

STATE CAPITOL COMMITTEE
Hybrid/Remote Meeting

April 22, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Minutes

SCC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, Chair
Randy Bolerjack (Vice Chair & Designee for
Secretary of State Steve Hobbs)
Pat Sullivan, Governor Inslee's Designee (Alternate)
Katy Taylor, (Designee for Commissioner of Public
Lands Hilary Franz)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jo Aiken, Department of Enterprise Services
Chelsea Baker van Drood, City of Olympia
Sarah Bannister, Secretary of Senate
Cynthia Barrett, Department of Enterprise Services
George Carter III, Department of Enterprise Services
Tamlyn Crain, Legislature
Ashlee Delaney, Department of Enterprise Services
Amanda Doyle, Office of the Secretary of State
Dawn Eychaner, Legislature
Chris Ferguson, Department of Enterprise Services
Tessa Gardner-Brown, Floyd Snider
Jennifer Gerard, Department of Enterprise Services
Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Greg Griffith, Olympia Historical Society
Sidney Hunt, Department of Enterprise Services
Bob Jacobs, City of Olympia Resident

Linda Kent, Department of Enterprise Services
Wesley Kirkman, Department of Enterprise Services
Ann Larson, Department of Enterprise Services
John Lyons, Department of Enterprise Services
Jeff MacDonald, Department of Enterprise Services
Patrick McDonald, Office of the Secretary of State
Colleen Pehar, Legislature
Maurice Perigo, Department of Enterprise Services
Brian Pickering, Department of Enterprise Services
Sarian Scott, Legislature
Katy Stark, Department of Enterprise Services
Ginny Streeter, Department of Enterprise Services
Mike Sweeney, ArtsWA
Sarah Swift-Haggerty, Lieutenant Governor's Office
James Troyer, Legislature
Jesika Westbrook, Lieutenant Governor's Office

Call Meeting to Order - Action

Chair Denny Heck called the State Capitol Committee (SCC) hybrid/remote meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members, staff, and guests to the meeting.

Members and staff provided self-introduction.

Chair Heck reviewed the agenda to approve the December 7, 2023 meeting minutes; receive public comments; receive an update on the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project; and receive an update on the Legislative Campus Modernization (LCM) Project.

Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2023 Meeting – Action

Katy Taylor moved, seconded by Randy Bolerjack, to approve the December 7, 2023 meeting minutes as published. A voice vote unanimously approved the motion.

Public Comment – Information

DES Government Relations Coordinator Chris Ferguson described the process for attendees to sign up and provide public comment. Each person's testimony is limited to two minutes.

Bob Jacobs, 720 Governor Stevens Street, Olympia, said he has lived in Olympia for many years and has worked for both the executive and legislative branches. He is a great fan of Capitol Campus and the Deschutes Basin. He was one of the initiators of Heritage Park and served on the Heritage Park Development Association Board since its inception over 35 years ago. He also served as the Mayor of Olympia. Within the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project, a major design issue is often overlooked. It is the area framing the basin or the green slopes surrounding the basin and an underdeveloped flat area to the west behind the railroad tracks. The surrounding area is largely responsible for the attractiveness of the basin. Some of the land is owned privately and could be developed, which would have a detrimental impact visually. There was a recent proposal for two four-plexes behind the tracks near the 5th Avenue Bridge. He asked the committee to ensure the areas remain undeveloped. If the purchase of land or conservation easement is necessary, the cost would likely be small in comparison to the cost of the estuary restoration project. Preservation of the areas is important environmentally. The walking trail around the lower basin is very popular and should be expanded to include the eastside of the middle basin. The expansion could be accomplished on land to be acquired or an easement from the property owner, as well as installing a path on either pilings or fill. The remaining land surrounding the three basins is publicly owned. He asked the committee to imagine the public value of a walking path around all three basins.

