



**Date:** May 14, 2007  
**To:** Habitat Advisory Group (HAG)  
**From:** Tom Martin  
**Subject:** HAG Meeting Summary for January 25, 2007 - 10:00 AM

**Attendees:**

<b>Members attending:</b>		
Brian Peck, USFWS	Bart Madison, Conservation Groups	Tom Martin, Tacoma Power
Lee Grose, Lewis County Commissioner		
<b>Others attending:</b>		
Mark LaRiviere, Tacoma Power	Larry Unzelman, Lewis County	Mary Williams, Tacoma Power
Marsha Johnson, Tacoma Power		
<b>Members absent:</b>		
Hal Beecher, WDFW		

**Summary**

The Habitat Advisory Group (HAG) meeting was held at the USFWS office in Lacey, Washington.

The meeting summary from the September 8, 2006 meeting was approved by the HAG with one correction from Mark LaRiviere.

Mary passed out the latest property information spreadsheet. A review of the active properties was done. Mary will send out an updated property information spreadsheet with information and decisions from this meeting in about a week.

Jenkins' property – The owner of this property is not sure what he is going to do with this property. Since this property is surrounded by Tacoma Power's recently acquired properties at Massey Bar and WDFW land, which limits the owner's options lead the HAG to decide not to push the owner, but rather just to contact him periodically as to the status.

The 200 acre property being developed by a LLC that includes former Lewis County Commissioner Dennis Hadaller was discussed. This property has been logged and is in the process of being developed into 20 acre tracts. Mr. Hadaller has indicated that he would be interested in a conservation easement that allowed some access from the owners of the 20 acre tracts. It was agreed that the shoreline on this property is worth protecting and that there is concern with allowing people access. Mark noted that this shoreline had a steep bank and that a geologist or geomorphologist should look at this site. Larry was directed to contact Mr. Hadaller and advise him of this concern before he had the tracts plated.

The Lacamas Creek properties on Vader Road -- These owners had all been previously contacted. The HAG gave the go ahead to pursue purchase of and/or conservation easements on the three properties involved. There was discussion about the fact that several of these properties were being actively farmed and whether or not that would need to change if the properties were acquired. It was determined that a site visit to these properties by Mark and Bill Van der Hoeft was in order. It was noted that according to the husband of owner Dana Freeland said he thought she would only be interested in a conservation easement. The HAG would prefer to buy the section of Freeland property between the river and Highway 506 instead of a conservation easement, if possible. Larry was instructed to approach Ms. Freeland on that basis.

Wasser-Winters property – Larry was instructed to ask Dick Winters for permission to access his property to do an appraisal of the section of the parcel along the river. The result of the appraisal would be the basis of an offer of a purchase or conservation easement.

Otter Creek properties – The Arnold Strand property will be investigated. Larry was directed to have Bill Van der Hoeft contact the property owner about a site visit. The other Otter Creek parcels, both owned by Francis Wharton will be dropped from the “Active” property list since the owner has made it clear he was not interested in selling.

Balfor Bar properties – After reviewing these properties, the HAG gave the go ahead to pursue purchase. Mark and Bill Van der Hoeft will do a site visit.

Tom reviewed the gravel augmentation program. He said that past November flood event did move remove the 500 cubic yards from the bank below the Barrier Dam and into the river. The other 500 cubic yards for 2007 that has been already been placed behind the first 500 yards will be pushed into position in the summer during the fish window. Brian inquired about the size distribution in the gravel that was placed. He was concerned about the amount of fines in the gravel. Tom said the gravel was mined from the gravel bar adjacent to the salmon hatchery intake and was placed “as is”. Mark noted that the plan called for a follow-up study to see if the program needed to be modified or expanded.

Tom and Mark updated the group on large woody debris (LWD) activities. Tom noted that the river has swept all 600 lineal feet of LWD that was placed on the shoreline near the trout hatchery year. Tom and Mark discussed the large amount of woody debris that resulted from the November flood event. Mark said that he met with two representatives of the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG) at Lake Mayfield. He said they are making arrangements to haul some or all of the surplus LWD at the Lake Mayfield decking site. He said there is much more LWD that is still rafted in the lake.

Tom reported on what Tacoma Power has been doing internally relative to management of the Fish Habitat properties. He reviewed the draft of proposed approach to property management. This included such issues a site-naming protocol, site assessments, signage, monitoring and patrols, etc. When the final approach has been developed, it will be presented to the HAG for review and approval.

Tom stated that there have been no new proposals for funding grants. Lee noted that his future daughter-in-law works for the Columbian Land Conservancy. He said he would ask her if that group could make a presentation at a future HAG meeting.

Mark updated the group on the activities of the LCFEG on the Cowlitz River. He said they were getting ready to go before the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board to request funding for a number of habitat enhancement projects.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

### **Action Items**

Tom then reviewed that action items or tasks from this meeting. They are

Update property information spreadsheet and distribute to the HAG members - Mary

Contact Dennis Hadaller and advise him of discussion at this meeting relative to a possible conservation easement – Larry

Obtain permission to visit Saarinen property at Lacamas Creek- Larry and Bill Van der Hoef

Approach Dana Freeland with proposal to buy the property between the river and Highway 506 or buy conservation easement for same property - Larry

Approach Dick Winters regarding the part of the Wasser–Winter property next to the river and offer either to buy a conservation easement or purchase that part of his property outright – Larry

Obtain permission to visit the Arnold Strand property by Bill and Mark – Bill

Obtain permission for Bill and Mark to visit properties at Balfor Bar – Bill

Arrange for a representative of Columbia Land Trust attend the next meeting – Lee

Still pending action item:

Find out more from Debbie Young about studies showing that properties with buffers are worth more than those without – Tom

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting was scheduled for May 10, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the new Lewis County offices at 2025 N. Kresky in Chehalis.

cc: P. McCarty  
D. Young  
M. LaRiviere  
Marsha Johnson  
Mary Williams  
Larry Unzelman