Brownsville Dam Project Update

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Prepared for: Calapooia Watershed Council December 2006 monthly meeting
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Project Engineer Hired

Members of the Council's Technical Team met with 3 engineering firms for interviews on Wednesday, November 15th. Tech Team members present included: Bud Baumgartner, Tim Otis, Bob Danehy, Tara Putney, Douglass Fitting, Steve Mamoyac, Karen Strohmeyer, Bill Sattler and me. We heard presentations from Cascade Environmental Services (CES), Inter-fluve and AMEC. All three firms were well-prepared and ready to answer questions. Tech Team members agreed by consensus to hire CES. I met with CES November 21st to share Council data, develop an outline for the project scope and timeline.

CES's strengths include: Company headquarters located in Albany, experience with dam removal in Oregon and California, collaborative approach to the project, experience with designing water diversions and the ability to manage the construction aspects of the project as well as design. If anyone would like additional information about CES or any of the other firms we interviewed, please contact me. A big THANK YOU to Linn County for the use of their meeting space. An even bigger THANK YOU to those who participated in the selection and interview process. It was a great group and your time and input was invaluable for the process.

Technical Team Meeting – Review of Draft PROJECT SCOPE

The Council's Technical Team is meeting with CES on Thursday, December 14th at 1:00 pm at CES headquarters in Albany on Pacific Blvd. The draft scope will be available for review by Monday, 11th. If you would like to receive a copy of the draft, please contact me: 619-5896 or hofferthay@peak.org

The scope lays out the tasks, timeline, and budget for the project. All are subject to thorough review and approval by the Council's Technical Team. We have at least 9 members of the Technical Team who will be in attendance at this meeting. If you would like to participate with the Technical Team or be notified with further advance of future meetings, please contact me.

Once the scope of work is finalized and approved, work will begin on the developing designs for the dam removal and for the control device for maintaining the 2.5 cfs water right in the Brownsville canal/mill race. There will be at least 2 more Technical Team meetings prior to the final design. Notice of these meetings will be provided to the Council.

Meet the Project Engineers
Council Open House – Wednesday, February 8th

More details about this meeting will be available from Tara and Erika in January. The February meeting is going to be devoted to the Brownsville Dam. People are invited to come and share memories, photos and stories about the dam. Project engineers from CES will provide a short presentation with their information to date on how the project will proceed.

Project Monitoring On-Track to Begin This Winter

On Tuesday, November 14th, Tara and I met with Douglass Fitting (OWEB) and Courtney Shaff (OWEB) and Desiree Tullos, professor in Biological and Ecological Engineering at OSU to discuss pre/post implementation monitoring for the dam removal. Desiree is putting together a scope for data collection that will take place this winter. As soon as we have our grant agreement from OWEB, we will begin data collection for 4 different data sets: 1. Suspended sediment 2. Bank pins - to look at bank erosion 3. Bed load sampling (OSU students will participate in this data collection 4. Photo points. Desiree and I met on December 1st to talk more about site background and available data. Desiree is putting together a plan for these 4 items to be implemented in December 2006.

Desiree is also developing a more extensive long-term monitoring plan that would include post-implementation monitoring for several years after the dam is removed. As that aspect of the project comes together, I will provide you with more details. That grant will be between OSU and OWEB with the Council only providing assistance. Monitoring is an important part of the project to help us understand how the River responds following the removal but also for future dam removal projects in other parts of the state.

Seismic Refraction Results Available – Good news, shallow bedrock!

In October, the Council contracted with NGA (Northwest Geophysical Associates), a geology consulting firm in Corvallis, to conduct a seismic refraction study. The study's purpose was to determine the depth to bedrock and to develop an estimate of the sediment stored behind the dam. They performed the data collection in October 2006 and their final report was mailed in late November 2006.

They collected data at three transects upstream of the dam. The report shows the locations of these transects and the results and provides information about the seismic refraction technique. The short answer is that there is shallow bedrock upstream of the dam. This will make the channel much more stable following the dam's removal. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact me. 619-5896 or hofferthay@peak.org

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Thank you to the Technical Team and Council members participating with this project. Special thanks to: Bud Baumgartner, Tim Otis, Bob Danehy, Tara Putney, Chuck Knoll, Karen Strohmeyer, Bill Sattler, Steve Mamoyac, Douglass Fitting and Desiree Tullos for all their time in the past few months!