Greg Griffith, President, Olympia Historical Society and Bigelow House Museum, referred to a letter sent on behalf of the Olympia Historical Society in support of the upcoming 40th anniversary commemoration of the first Women's Olympic Marathon Trials held in Olympia in 1984. The event celebrates the historical significance of the event both to Olympia's history and to women's history, sports history, and state history because of the great support by various state agency directors and elected officials in Olympia and across the state. A book was published on efforts to host the event in Olympia in 1984. The letter also supports efforts by the Olympia Trials Legacy Committee to place an interpretive plaque at Marathon Park near an existing plaque to highlight the story, celebrate, and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the event. The site would also serve as the centerpiece of future interpretation of the Trials for future visitors to Capitol Campus and to the City of Olympia. The letter of support is out of step with the committee's procedure for reviewing and taking action because the first step is a review of the proposal by the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee for its recommendation to the SCC. However, the CCDAC is not meeting until after the commemoration next month. The request to the committee is to consider the significance of the event and its importance to local, state, and sports history, as well as to emphasize the need for taking action on preparing an additional interpretive panel at Marathon Park to include restoring and rehabilitating an existing panel installed in the early 2000s.

Chair Heck inquired as to the procedure for considering the proposal.

Mr. Ferguson noted that letter was forwarded to the committee for its review prior to the meeting. The proposal has not been reviewed by either CCDAC or the SCC.

Linda Kent, Chief External Affairs Officer, advised that the options depend on the type of proposal and the type sign, such as a bronze plaque that is reviewed by the committee or an interpretive sign that is reviewed by a sign committee. Staff plans to contact Mr. Griffith to learn more about the intent and determine the appropriate review process.

Chair Heck asked staff to follow-up at the committee's next meeting with a report. Ms. Kent affirmed the request.

Mr. Ferguson reported DES received two public comments during the advance public comment period. One comment was from Mr. Griffith regarding the Olympic Marathon Trial marker. The second comment was from the South Capitol Neighborhood Association requesting removal of the roadway bumpout on the north side of 16th Street and Sylvester. The bumpout poses as a movement restriction with larger vehicles, as well as emergency response vehicles. Parking on the southern side of the street continues to be a problem regardless of the no parking signs.

Ms. Kent reported the area of the bumpout contained a large maple tree, which was removed as it reached its end of life and posed a safety risk. DES plans to replace the tree with three smaller trees.

Katy Taylor inquired about the status of following up with the individual who submitted the request to remove the bumpout. Ms. Kent advised that staff plans to contact the individual to address the request.

Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project Update – Information

Ann Larson, Special Assistant to the Director, reported she is leading the Department's climate and energy policies and serves as the Project Director of the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.

Tessa Gardner-Brown, Principal, and Senior Environmental Planner with Floyd|Snider reported she serves as the Consultant Team Project Manager for the estuary project.

Ms. Larson reported on the recent stakeholder outreach over the last several months beginning in November 2023. The team is receiving feedback on specific elements of the project. In response to public comments, the team engaged in conversations with surrounding landowners to ensure the team receives feedback during the early phase of design.

Recent stakeholders meetings included local jurisdictions and a Community Sounding Board. The legacy project will transform the community as well as being one of the largest estuary restorations of its kind within an urban setting in the United States.

Historically, freshwater from the Deschutes River mixed with saltwater from Budd Inlet over expansive tidal flats. The area is the southern terminus of Puget Sound. The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project connects the lower two miles of the Coast Salish Sea with its natural ecosystem. The Deschutes watershed is approximately 270 square miles in size with the lower 266 acres of the watershed significantly disrupted in the 1950s when the state built a dam at the mouth of the Deschutes River. Since then, chronic violations of water quality standards have occurred and sediment has accumulated up to 13 feet in some areas of the basin. More than a dozen invasive species including the New Zealand mud snail have caused the closure of the water body to the public more than a decade ago.

The Deschutes Estuary has a long-standing cultural and spiritual history of importance to local tribes, particularly the Squaxin Island Tribe. The Squaxin Island Tribe considers the people and the Deschutes Estuary as the Steh-chass village that used the area for time immemorial. The Deschutes Estuary is of continued importance with the tribe holding reserve fishing rights although no longer fishing because of access restrictions. The Squaxin Island Tribe has been involved in planning efforts for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project since the 1990s and serves as an important partner today.

The area was also historically used by Chinese Americans. Chinese immigration to the Olympia area began in the early 1900s. Chinatown was established along the waterfront of the estuary. The community built a series

of houseboats along the shorelines, known as “Little Hollywood.” The settlement was eventually removed as part of the process to construct the dam and Capitol Lake.

