

Conference on the Willamette River

Do the Environmental Laws, Regulatory Programs and Technical Strategies Work to Improve the Health of the Watershed and the Community?

December 5, 2008

World Trade Center
Portland Oregon

- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Water Act
- TMDLs
- Stormwater
- Source Control
- Contaminated Sediment
- NPDES Permits
- CERCLA
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Natural Resources Damage Assessment
- Watershed Planning
- Science and Community Goals

AGENDA

7:30-8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00 Welcome, Introductions & Conference Overview

Holly Duncan, President
Environmental Law Education Center

BIG PICTURE PLANNING & REGULATION

8:00-8:30 Conservation & Restoration on the Willamette River

- Ecological History of the Willamette River and the Influences of Human Activities
- Development of Restoration Perspectives and Practices Based on the Natural Restorative Processes of Rivers
- Future Trajectories of Change in the Willamette River

Stanley V. Gregory, PhD
Professor, Oregon State University

8:30-9:00 A Vision for the Willamette

- Protecting & Restoring the River
- Environmental Cleanup & Habitat Restoration
- Advocating Good Policies for a Healthy Willamette River

Travis Williams, Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper

9:00-9:30 Oregon's Planning for the Willamette River

- Willamette River Basin Plans & Reports
- High Priority Actions, Investments & Initiatives
- What Is the Best Course for Oregon?

Jane Bacchieri, Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski

9:30-10:00 Confluence of State and Federal Laws & Regulatory Programs

- Integration & Overlap of State & Federal Environmental Laws
- Successes & Failures of Regulatory Programs in Satisfying Community Interests
- Recommendations for Legal and Regulatory Priorities

Mark Morford, Stoel Rives LLP

10:00-10:30 BREAK

NRDA & ESA & CWA

10:30-11:00 Natural Resources Damage Assessment on the Willamette River

- Implementation of Natural Resources Damage Assessment at the Portland Harbor
- Restoration Planning In & Outside the Portland Harbor

Erin Madden, Cascadia Law

Chair, Natural Resources Trustee Council for the Portland Harbor

11:00-11:30 Restoration Strategies on the Willamette River

- Restoration Planning Concurrent with Injury Assessment
- Identifying High Value Restoration Opportunities and Potential Projects

Megan Callahan Grant, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist

NOAA Fisheries - Restoration Center

11:30-12:00 Clean Water Act Programs

- Coordinating Clean Water Act Programs in the Willamette Basin: TMDLs & Stormwater Permitting
- Common Themes in TMDL Implementation Plans
- Stormwater Management and Its Importance to the River

Michael J. Wolf, Water Quality Program Manager

***Willamette TMDL Implementation and Stormwater Permitting
Western Region, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality***

12:00-1:00 LUNCH (Provided)

WILLAMETTE WATERSHED HEALTH

HOW DO THE REGULATORY PROGRAMS FIT INTO THE HEALTH OF THE WATERSHED?

1:00-1:30 What are the Implications for the Entire Watershed from Remediation?

- How Does the Work on the Portland Harbor Fit into the Health of the Watershed?
- Site Characterization: Remedial Investigation Data & Implications for the Health of the Watershed

Eric Blischke, Portland Harbor Project Manager

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region X

1:30-2:00 Municipalities' Efforts to Protect & Restore the Willamette Watershed

- Where Does Remediation Fit into the Overall Health of the River?
- Can We Balance Environmental Costs with Other Community Goals?
- How Should We Measure the Success of Remediation?

Rick Applegate, Portland Harbor Superfund Administrator (invited)

Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland

2:00-2:30 Coordination & Integration of State Laws and Regulatory Programs on the Willamette

- Coordinating Cleanup and Permitting
- Key Issues in Achieving Source Control for Sediment Cleanup in Portland Harbor
- Integrating the Downtown Portland Sediment Investigation into Oregon DEQ's Source Control Vision
- What Are the Next Steps with the Report?

Keith Johnson, Manager, Lower Willamette

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2:30-3:00 BREAK

CONTAMINATION & REDEVELOPMENT

3:00-3:30 Recent Sediment Characterization of the "Downtown Reach" - Willamette River Miles 12 to 16

- Sampling Approach in the Shadow of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site
- What We Found in the River - Nature and Extent of Hazardous Substances
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Survey
- Database & GIS Mapping & Issuance of Field & Data Report
- Historical Perspective

Kevin Parrett, PhD, Sr. Environmental Chemist
GSI Water Solutions

3:30-4:00 Brownfields Redevelopment along the Willamette River

- Putting Contaminated Sites Along the Willamette River Back to Productive Use
- Willamette River Industrial Urban Renewal Area

Kevin Johnson, Sr. Project/Program Coordinator
Manager Willamette Industrial Urban Renewal Area
Portland Development Commission

Where Do We Go From Here? - Panel Discussion

4:00-4:30 What Are the Goals of the Environmental Laws, Regulatory Programs & Technical Strategies and How Can Those Goals Be Achieved?

Which Programs Are Most Effective in Improving the Health of the Watershed?

Moderator: Holly Duncan
Environmental Law Education Center
Panelists: Conference speakers