

Albany Floodplain Project Meeting #2
December 17, 2010
Albany City Hall

Meeting Participants: Tara Davis (CWC), Troy Brandt (RDG), Pete Gruendike (RDG), Bud Baumgartner (CWC), Kim Kagelaris (Albany), Ed Hodney (Albany), Peter Kenagy (Landowner), Pam Wiley (MMT), Jason McAfee (Landowner/CWC), Mark Azevedo (FETL), Kathy Cook (FETL), Annette Higinbotham (FETL), Michael Pope (GLT)

Presentation: Troy and Pete with River Design Group provided the group with a presentation that addressed the background of the project, data collection methodology, GIS results, and LiDAR floodplain elevation or “bathtub model”. Download the pdf of the presentation from the following website:

http://www.calapooia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/RDG_Calapooia-Albany%20Second%20Meeting%20Compressed.pdf

Discussion:

- It is important to collect information from the local citizens and landowners along the rivers because there has been a change in priorities over the last six months since the project started. New priorities have been added.
- The limitations of the bathtub model and discrepancies with actual patterns inundation need to be explained to all audiences viewing the results. There are many assumptions and areas of uncertainty. It is not always a true representation of the 2 year flooding. Berms, levees and revetments are not taken into account in the bathtub analysis.
- Very little channel migration has occurred in the lower Calapooia over the last 150 years. The Calapooia has good habitat complexes, wood and off-channel habitats. Opportunities include in-channel habitat structures, enhanced connectivity with oxbows and side channels, planting in buffer impaired areas for added bank stability and to mitigate temperature issues. Lamprey may also be a focus species in the lower Calapooia- ask Brandy Humphries about monitoring.
- There is a culvert potentially blocking fish passage across river from the McAfee site- ask Jason for help to meet with the landowner.

Periwinkle Creek

- TMDL requirements like riparian shade and invasive species control in the buffer
- Educational and demonstration site potential for youth and the greater community that uses the park. Potential OWEB small grants application in the future to control blackberry and ivy with City and private landowners. Look into the potential of restoring up to Water St. and look at private ownership.
- Refuge habitat for juvenile salmonids during high flows on the Willamette.
- Are there ponds acting as heat sinks upstream on Periwinkle that could be addressed?
- Lamprey studies? Ask Brandy Humphries.

Willamette (North Albany)

East Thornton Lake

- Connection to the Willamette through backwater channel and flows
 - Is it possible? Under what conditions?

- Can we establish backwater flow to E Thornton Lake and connectivity from the north?
- The first priority is connectivity from the south
- RDG to look into existing connectivity and recommendations for the backwater system through stage/discharge analysis and bathtub model results
- Maintain habitat and natural resource connectivity to the Willamette (Mark)
 - Albany is unique in trying to allow/encourage diversity of wildlife to continue in certain areas within the urban environment
- Direction to RDG
 - Use bathtub model to look at how water moves between the Willamette and Thornton Lake
 - Currently there is a connection (Mark)
 - Provide RDG with new City data that Diane had done?

North Albany

- Access through North Albany, look into top section of North Albany and potential floodplain inundation and connectivity
- Invasives control is a key issue
- Trees – replace near Springhill Road because they are declining and will be lost in the next few years; look into recruitment of future habitat wood and large trees for complex riparian areas and instream habitat
- Cottonwood trees – there is no “backup” for these trees for replacement for shade
- Plan ahead for replacement for shade
- Streamside vegetation is narrow across the river, east side

4th Lake

- Off channel refuge/habitat areas
- Wait to learn what International Paper intends to do with the property, then partner with landowner; potential City conservation/protection area?
- RDG to look into habitat viability and enhancement opportunities for the time being- exploration of treatment options
- What are the City’s priorities?
 - Ed – 4th Lake in the context of the Talking Waters project is wetland, habitat
 - Mark – the City has several focal points - Talking Waters Garden, Thornton Lake – what is looking to restore as part of overall “vision”

Should cost and risk be looked at by RDG? Yes

Mark – The consultant must have assumptions outlined in their report and these must be clear to the stakeholders. We must know the assumptions and errors of this model/project in order for it to be of use in future years.