

# UNION RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT PARTNERS INFORMATION MEETING

## Meeting Minutes Report

**ESA Inc.**

**Thursday, July 1, 2010**

**Located at Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Office Building**

**MEETING BEGAN AT 2:00 P.M.**

### **PRESENT**

Neil Werner, HCSEG  
Pat McCullough, ESA  
Doris Small, WDFW  
Mike Dully, ESA  
John Peterson, ESA  
Rich Carlson, USFWS  
Margie Schirato, WDFW  
Joe Callaghan, GEO ENGINEERS  
Dan Hannafous, HCSEG  
Mona Pillers, HCSEG  
Lauren Swanson, ESA

### **ABSENT**

North Mason School District Representatives  
Theler Center Representatives

### **Future Meeting Schedule:**

Meeting 2– Community Presentation – The consultant team will present the scientific findings for the project: **Friday, July 23, at 5 PM** in the Barn at the Farm at Rivers Edge. (On site)

Meeting 3 – The consultant team will present the restoration alternatives for the project: **Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5 PM** in the Barn at the Farm at Rivers Edge. (On site)

Meeting 4 – The consultant team will present the design for the restoration: **Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 5 PM** in the Barn at Rivers Edge. (On site)

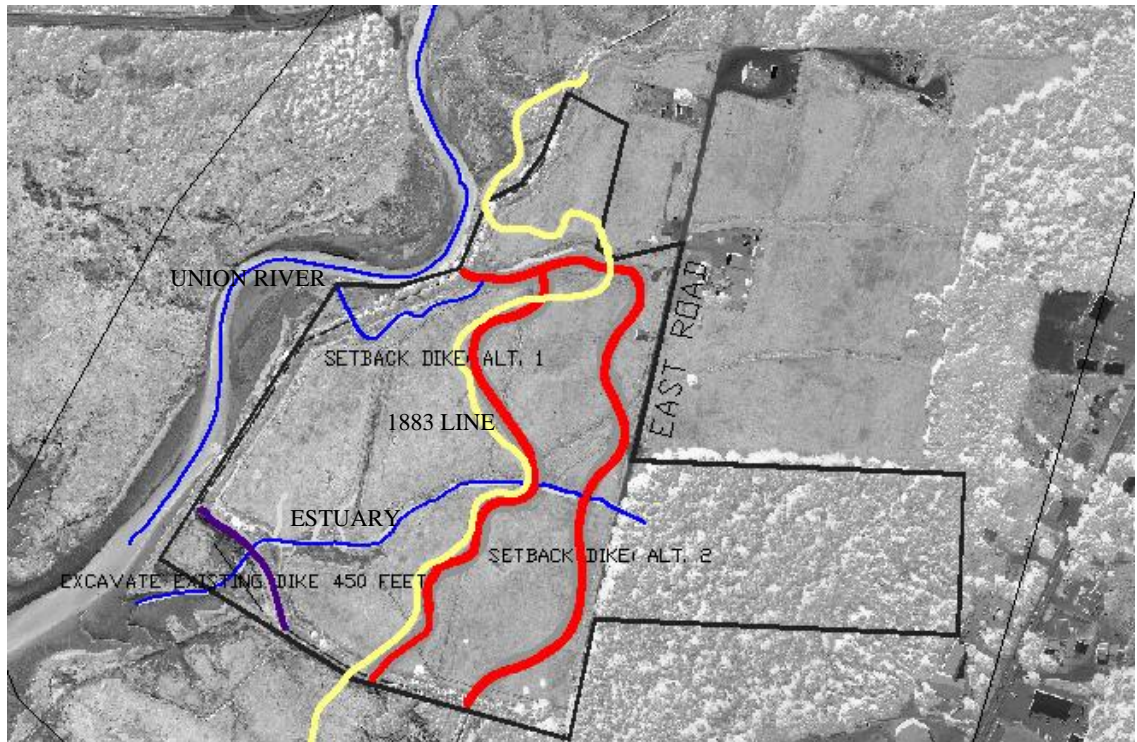
## Meeting Agenda

- Project Team Introductions
- Project Overview
- Scope of Work Presentation
- Community Involvement Plan

## DISCUSSION

### PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

- Neil Werner opened the meeting of the Union River Restoration Project by inviting each team to introduce themselves.
- The Community Involvement Plan presented during this meeting can be found at the end of this report in Appendices A.
- Figure 1 (below) shows the outline of the property and will be referred to throughout this report.



**FIGURE 1: UNION RIVER RESTORATION PROPERTY OUTLINE**

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Pat McCullough began his presentation using an AutoCAD drawing to demonstrate the size and scope of the project area. See Figure 1. Neil Werner was asked to give a brief summary of the project's history from when

property transactions began in 1993 to present day. A synopsis can be reviewed at the end of this report in Appendix A (see Project Heritage).

