

Sustainability Board Restoration Pilot Project

May 15, 2007 meeting notes

Attendees: Bill Bradbury, Sara Vickerman- Sustainability Board (SB); Louise Solliday, Kevin Moynahan-Dept. of State Lands (DSL); Jane Bacchieri- Governor's Office; Gabrielle Schiffer-Economic Revitalization Team (ERT), Patrick Allen, Laura Leshner; Office of Regulatory Streamlining; Sally Duncan Institute for Natural Resources (INR)

Agenda

Background of effort

Determine project purpose, scope approach and limits

Determine project selection criteria

Determine specific project for pilot demonstration project

Meeting notes

Background

Pat outlined the genesis of the Water-Related Permits Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT) project effort in 2005 and 2006. He recommended how that model can be forwarded into the key components for a regulatory streamlining effort for restoration projects.

This restoration pilot project was chartered by the Sustainability Board in March 2007. Laura will be available to support this project on a quarter time basis through the end of 2007. If continued support is needed for the project, Jane from the Governor's Natural Resources Office will support the project in 2008.

The remaining topics of discussion are covered in the project description and overview below.

Sustainability Board Restoration Pilot Project

Purpose

To work a significant restoration type pilot project that will include in-water restoration with regulatory agencies at the Federal, State and Local levels in the interest of streamlining the regulatory processes using the Water-Related Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT) Model.

The WRPPIT Model involves conducting a multi-agency pre-application conference, assigning an application/project coordinator from DSL as the designated lead coordinating regulatory agency, providing inter-agency coordination of completeness review, permit comments and conditions and using concurrent regulatory permit processing.

Project Sponsors

The Sustainability Board, the Office of Regulatory Streamlining and the Institute for Natural Resources.

Pilot Leadership Team

A Pilot Leadership Team will be established to set direction and determine any project scope or directional changes. The members will include Sara Vickerman, Kevin Moynahan, Pat Allen, Gail Achterman and appropriate representation for the Federal regulators as agreed to.

Approach

1. Convene an interagency team that has regulatory and/or policy interests in the pilot project in order to refine, establish and accomplish the agreements necessary to complete the pilot regulatory permitting processes. Build on previous natural resources regulatory streamlining work by using the WRPPIT Model for the restoration pilot project.
2. The pilot project is intended to create an atmosphere of cooperation, collaboration and understanding among the regulatory agencies and will conclude with an assessment of practices and procedures to carry forward and developing criteria for selecting future restoration type projects for a multi-agency approach.
3. A intergovernmental agreement or policy implications may be implicated by the evaluation results.

Limits

1. The scope of this project involves the regulatory requirements of an in-water restoration type project and the regulatory requirements that must be addressed in constructing the selected restoration pilot project.
2. The complexity of public funding mechanisms and the economic aspects of creating commercial wetland or conservation banks is outside the scope of this initial pilot project.
3. This pilot project will be limited to an application that demonstrates significant restoration benefits to reduce the perceptual and other risks to the participating agencies.

Regulatory participants

Given the scope of this type of project, the state agencies expected to be involved include: DSL, ODFW, WRD, DLCD, ODA, DEQ, OPRD, OWEB ODF.

At the local level it is anticipated that service districts such as the local Soil and Conservation District, Watershed Council, and Irrigation District along with the County Planning and Development Departments will be interested in participating in the pilot.

At the Federal level it is anticipated that the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA Fisheries, and perhaps U.S. Fish Wildlife and EPA will be involved if regulatory requirements are under their jurisdiction.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders will include the applicant/project sponsor, environmental and business interest groups, adjacent property owners and interested community members.

Selected Pilot Project

OWEB Project application number 207-091 Brownsville Dam Removal

Location: Calapooia River near Albany, OR.

Description: The Brownsville Dam is located just east of Brownsville on the Calapooia River. It involves a run-of-the-river dam that only impounds water for 3 months of the year. At present the dam impedes passage for cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, winter steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. While this has been a fish passage impediment for decades, it is only now that the community supports the removal the dam. Educational benefits would include a display at the Linn County History Museum describing the benefits of returning the river to a more naturally functioning condition.

Outreach Plan (start-up)

Contact Denise Hoffert-Hay- technical project manager for the Calapooia Watershed Council to determine outreach approach for existing technical team of regulatory agencies (complete 5/23/07). Continue to determine approach and roles with Denise ongoing and joint review of information for project updates.

Establish the List-serve service for project and pilot information for interested parties (complete 5/29/07).

Discuss project with Jane Bacchieri and Kirk Jarvie (complete 5/16, 5/23 and 5/24/07).

Provide update to the Sustainability Board on 6/1/07.

Regulatory Requirements

Regulatory Project Technical Team (See tech team doc) will remain the same with the exception of Kirk Jarvie providing leadership from DSL.

Kirk Jarvie will make a site visit and discuss the project with Denise for other possible regulatory requirements and timing.