

Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks Task Force

March-June 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 four times from April-June 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

Locks Site Tour- April 15, 2016

- On-site guided tour and viewing experience for Task Force members of the Locks physical structures, surrounding facilities and historical context

Tribal Perspectives Meeting- April 15, 2016

- Listened and learned from tribal representatives from Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde about the historic significance and current tribal values around the Willamette Falls site; and
- Discussed what role the Willamette Falls Locks site might have regarding access to the Willamette River and current and future tribal activities

Task Force Meeting – May 9, 2016

Topic/Theme: Ownership, Operations and Financing Models

- Provided updates on Task Force related efforts since the April 15th site tour and Tribal Perspectives Meeting;
- Reviewed and discussed potential ownership, operation, and financing models; and
- Identified information needs and criteria to guide future discussions related to ownership

Task Force Meeting – June 15, 2016

Topic/Theme: Ownership, Operations and Financing Models

- Provided task force member updates since the May meeting;
- Reported back from members on constituent and/or agency feedback;
- Provided an overview and summary sheet of information requested at the May meeting;
- Discussed governance structure recommendation options for full group consideration at the September meeting; and
- Agreed on a strategy to maintain momentum during the summer and into the 2016 legislative session

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- September 13, 2016 1:30-4:00 p.m. Clackamas County Development Services Building
- October 19, 2016 1:30-4:00 p.m. The Tumwater Room
- December 15, 2016 1:30-4:00 p.m. TBD

Quarterly Report prepared by Oregon Solutions Staff:

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