

Convening the Lower Columbia Solutions Group



Lower Columbia
Solutions Group

- Governor of Oregon
- Governor of Washington
- Director of CEQ

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and Governors of Oregon and Washington foster collaborative decision making and conflict resolution for intergovernmental and stakeholder issues involving local, state and federal agencies and non-governmental entities with respect to sustainable dredge material disposal in the lower Columbia River area.

Lower Columbia Solutions Group

The Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG):

- A diverse, bi-state group of local, state and federal governmental and non-governmental stakeholders
- Interested in and affected by dredge material disposal activities in the Lower Columbia River area



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LCSG Charter



The mission of the Lower Columbia Solutions Group:

- To serve as the key bi-state clearing house
- To coordinate policy, projects and research related to dredge material disposal and sediment management on the Lower Columbia River and Littoral Cell
- Focuses on finding sustainable solutions to policy issues, research, operations and conflicts

Membership of Lower Columbia Solutions Group

State of Oregon Governor's Office

State of Washington Governor's Office

US Army Corps of Engineers

Pacific County Commission

Port of Astoria

Port of Portland

Port of Vancouver

Columbia River Crabbers Association

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Pacific Marine Conservation Council

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

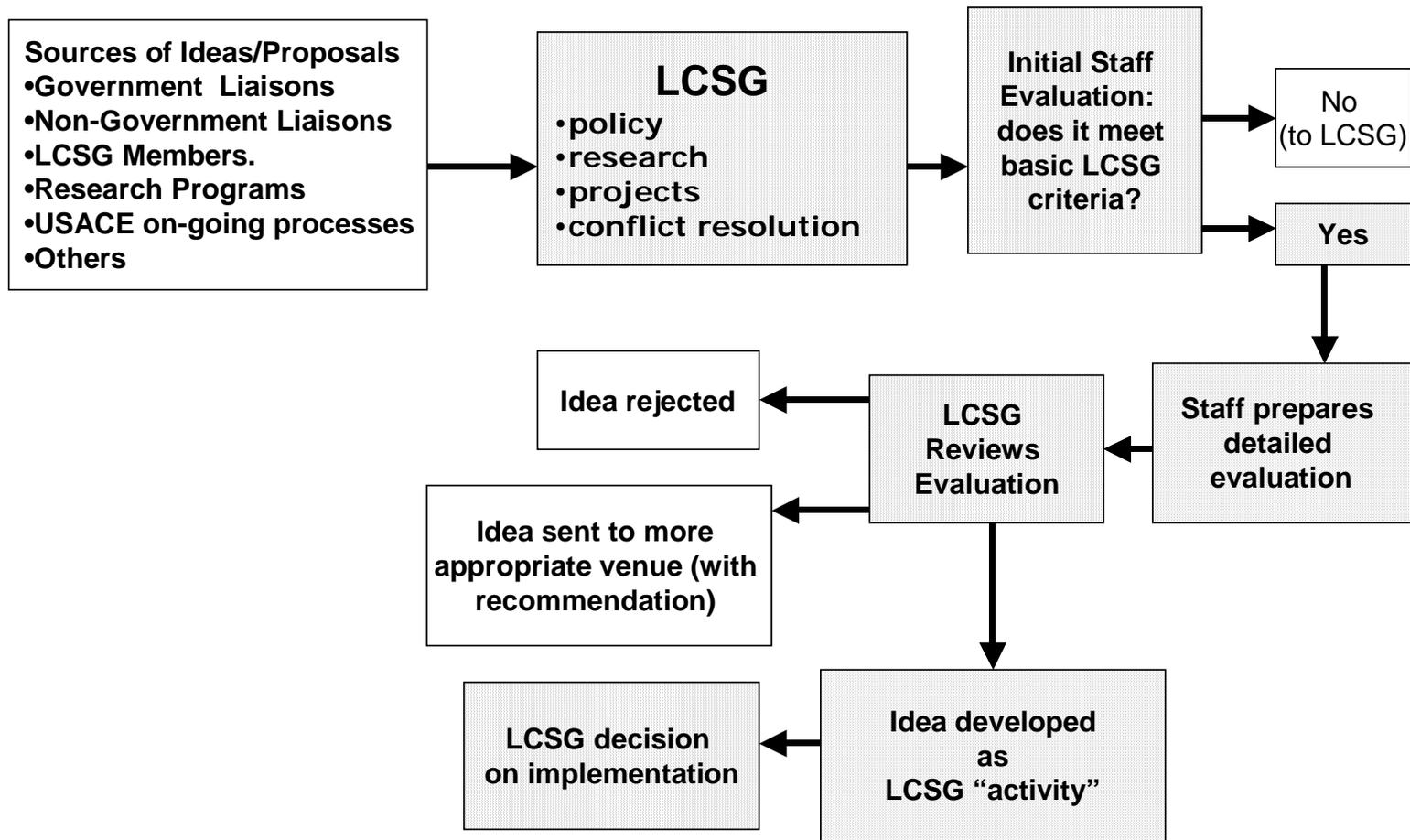
Salmon for All

Citizen Representative



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Figure 1
LCSG Organization and Process Flow Diagram



Criteria and Process

- Identify and interview key stakeholders about the topic
- Determine which agencies/organizations/individuals would need to be involved.
- Determine key issues, opportunities and challenges
- Identify other organizations that might take the lead instead of LCSG



Criteria and Process

- Consider whether it is the right time for LCSG to take on this topic--Would it be better to defer until a later time?
- Develop preliminary process or project design
- Identify possible conveners/facilitators or researchers and staff support options
- Develop a budget; research funding opportunities; secure funding commitments, if possible

LCSG Projects



Near Shore Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

The long-term objective of a proposed supplementation of dredged sediments would be to keep these sediments in the littoral zone, rebuild the offshore sands to prevent further erosion of historic habitat, and better protect the jetty from the impacts of waves coming from the southwest.

Rice Island

To minimize the footprint of dredge disposal sites in the Lower River and to protect habitat for fish and birds.

Ross Island

To transport sand from the Lower River as part of a reclamation plan.

Regional Sediment Planning

To develop recommendations for the Lower Columbia Solutions Group related to the interface between regional sediment planning and existing decision-making authorities

Toxic Sediment in the Lower River

To develop recommendations for the recurring toxic sediments that are deposited in and around the piers and pilings owned by the ports and local governments in the lower river.

Nearshore Beneficial Use Project

- Governor of Oregon appointed local Port Commissioner as project convener
- LCSG provided neutral project manager
- 17 Team members – Federal, State, Local Government and Nonprofits
- Team members contributed to the project:

Port of Astoria

Channel Coalition

Port of Portland

Port of Longview

Port of Vancouver

Port of Kalama

DOGAMI

Oregon Div. State Lands

Corps of Engineers

Oregon Sea Grant

DLCD



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Science-Policy Workshop

- To address scientific information needs articulated by the Nearshore Project group and share this information with decision-makers, the Institute for Natural Resources and the Lower Columbia Solutions Group convened joint workshops
- The workshops identified common themes regarding the Nearshore Project, issues requiring additional discussion or research, next steps, and important implications for the project