- Pat McCullough continued his presentation by defining the border of the area to be considered. The WDFW property on which the estuary restoration will take place is approximately 53 acres. Approximately 26 acres of the WDFW property will be included in the restoration planning. See Figure 1.
- A Vigorous discussion ensued regarding the location of the setback dike. There was a general preference for locating the setback dike back near the roadway and include a region of upland vegetation between the proposed salt marsh and the set back dike.

## SCOPE OF WORK

Pat McCullough and Neil Werner presented the consultants scope of work for the project. The consultants scope of work is shown below:

<b>UNION RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SCOPE OF WORK</b>		
<b>TASK</b>	<b>SUBTASK</b>	<b>TASK DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>TASK 1</b>		<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>
	1.A	Contract and Scope Development
	1.B	Project Team Coordination and Project Management
	1.C	Budget Control and Reporting
	1.D	Team and Client Meetings
<b>TASK 2</b>		<b>DOCUMENT REVIEW AND SITE VISITS</b>
	2.A	Review Existing Wetland Delineation, Archeology, PNSC Planning, Habitate Productivity, and Farm Reports
	2.B	Review funding contracts, land ownership, and easement agreements.
<b>TASK 3</b>		<b>DATA GAPS AND QUESTIONS</b>
	3.A	Topography and Property Boundary for Excavation Area - 34 Acres + GIS Mapping and Graphics
	3.B	Soils Investigations and Borings Pedestrian Bridge Structures - 6 borings at 30 feet min.
	3.C	Estuarine Vegetation Boundaries, Types, Related to Tidal Elevations
	3.D	Tidal Elevation Monitoring - 1 week
	3.E	Report on Estuarine Ecology and Tidal Geomorpholgy for the Johnson Property and the Union River Estuary
	3.F	Tidal Flooding and Estuarine Hydrology Modeling.
	3.G	Disposal Area Site Investigation
	3.H	Pedestrian Bridge- Fabrication and Manufacture Alternative Analysis.

<b>TASK 4</b>		<b>PRELIMINARY DESIGN</b>
	4.A	Import Drawings and Review and Evaluate Estuary Alternatives Developed by BDA for PNWSC planning study
	4.B	Dike Breaching Alternative Layout
	4.C	Tidal Channel Planning, Layout and Design
	4.D	Preliminary Grading Plans, Quantities, and Costs for two Dike Breaching Alternatives
	4.E	Disposal Area Site Evaluation, Preliminary Grading, and Site Selection
	4.F	Pedestrian Bridge Alternative Layout and Planning.
<b>TASK 5</b>		<b>PERMITTING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b>
	5.A	Community Mailings and Advertisement of Meetings
	5.B	Prepare Expanded SEPA Checklist with Mitigation Measures and Graphics.
	5.C	Preparation of Meeting Display Visuals
		Respond to Comments
		Attend and Present at two Public Meetings
	5.E	Prepare JARPA
	5.F	Prepare NPDES permit and Storm Water Management Plan.
	5.G	Track Permitting
<b>TASK 6</b>		<b>FINAL DESIGN AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS</b>
	6.A	Design Grading Plan and Cross Sections for Selected Alternative
	6.B	Design Setback Dike Plan and Profile
	6.C	Tidal Channels - Plan, Profile, and Typical Section
	6.D	Design Pedestrian Bridge Foundation and Support Structures including Ped Bridge Manufacturer Coordination
	6.E	Design Shoreline Habitat and Trails
	6.F	Design Local Storm Drainage Structures - incl. drainage modeling
	6.G	Disposal Site Grading Plan
	6.H	Contract Docuements
	6.I	Plan Set - ESA Format
	6.J	Project Specifications and Bid Documents - WSDOT General Conditions with ESA Special Conditions
	6.K	Project Cost Estimates

## RESTORATION OBJECTIVES

The stakeholder committee discussed the projects restoration objectives. They are summarized below:

