

**Art & Design Teams Kick-off Meeting Synopsis**  
**October 20, 2009**  
**WRB Project Office, Salem**  
**8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Attendees: Robin Craig, Mike Faha, GreenWorks; Tulsı Wallace, Erin Lamb, Bill Shaw, Betsy Wolfston, Litus/Five Weavers; Peg Butler, Pat Lando, Lando and Associates

Staff: Don Kahle, Douglas Beauchamp, Larry Fox, Justin Lanphear, Megan Banks, Suzanne Roberts

### **Welcome**

The ADTs introduced themselves and talked about recent projects. Beginning with Bundle 1 (above deck) and Lando and Associates, Pat Lando noted that he had assembled a team with Buster Simpson because they have a similar approach to projects—listening to stakeholders and the site, and starting to derive the art and final process from those pieces. He said that Lando and Associates has been busy with innovative stormwater management—planted structures, sustainable building projects—as well as public involvement work. Peg Butler introduced herself and said that she had worked with Pat for last two months and the past three years with Buster. She previously worked with Eric Lloyd Wright in Malibu with a focus on ecological art, organic-non-organic architecture. She added that she was a UO grad and it was nice to be here.

For Bundle 2 (south bank), Mike Faha, principal landscape architect with GreenWorks, introduced himself. He noted that one of their focus areas was using public infrastructure and public open space to create community identity. He worked recently on the Confluence project where they worked with artists—supporting them, etc. at a variety of scales—neighborhood to community. Robin Craig introduced herself and said she would be the project manager. She added that they had assembled their team with the design workshops as an inspiration—their team includes three artists and an aquatic biologist. Artist Adam Kuby has a strong landscape architecture background that contributes to his art. Artist Lee Imonen is committed to community and passionate about the project. Artist Suzanne Lee has a Native American background and typically works in metal. Lon Mikkelson is an aquatic biologist. The team is a balance between art and science.

Closing with Bundle 3 (Whilamut), Tulsı Wallace noted the whole team except for Yotokko Kilpatrick was present. Tulsı noted that Yotokko was the team's restoration expert. She added that Betsy Wolfston, a ceramics artist, had been involved since the beginning and Erin Lamb was already working in the area on the west end of Whilamut Natural Area. She added that Bill Shaw is the team's architectural critic. Tulsı is currently working on EWEB's bird gardens and trails. Betsy currently has a show in Portland and she works at scales from 3" to 30'. Erin noted she is a former high school teacher now with Nearby Nature. Bill added that he has been a project manager with Berry Architects for the past 10 years and is completing his masters at the University of Oregon. Yotokko is working on restoration, pesticide-free projects throughout Lane County.

### **Goals for the Week**

Don said he wanted to show the teams how challenging the constraints are—ridiculous deadlines, lofty expectations, limited resources. However, the level of ownership to

outcomes is high. These elements can be seen as constraints or leveraged into positives. Over the last year, deadlines have helped focus attention and a wide range of voices in decision-making brings durable solutions. Skepticism has turned into strategies for new ways of doing things.

Larry said this is an unprecedented project for ODOT. For this week, the teams will have a steep learning curve. There are lots of players—a huge design team, ODOT, contractor and key stakeholders—all working together very closely. The matrix gives an idea of this. Today is intended to begin helping the ADTs get up to speed.

Larry said that ODOT's overarching goal for this project was to improve its relationship with the communities. ODOT is still working towards that goal. Larry said that the design decision process works as follows: 1) the OBEC design team initially works with stakeholders; 2) the OBEC design team goes to the CAG who help make recommendations that are forwarded to the PDT. If the recommendations meet scope, schedule, budget, the PDT usually affirms.

Justin stated that CMGS Landscape Architects were brought on as part of the design team to design the landscape restoration. CMGS is also the local permitting lead for Eugene and Springfield. Justin hopes to have permits by the beginning of the year.

Don stated that he wanted to share the project, “warts and all.” Last year, four different bridge designs were proposed. ODOT wanted a lot of input and put the choices out to a public web-based survey. The choice with the most first place votes, the Through Arch, ended up being too expensive so ODOT selected the Deck Arch and presented it as the least objectionable choice. Unfortunately, ODOT got a little sideways with communities because of this, although it appears we have recovered public trust at this point.