The area also has a rich maritime history as well with the former Olympia Brewing Company operating in Tumwater Historical Park with vessels traveling two miles up the waterway to the brewery at the base of Tumwater Falls. In 1922, the Port of Olympia was established and experienced its most successful year as part of the timber trade through the 1950s. The water body was used historically for recreation. The Olympia Yacht Club was established in 1912 in its current location. Maritime presence has increased significantly with additional marinas, an active sailing club, and other boat launches.

In modern times, Capitol Lake was embraced by the community in downtown Olympia as the area hosted swimming beaches, sailing lessons, and dragon boat races with trails used daily for walking and running. Lakefair is part of the City’s history as well as marathons and other events.

In 1893, original visioning for the design and construction of the Capitol Building began. In 1911, Wilder and White submitted a plan to place the Capitol Building on the hillside and orient all future planning to the views of the water and the mountains. Master planning continues that vision today. The most significant was the development of Heritage Park in the late 1990s. The park was developed to attract people to the shoreline and to communicate the state’s rich history. Heritage Park was designed as an extension of Capitol Campus with features across the park that represent history across the state and transitioning the experience from the campus to the shared water body. The development of Heritage Park triggered the state and local jurisdictions to reinstate efforts to consider alternatives for long-term management of the water body. Additionally, the tribe compelled the state to convene a planning process to explore management alternatives given the conditions of the water body.

In 2022, DES identified estuary restoration as a management approach providing the greatest range of benefits and an option most supported by stakeholders. The process began to re-envision the landscape. The process considers the history of the area from natural, tribal, settlement community, maritime community, civic community, and the Capitol Campus. The goal of the project is to represent the history and the space in a way reflective of a balance of shared interests.

Ms. Gardner-Brown briefed members on the key elements of the estuary restoration in coordination with stakeholders. The design process began approximately six months ago.

Estuary restoration begins with a large-scale dredge event to re-establish the main channel of the Deschutes River. The dredge would remove 500,000 cubic yards of dredge material and place the materials along the shorelines to establish and create diverse shoreline habitat of low and high marsh wetlands to increase ecological diversity in the estuary, as well as the visual diversity important within an urban environment. Placement of the materials reduces project costs, as sediment would not need to be removed and trucked to another location. The project includes construction of a new 5th Avenue Bridge located south of the existing bridge and dam to enable traffic to use the existing bridge during the construction of a new bridge. Following completion of construction, the bridge will be connected to the surface network enabling the contractor to demolish the dam and original bridge. Once removed, tidal flows will be restored to the 260 acres. The last component is restoration of recreation to the water body through the construction of one mile of boardwalks along the western shoreline of the middle and south basins, as well as restoring the old fishing pier. Following initial construction long term maintenance dredging will be completed in the navigational areas in West Bay to ensure the estuary, recreational marinas, and the Port of Olympia can coexist.

Ms. Gardner-Brown shared a cross section of a conceptual design of 5th Avenue. The design reflects the removal of the 5th Avenue dam with a new 5th Avenue Bridge and a boardwalk replacing the old 5th Avenue Bridge. The concept was shared during stakeholder meetings over the last several months to review opportunities for re-envisioning the space. The option speaks to infrastructure components of the project consistent with the surrounding environment of the estuary, Heritage Park, and Capitol Campus. A number of good comments were received from stakeholders to be shared with the committee at its next meeting. The conceptual drawing provides several opportunities. The team is working with the North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Development Association on the relocation of the Eastern Washington Butte and the opportunity to use the project as a way to stimulate the development of the feature that has experienced some delays, as well as an opportunity to significantly improve the pedestrian experience across 5th Avenue and across the loop around the main portion of the lake enabling a separation of pedestrians and vehicles on the bridge. The last opportunity enables movement to and from 4th Avenue on Olympia Street.

The team is also working on natural environment space and habitat design. Ms. Gardner-Brown displayed cross sections of the middle basin reflecting two iterations of potential shoreline treatment. The first option includes low shrubs and tidal marsh habitat transitioning into tidal marsh with a boardwalk. The second option is a more complex shoreline tidal treatment with tidal scrub shrub and tidal forest, wetland, and riparian habitat separating Deschutes Parkway from the proposed boardwalk. The options provide an entire range of habitat functions preferred in a restored area; however, the first option has important features as it fits well into an urban space with users on the boardwalk feeling safe with natural sight lines to and from Deschutes Parkway while minimizing the amount of dense wooded upland space next to an urban environment. The team preference for the habitat restoration design is a design in an urban context. Most of the Deschutes Parkway would be treated with a shoreline habitat with some areas with coordinated or focused riparian habitat as a way to create natural barriers to discourage human inaction through thorny plantings, placement of boulders, and other features to dissuade uses in the area.