- ❖ **SLAT MARSH CREATION:** Restore, to the maximum extent feasible, the salt marsh area to Hood Canal that existed during the 1883 BLM mapping of Hood Canal/Union River/Lynch Cover estuary. Figure 1 illustrates the approximate boundary of the historic salt marsh on the WDFW property. The WDFW property will no longer be farmed. It will either be restored to estuary or otherwise used for wildlife habitat.
- ❖ **SALT MARSH DRAINAGE:** The proposed salt marsh should be graded to drain - so as to not hold water in pools that would increase in temperature and kill fish.
- ❖ **IMPROVE SALT MARSH CONNECTIVITY AND CIRCULATION:** Provide openings in the existing levee that will re-establish the natural functions of the restored estuary. Provide an opening in the existing levee that is large enough to provide unhindered tidal circulation.
- ❖ **PEDESTRIAN TRAIL USE AND MAINTENANCE:** Allow for the continuance of the use and maintenance of the existing pedestrian trails on the property. Closures of the pedestrian trail during planning, design, and construction must be kept to a minimum and trail detours should be instituted (when feasible) if portions of the trail are closed.
- ❖ **ENHANCEMENT OF THE SALMON FISH POPULATION:** Enhance the fish habitat in the Union River Estuary. This will be accomplished by creating low, medium, and high salt marsh that includes an extensive network of tidal channels.
- ❖ **PROVIDE A VARIETY OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT NICHES:** The salt marsh should provide a variety of marsh elevations so as to support a variety of salt marsh vegetation, perimeter upland wildlife habitat, and bird hammocks areas to support water fowl and birds.
- ❖ **ACCOMMODATE STORM DRAINAGE FROM ADJOINING PROPERTY:** The adjoining farmlands drain to the proposed restoration area via existing drainage ditches. Drainage structures, including tide gates, will be needed to assure that the local drainage systems continue to function properly.
- ❖ **REPLICATE NATIVE ESTUARINE HABITAT:** Install large woody, construct open water areas, and distributary channels that replicate adjoining, undisturbed estuarine habitat.
- ❖ **PREVENT FLOODING OF SURROUNDING PROPERTIES DURING HIGH TIDES OR HIGH FLOWS IN THE UNION RIVER:** Construct a setback dike with gentle side slopes to prevent flooding of adjacent properties. Avoid constructing openings in the existing levee system that will encourage the avulsion of the Union River into the property.
- ❖ **ENCOURAGE ESTUARINE AND WILDLIFE VIEWING:** Maintain the existing trail located on the existing levee system and construct a trail on the proposed setback levee. Provide interpretive signs and resting benches for pedestrians.
- ❖ **CONSTRUCT AN AESTHETICALLY PLEASING PROJECT:** Construct attractive, low maintenance concrete bridges using “golden rod” colored concrete structures or

CORTEN steel structures. Landscape upland areas the slope of the setback levees with natural plants to prevent invasion of noxious weeds and provide habitat.

- ❖ MAINTAIN VIEW CORRIDORS FOR UPLAND PROPERTIES: Install plantings that do not overly obstruct views of Hood Canal for upland properties.

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

- Neil Werner was asked to introduce the community involvement plan. This plan can be found in Appendix A.
- The following points were made with regards to the community involvement plan
  - Alternatives and the science supporting them will be provided to the community.
  - All concerned members will be given a chance to be involved through various planned meetings outlined in Appendix A (see Community Meetings).

## APPENDIX A

**Project Heritage:** The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center (PNWSC) the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and others have been working for the last five years to purchase the previously estuarine portion of the Johnson property so that it can be protected and restored to estuarine and salt marsh habitat. In 2008, 55 acres of the Johnson property was purchased from the owner by WDFW. It has been acknowledged by the HCSEG and the WDFW that the trail along the existing dike is a treasured community asset. An objective of the project is to leave the Theler Wetland Walking Trail in the existing location, either on the dike or on an elevated structure, if the restoration goals for the property can be achieved without moving the trail.

**Project Partners:** The primary project partners and their representatives are listed below.

- The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife - Doris Small habitat biologist, Greg Schirato wildlife biologist, Penny Warren - Lands Division.
- The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group – Neil Werner, Director
- North Mason Schools – David Peterson
- The Theler Wetlands Board – Mel Coffman
- Skokomish Indian Tribe - Alex Gouley or Kris Miller.
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council – Richard Brocksmith
- The US Department of Fish and Wildlife – Rich Carlson
- Congressman Norm Dicks Office – Sara Crumb

### **Project Consulting Team:**

- Environmental Engineering - Lead Consultant – ESA Inc. - Pat McCullough, PE
- Soils Consultant – Aspect Inc. – John Peterson, PE .
- Wetland Delineation and Vegetation ID and Planning – Geo Engineers – Joe Callahan
- Tidal Geomorphology – HCSEG – Si Simenstad - UW
- Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat – HCSEG - Dan Hannafious
- Structural Engineering – MWD Consultants – Mike Dully, PE
- Survey – ESA Inc., (Topo Survey) – Greg Bauer, PLS and West Sound Engineering, Inc. – (GPS Survey and Control) Tobey Bauer, PLS

**Consultant Team and Partner Involvement:** The consulting team will meet with the project stakeholders at four times during the project.

1. To present and discuss the draft scope of work for the project –May/June 2010
2. To present and discuss the teams scientific findings to Partners – July/August 2010
3. To present and discuss the teams scientific findings to public – July/August 2010

4. To present and discuss the conceptual design alternatives, as well as to give guidance on the selection of the preferred alternative. – August/September 2010
5. To present the final design of the restoration project. – September/October 2010

**Community Meetings:** The project team and stakeholders will conduct two community information meetings at The Farm at Waters Edge in July 2010 and one in September or October.