Douglas stated that the PDT and CAG wanted to bring art into the project and that he had been requested to present art alternatives. Douglas and a small group of CAG members met and developed the project theme. “Whilamut Passage” was unanimously adopted as the project theme by the CAG and PDT.

Larry offered information about the Kalapuya and millrace history. They have engaged two consultants: Esther Stutzman, a Kalapuya elder, and David Lewis, Cultural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. There will also be interpretive areas near the millrace ruins. ODOT has already hired a millrace historian to assist with development of mill race interpretive elements.

Don added that last December, the American Institute of Architects had been asked to help put together a design charrette. Some described the experience as frightening and transformative. There were lofty expectations, diversity and tight timing, and the event was very successful.

Megan described the two reports that had come out of the design workshops: 1) an executive summary with the topic areas organized and accompanied by images developed at the workshops and 2) an entire summary of the process, which included everything that had been developed—verbatim table comments, all the images, etc. and totaled almost two hundred pages.

Justin discussed land use permitting. He said the location triggered many diverse land use requirements—Willamette River Greenway and city-specific requirements. He noted that anything that affects natural resources falls into components that have to be addressed and permitting must be done in time for the contractor to begin and continue work. Placeholders have been kept for design enhancements in the permit applications but those placeholders are likely going to need refining.

Douglas observed that he become increasingly aware of the complexity of the project when developing the Request for Services. The three bundles were derived from an earlier list from Larry, which naturally fell into geographic areas

Megan shared that on August 11, the project groundbreaking had been held. Defazio, Wyden, Esther Stutzman and others had attended and it had been very successful.

Don stated that 10 different teams responded to the RFS. Six were interviewed. The choices were difficult but unanimous in the end. Each team was chosen for how it fit with the other two.

Larry stated that brings us to where we are today. ADT concept designs are due mid-January; final designs are due mid-April. In June, everything will go to the contractor for pricing. Larry clarified that the bundles were geographic as well as delineated by the key stakeholders that the ADTs will have to interact with.

## **ADT Presentations**

### **Bundle 2: south bank**

Robin with GreenWorks introduced the team members. She mentioned that they were intrigued by challenging problems and sites such as they dealt with for the Confluence Project. She added they like change—seasons, temporal, etc. and presented their recent Windscape project as an example. She said they like to tell stories of a place and making places. With Tanner Springs Park, the artists on the team helped them tell stories and make the places. She shared Adam, Suzanne and Lee's recent artwork. She added that Lon, the team's aquatic biologist, looks at the science behind place-making in stream restoration projects such as Kelly Creek. She said her team was excited about time and movement, and how the three areas are tied together; how one experiences places with the cadence of your movement. Bundle 2 is intriguing because of the four to six linear systems all moving back and forth. How to create a special place will be the challenge.

Robin said that she thinks Bundle 1 is of heroic proportions—there are huge opportunities and constraints. How opportunities underneath the bridge relate to Bundle 1 opportunities, as well as how Bundle 2 and 3 tie together on both sides of Knickerbocker Bridge, is a question.

Mike asked what will we ask people to remember this project by—the bridge? The bundle 2 area? He added that these areas are just as important as the surrounding infrastructure.

Tulsi noted she was very curious how all three groups will interact. Don said he wants staff to be effective and efficient in assisting the teams, and identify how we can facilitate those cross conversations.

### **Bundle 3: Whilamut**

Tulsi noted that her team all had different reasons for being attracted to the project. For her, it is piquing curiosity. She believes the relationship between bundles is important and critical. The area is a thoroughfare between Eugene and Springfield and there is so much depth to area.

Bill said that he was attracted to the intersections within bundles—spatial and temporal. There are crossroads for pedestrians, bicyclists; river, etc. Stewardship is also important—past uses intersect here and now, but will also do so in the future. Erin commented that she sees this as Eugene’s Central Park. Betsy said she feels like she “owns” the park. She has watched the place change. Yotokko said he has worked on the butterfly meadow in the area. He believes this is the cornerstone of the area that will reflect back into art.

Regarding the Whilamut Natural Area Plan, Tulsi asked if we are we honoring it. Justin responded that yes, the plan is held quite sacred to some. It was done a while ago but CPC members will bring to the team’s attention those management plan components that are most important to them.

The CPC are the champions for the WNA. Larry added that all three entities needed to be in the room since they don’t always speak with a unified voice. Eugene Parks and Open Space and Willamalane may defer to CPC but there are certain issues EPOS and/or Willamalane feel strongly about related to their overall goals. Litus should be aware that they need to work with all three entities.

