



# LOWER SATSOP RIVER ADVISORY GROUP MEETING NOTES

<b>Meeting Date and Time:</b>	January 16, 2019   2:00 – 4:00 PM
<b>Project Name:</b>	Lower Satsop River Planning Project
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Grays Harbor County Administration Office
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority	Rick Schwartz, WDNR
Michelle Cramer, WDFW	Alissa Shay, Port of Grays Harbor
Dave Kloempken, WDFW	Amy Spoon, WDFW
Tom Kollasch, GHCD	Anthony Waldrop, GHCD
Allen Lebovitz, WDNR	Rob Wilson, Grays Harbor County
Rick Mraz, Ecology	<b><u>Maul Foster &amp; Alongi</u></b>
Bethany Nickison, USACE	Kathy Lombardi
Vickie Raines, GHC Commissioner	Michael Stringer
John Romero, WSDOT	Lauren Wirtis
Steve Schmitz, KPFF	

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On January 16, 2019, Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) convened the Advisory Group for the Lower Satsop River planning project. The purpose of this meeting was to review the draft Satsop River Investment Plan, discuss the November 2018 avulsion, and review the next steps to move towards implementation. Commissioner Vickie Raines opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and beginning introductions.

The notes below provide a summary of these topics and the discussions that occurred during the meeting.

## **REVIEW OF THE DRAFT INVESTMENT PLAN**

M Stringer reviewed the key points of the draft Investment Plan:

- The approach of the draft Investment Plan is one that will work with natural river processes while respecting the importance of protecting agricultural land and infrastructure that supports the community and the local economy.
- Lower Satsop: Approach to this part of the river includes a complex system of ELJs and bioengineered bank protection measures that will protect farmland and Keys Road on both

sides of the river. This work will require funding in 2019-20 state and local budgets to support design and construction of pilot project (CRBFA, ASRP, DNR, .09 funds). Plan for long-term changes to Keys Road will occur on a 30- to 40-year time horizon.

- Upper Watershed: This section includes planning and implementation of a series of small scale LWD projects to promote floodplain connectivity, reduce erosion, and decrease downstream impacts over time.
- East Fork: This part of the watershed will be addressed through implementation of the ASRP pilot project.

#### Comments from the Advisory Group

- This document will act as a jumping off point and then be a living document for addressing issues on the Satsop River
- Gravel management language should discuss the habitat benefits of gravel and the difficulty of permitting projects that are solely based on gravel removal.
- Emphasize that the process developed through the County's leadership is a benefit of its own and that supporting this ongoing process will lead to continued dialogue and progress.
- The members of the Advisory Group would be willing to jointly sign a statement of support (noting that it is not a permit or pre-approval of any of the projects listed therein).

#### **NOVEMBER 2018 AVULSION**

The Willis family has been working with the GHCD to create a solution in response to the avulsion, which is threatening their home. The Advisory Group members generally stated that, for their permitting purposes, the situation would qualify as an emergency. Typically, in an emergency situation the applicant may act and then obtain permits after the fact. They will, however, still be required to complete the necessary mitigation.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INVESTMENT PLAN**

In order to get started on the design for the ELJ system on the Lower Satsop River, funding will be required. After a discussion, the Advisory Group identified potential sources of funding that could potentially be available:

- Engineering Design (February – June): DNR restoration funds, reallocation of CRBFA funds that are not expected to be spent by the end of the state fiscal year, and County .09 economic development funds
- Final design and permitting (July 2019 – June 2020): CRBFA local projects funds allocated in governor's budget request for Keys Road protection
- Construction (July 2019 – December 2020): State legislative member request.

### **Next Steps**

- Updates to text of the Investment Plan (by end of February)
- Draft letter to be signed by Advisory Group members. (by end of February)
- Formal adoption by the County (by end of March)