July 2010 Community Involvement Meeting #1:

- The meeting will begin with a discussion of the importance of estuarine habitat in Puget Sound and Hood Canal.
- The current state of salmon population for Lower Hood Canal and the Union River will be presented.
- The Union River Estuary Restoration Project goals and objectives will be presented.
- The scientific findings will be presented in the areas for 1) site topography and property boundaries, 2) site soils - including soil boring results, 3) current and proposed land use of the property, 4) tidal geomorphology and tidal flooding elevations, 5) wetland locations and delineation, 6) vegetation zones and elevations, 7) fisheries habitat in the Union River and the Union River Estuary.
- Public input, comment, and suggestions will be noted and included in the determination of the project alternatives.

September/October 2010 Community Involvement Meeting #2:

- Will outline information gathered at the July meeting and how those issues were included in the preferred alternative, or if not, why not..
- The project conceptual restoration alternatives will be presented and the preferred alternative identified.
- Next steps

**Project Permitting:** The preferred project alternative will require local, state, and federal Permits. The permitting process includes numerous public notices, the publication of project documents, and public meetings and public hearings.

**Local Permitting:**

1. SEPA – WDFW is the lead agency for the SEPA review. We expect the project will be a Mitigated Determination of Non Significance (MDNS) environmental review process. We will prepare an enhanced SEPA checklist that thoroughly describes the proposed action, the alternatives considered, and mitigation measures adopted for the project. There may be some impacts on existing wetlands. The publication and public review period for the SEPA review will require approximately 3 months. We plan to complete SEPA review by Fall 2010. Note that if major questions or appeals are raised during the SEPA review then the consultant team, working with the project partners, will respond in writing to the questions or concerns.

2. A shoreline permit may be required.. The Shoreline Permit Application will be submitted to Mason County with the MDNS. If a permit is required, the circulation of the shoreline permit and the scheduling of the public hearing will take approximately three months, with a public hearing before the Mason County Hearing Examiner in late 2010.
  3. Mason County Grading Permit: Once the contract documents are completed they will be submitted to Mason County for a Land Modification Permit.
- **State Permitting:** The Washington State Permits required are the WDFW HPA, the WSDOE NPDES permit, the 401 Water Quality permit, and the Washington State Department of Historical Preservation (DAHP) permit.
    1. HPA/JARPA – This permit will be reviewed by WDFW and the JARPA is the application for the HPA and 401 permit. The JARPA will be completed and submitted by Fall/Winter 2010.
    2. NPDES – or General Stormwater Permit: Requires an application, public notice (by the HCSEG) in the local newspaper and a storm water control plan. The NPDES permitting process will start Fall 2010 and take 3 months to complete.
    3. WSDOE 401 Permit – Will be reviewed after the Corp of Engineers 404 permit is issued. One of the last permits issued – typically.
    4. DHAP – This permit will require the preparation of an archeological study. The HCSG will contract for archeological investigations and submit the study and findings to the Washington State Department of Historical Preservation in Olympia. It will be important to coordinate DAHP effort with future funders of the project. We need to decide if we want the USFW to complete the Federal Section 8 Archeological Review.
  - **Federal Permitting:** The federal permits required are the Corp of Engineers 404 Water Quality Permit, the ESA compliance review, and several other federal permits covered by the LIMIT 8 application to the USFW. The JARPA and the LIMIT 8 applications cover the federal permit applications. USFW will assist the project team with the federal permitting which includes Tribal consultation and review.

**Community Involvement and Participation:** The community involvement has to be put in the context of the development of the project scientific investigations, conceptual analysis, alternative selection, and project permitting. We will begin by setting up the project consultant team and the project partners group and seeking input as discussed earlier. We have programmed two meetings with the community to present the scientific data and discuss alternatives and present the rational for the preferred alternative selected by the Project Partners. Finally, we will complete the local, state, and federal permitting processes that include public notice and public hearings. All public meeting will be advertised locally through the Kitsap Sun, Belfair Herald and the Mary E. Theler Community Center. To summarize, the community will be involved in this project in a number of ways:

- Through the public information meetings scheduled for July & September 2010.
- Through the public information, review, and comments for the SEPA, NPDES, and Shoreline Permitting Process.
- Through the public hearing process for the shoreline hearing.

The consultant team, working with the project partners, will respond in writing to the community concerns that are submitted in writing as part of the SEPA project review process. All alternatives will be developed through collaboration with the Consulting team and Project partners after all science and community input has been reviewed. The final alternative will be determined by the Project Team. Final design must be approved by the landowner (WDFW).

Neil W. Werner  
Executive Director  
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group