

Albany Floodplain Project Meeting #3
January 31st, 2011
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), Karen Hans (ODFW), Diane Taniguchi-Dennis (Albany), Chris Bailey (Albany)

Presentation: Troy and Pete with River Design Group provided the group with a presentation that addressed the background of the project, data collected since the December meeting, further discussion about accuracy of the LiDAR floodplain elevation or “bathtub model”, and the opportunities in all systems. Download the pdf of the presentation from the following website:

http://www.calapooia.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/RDG_Calapooia_Albany_Third_Meeting.pdf

Discussion:

- The inundation model looks at water surface elevation minus known ground elevations for depth. It was validated for the 2 year event using the Harrisburg staff gages that were installed at the Harken’s Lake project. Staff plate readings were related to nearby discharge gages on the Willamette. Although the property is located between two gages, the accuracy was profound (272.40’ vs. model 272.56’). Therefore, the inundation model is useful for planning purposes and is quite predictive for a 2 year event. New ACOE curves are going to be released soon that would improve the accuracy even more for models like this. Of course culverts and other structures may impact the recession of water and actual drainage patterns in the floodplain, which is beyond the scope of analysis of this project. More on-the-ground surveys need to be performed to create designs and specific models in the future.
- The revised FEMA floodplain/way maps will be available soon from the City.
- Could cultural resources hang up a number of these projects? Worth consideration and discussion in the future.
- It would be ideal to receive this level of data and modeling between Albany and Corvallis to look at upstream opportunities; also, a bikeway from Corvallis to Albany on the north side of the river is being developed by each entity.
- The City would like to look for highest priority riparian planting sites to satisfy TMDL temperature requirements and has funding for plantings in areas that will create the most reduction in thermal load to streams; Pete will look at terrain model, aspect and riparian veg GIS layers to ID the best planting sites. The City reports to DEQ by June 4th of every year and the implementation plan applies for 5 years.
- This assessment should dovetail with Goal 5 process- Troy will contact Heather Slocum to discuss activities plans and will download the Goal 5 planning materials if necessary to tie to the assessment.
- How will the team prioritize all these efforts and what are the deliverables? A report and opportunities maps and a geodatabase will be provided to the whole team; prioritization will be a component although constraints like cultural resources will be referenced during the report.
- Goal 5 opportunities exist on Oak Creek.
- The fish historically occupied these small streams and confluence areas, especially during high events for refuge and food; ODOT is looking at infrastructure improvements on I5 to help with fish passage and capacity for these small tribs throughout the lowlands

Calapooia:

- The City is interested in addressing the maintenance issues at Bryant Park and floodplain enhancement opportunities; the ball fields are too much upkeep and it's not a preferred location for players

Periwinkle Creek

- There are non-vegetated ponds that act as heat sinks on Periwinkle Creek
- Canal water enters most of these smaller creeks in Albany, including Periwinkle, and since the City has water rights future augmentation for cooling is an option.
- Many of these small tribs including Periwinkle are perceived as ditches or storm water system by urban residents.
- Lowe's could be a potential restoration partner on this system.
- A lot of restoration and youth education takes place at the mouth in Bowman Park. There are opportunities for invasive species control, retirement of the mowing responsibility by installing native riparian corridors, instream, concrete removal, augmentation of base flows, and some restoration demonstration.

East Thornton Lake

- Scattered oak, valley pine and upland oak savannah existed at this newly acquired open space.
- The inlet/outtake of the lake (western side) has a grate for drainage set at an elevation pleasing to landowners; a culvert under North Albany Road separates the two lakes (is this a native/non-native fish barrier?)
- The Willamette and connector stream backwatered this year with the 2 year event.
- There was a natural connection to the Willamette according to the 1850 survey.
- An 8'x8' box culvert exists under Hwy 20 and there is some consideration off enhancement and redesign for a friendlier connection to the lakes for migration of species.
- Troy or Pete will follow up on the fish passage conditions between the lake and river.

Albany South Willamette River Oxbow System

- Do not use pond or lake language- it's really an oxbow, which will be the future reference.
- Cox Creek use to have a different connection to the Willamette through the oxbow; that whole area has been manipulated and there is restoration opportunity.
- Murder and Truax Creeks receive canal water as well, and also enter this oxbow system at downstream sites from Cox; there are City water rights on these streams too, so future augmentation is an option, but currently managed by the upstream Grand Prairie Water District that manages streams by dredging and maintenance for flood control.
- IP and Millersburg talking and there is a potential transfer of land ownership; they City would like to create backwater connection from Willamette into oxbow water bodies and Talking Garden.
- The City has 35 million authorized from water resources act that can be applied for water quality projects that have habitat elements.
- Troy will be visiting with Wa Change staff about their tertiary treatment and monitoring progress and tie in to the oxbow.
- The stakeholder team and council would like a tour of Talking Waters site by designer, Heather or other relevant staff.
- There will be a Grand Ronde educational component at TW