Justin said that in response to federal programmatic requirements, we don’t want to go too far outside the project boundaries. However, if all are on-board that a strong idea should be considered, there may be some room for maneuvering.

### **Bundle 1: above deck**

Pat said that before they submitted their proposal, they had been working on reconciling art as structure for the landscape, and the landscape as part of art. They are excited about the opportunity to work with other bundles. They listen to the landscape—what does it want to be? How do we celebrate what was there but create a framework for the future telling of the story? Conflicts are always part of it.

Peg said it was a coming together of scales—time, speed, people, places—in a simple and elegant way; and a collaboration of everyone together so that voices are heard. The team came together because of their similar thinking regarding “poetic utility.” Good design comes from many ideas that come together. A moment in time—want to provide a moment of breathe where something comes together. We often talk about “memorializing”—she hopes to make it more living: what is crawling off the bridge, what is creeping up? Erin added that she was particularly excited about Lando’s innovative stormwater projects. The team is excited to work with other bundles and teams.

Douglas responded to Mike’s question about the missing bundle. The part of the project that is officially ODOT’s jurisdiction and budget is set but the teams will come up against areas outside of a specifically identified bundle, which to Douglas is the missing bundle.

Don mentioned that at the February workshops two teams that were assigned to examine the “whole.” The missing bundle is how they connect, as well as those areas outside bundles.

Mike asked about Justin’s work so far in making places—what is programmatic versus permit versus design driven? To what degree does art blend with elements or is it stand alone?

Larry encouraged the team to be open to conceptualizing ideas that won’t get implemented as part of this project. State, federal and local land use permits have delineated boundaries that will help limit teams. For example, the Camas field might be part of larger project/master plan that only gets partially implemented now with the remainder left for future development.

Tulsi noted that the CPC’s idea of Camas field includes some areas outside of the project boundaries. Tulsi also asked how to communicate with stakeholders. Larry responded that interactions should happen at structured meetings and that staff will help facilitate those. This Friday the monthly parks meeting and the south bank meeting would be good introductory meetings if team(s) can attend.

Don noted that keeping boundaries on expectations is something the teams will need to deal with. Geographic boundaries or strength of ideas could be used to shape expectations. He would like to see really strong ideas that define and help reach agreement with stakeholders.

Mike said that hearing about boundaries—schedule, permitting, etc. makes him want to get the three teams together for a design session as well as working on his own bundle. He would like to get together sooner rather than later to see how to make a strong project statement. He asked how to reconcile obligations to respective stakeholders—what is the order of the process? Justin responded that is the purpose of Thursday’s work session—to share stakeholder interests early.

Megan shared that ODOT was responsible for outreach to the public and will manage that process. The group discussed staff as a filter for the ADTs and stakeholders. Larry suggested this would help protect the ADTs from the multitude of voices, in particular with Bundle 3. ODOT would like to communicate with the community about design enhancements. Megan clarified that we don’t expect nor want the ADTs to communicate with the media.

Douglas said ADTs would need to be careful to separate where a DEP member might have a personal opinion. Could go back to the Scope of Work and be sure responding to a question is in that scope. Staff can be used as a filter for those information requests.

Pat asked if we get information, can we use staff to assist the teams with the value of input—personal opinion or community-at-large? Betsy said she has had a call already. Larry responded that the teams shouldn’t take direction from individuals; staff’s job is also to manage interactions with the DEP. The teams will probably meet with the DEP two or three times. DEP’s role is not to design the project; they will be reviewing the ADTs’ work and making recommendations.

Mike asked about a list of recycled materials. Don said the decommissioned bridge demolition is scheduled to begin around November 1. There is some interest in using the columns as part of the design, but would need to know fairly quickly. Mike said demo'ed sidewalk is typically useful for reuse somehow. There is lots of concrete on the bridge but it is different because of all the rebar, etc.

Don said staff will come up with a family tree of how all the organizations and committees relate to one another and an explanation of DEP staff members' roles.

Robin asked about an ftp site for posting maps and documents, CAD drawings, surveys, etc. and access. OBEC has an ftp site and will create folder for this part of project.

Don asked if a weekly rundown of what has happened project-wise would be helpful. The group concurred. Don said he will build a Google group for the ADTs.

Robin and Mike shared their individual bundle maps.