

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Topic and Number: LA Steering Committee Meeting #1

Meeting Date and Time: April 14, 2022, at 1:00pm

Project Number: 2206.01.001

Project Name: Model Code Development and Soil Bank Feasibility Study

Meeting Location: Virtual via Teams

Attendees:

Project Team
Paul Jewell, Washington State Association of Counties
Jill Scheffer, Washington State Department of Ecology
Ben Johnson, Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.
Phil Wiescher, Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.
Ferdouse Oneza, Oneza & Associates

Committee Members

Adam Brizendine, Sealland Construction
Chris Young, Chelan County
Glen Devries, City of Wenatchee
Joseph Calhoun, City of Yakima
Tommy Carroll, Yakima County

Introductions:

Project Background: Paul and Ben presented on the project purpose and background. See slides presentation for an overview of the presentation.

1. Purpose of the Project
2. Overview of past efforts

Process and timeline: See project timeline graphic in slide presentation.

Local government permitting process discussion themes

- **Local government and Ecology roles:** There was some discussion over whether local jurisdictions have the authority to require cleanup actions or issue decisions based on cleanup action plans or if that authority lies solely with Ecology. Ecology can comment during SEPA review and add assessment and cleanup requirements. However, for projects that are exempt from SEPA review, Ecology may not be notified of the development application. The City of Wenatchee felt that they do not have that authority to require cleanup for non-SEPA projects and do they want to consider cleanup needs in their permitting decisions.
- **Education materials and voluntary local cleanup oversight:** For jurisdictions that do not want to be involved in requiring cleanup of historical orchards, some alternative measures were proposed, including providing more robust educational materials to applicants and making them available at the permit counter. There was also an openness to creating a voluntary cleanup oversight process, where the developer would have to elect to go through rather than being required by the local agency. Also, adding the historical orchard web map to local jurisdictions parcel mapping tools would be beneficial. The group also touched on the need for education and disclosure tools for properties that are not undergoing redevelopment. This could be similar to the required disclosures for lead paint.
- **Ecology action to spur compliance:** Several committee members expressed the potential need for Ecology to take enforcement action or appeal a local decision to get local governments onboard with the new requirements. Once this happens, more communities may recognize the benefit of the model code tool.
- **Similarities to shoreline/critical areas:** There are some similarities to shoreline and critical area review. Any property in a given area is subject to additional review. It may be that we could create a similar framework for historical orchard using the Ecology Dirt Alert Map.

Schedule:

TBD, June 2022

Next Quarterly Committee Meeting