions Program (see summary below). The Task Force builds on other successful efforts over the past decade to temporarily reopen the locks and to increase awareness and visibility of the locks as an important historic place and its potential to support current economic vitality for the area. The Task Force is working closely with two other efforts around Willamette Falls, including the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, which is working to repurpose the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site and the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition that is pursuing National Heritage Area designation for a broader area surrounding the Falls.

**Task Force Convener:** Former Governor Barbara Roberts

**Oregon Solutions Project Staff:** Peter Harkema, Project Manager and Julia Babcock, Project Coordinator

### Task Force Members

Name	Organization
Councilor Carlotta Collette	Metro
Christine "Chrissy" Curran	State Historic Preservation Office
Mayor Dan Holladay	Oregon City
Dave Bernert	Wilsonville Concrete Products and Marine Construction
Fred Myer	Port of Portland
Jack Giffen, Jr.	Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
John Mullen	Oregon State Parks and Recreation
Kevin Brice	USACE
Matt Garrett	ODOT
Peggy Sigler	Willamette Falls Locks Working Group
Rachel Graham	Oregon State Marine Board
Representative Brent Barton	Oregon House
Representative Julie Parrish	Oregon House
Mayor Russ Axelrod	City of West Linn
Sandy Carter	One Willamette River Coalition
Senator Alan Olsen	Oregon Senate
Senator Devlin	Oregon Senate
Todd Davidson	Travel Oregon
Commissioner Tootie Smith	Clackamas County

### Meeting Topics Summary and Related Activities

#### *Task Force Kickoff Meeting- January 12, 2016*

- Introduced the purpose, scope, process, and potential topics for discussion;
- Provided brief overviews of the Willamette Falls Locks site, structure, and past and present advocacy efforts;

- Provided an opportunity for task force members to describe their hopes and expectations;
- Developed and agreed to operating protocols to set a positive, productive, and collegial tone for task force work; and
- Confirmed next steps and who will do what by when for future meetings

*Task Force Meeting - March 12, 2016*

Topic/Theme: Economic Potential

- Confirmed Kevin Brice, UASCE as an ex-officio Task Force member;
- Provided updates on Task Force related efforts since the January meeting including a \$500,000 allocation of funds from the 2016 legislative session to conduct an economic study and make stop gap repairs;
- Provided overview of Locks physical conditions and USACE facilities investment decision making process;
- Provided overview of existing economic analyses, mill operations, commercial operator's perspective, economic considerations; and
- Brainstormed additional potential economic benefits/ considerations.

Quarterly Report prepared by Oregon Solutions Staff:

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