Ms. Gardner-Brown reported the design process is scheduled for completion by the end of 2026 totaling approximately 2-1/2 years of design works. Midway through 2024, the team plans to deliver the conceptual design to Ms. Larson and DES. The conceptual design will include significant input from a targeted group of stakeholders. During the latter half of 2024, the team will focus on completing 30% design and begin design efforts with another round of targeted stakeholder engagement. As the estuary represents shared space, it is important the design is reflective of feedback from stakeholders. The team developed a partnering approach to facilitate coordination.

In late February and early March, the team met with stakeholders. The team is processing the feedback and is moving forward on design work to reflect the feedback. The team met with members from the Squaxin Island Tribe to receive input on restoration design, habitat, regulatory constraints, and site use. The City of Olympia has been integrated within the process to coordinate the 5th Avenue Bridge and consider how the project may influence other City projects, such as sea level rise and West Bay planning. The City of Tumwater has contributed input on boardwalk design, as the City will own the south basin boardwalks following construction. The Community Sounding Board is comprised of approximately 25 representatives from interest groups across the community to provide input on recreation and the 5th Avenue boardwalk. The team is also meeting with adjacent property owners. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is supporting the team in the habitat role. The team continues to meet with the North Capitol Campus Heritage Park Development Association to discuss goals for the Eastern Washington Butte feature.

Next steps include briefing the committee on feedback from the various meetings and ways the feedback was incorporated within the conceptual design.

Chair Heck asked for confirmation that the design was not scheduled for completion until 2026. Ms. Larson affirmed the timing as the team has established completion of 30% design by the end of 2024 with 100% achieved by 2026 with a potential funding request for construction beginning in 2027. The project is on track but achieving the milestones is based on funding availability. The team is aggressively pursuing different grant opportunities and strategies with NOAA, climate resiliency funding sources, and collaborating with the Squaxin Island Tribe for grants and the City of Olympia for sea level rise grants. The focus is completing design and securing funding to pursue construction. The project has received much support.

Chair Heck inquired about the status of current funding availability. Ms. Larson said the project has received funding through mid-2024 with potential funds dependent on the outcome of the Initiative to the end of the year. The project also has funds through the biennium for stakeholder efforts. However, most funding is based on the outcome of the Initiative. Currently, design funds would be exhausted by mid-2024 unless other funding becomes available. The team is optimistic the project will receive grant funds.

Legislative Campus Modernization Project Update – Information

Wesley Kirkman, LCM Project Director, reported the LCM project is progressing rapidly on the campus with all projects on schedule for timely completion. Many major milestones have been achieved.

Chair Heck inquired as to the status for naming the new the building. Mr. Kirkman advised that the Legislature remanded the naming decision to the Project Management Team for LCM projects, which retained the Irving Newhouse Building name.

The Newhouse Building is on schedule for timely completion by the end of 2024.

Activities at the Pritchard Building began in March with the site scheduled for construction for the next 28 months through 2026. The structure will begin taking form by the end of 2024.

The O'Brien Building renovation designs were finalized with construction scheduled to commence in 2026 following the legislative session.

Mr. Kirkman shared information on the public art components of the Pritchard and Newhouse projects.

Mr. Kirkman introduced Katy Stark who recently joined the project team.

Brian Pickering, Newhouse Replacement Project Manager, updated the committee on the status of the project.

Installations of structural steel, first floor decks, exterior framing and sheeting, and the roof deck have been completed. Upper floors are scheduled for installation of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Within the east parking lot, the north area has been paved. Curbs and the underground retention system were completed. The Arts Selection Committee approved the art proposal. Work has transitioned to insulation and installing roofing material with the roof scheduled for completion within the next week. The main stairwell has been installed and is available for workers to utilize. Precast façade work was completed on the southwest and west sides of the building with work continuing on the north side of the building. Window frames are scheduled for installation enabling the project to proceed with interior work regardless of weather.

Mr. Pickering shared several photographs of the project site noting that some of the pictures are outdated based on recent completion of many components of the building.

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Randy Bolerjack asked about the membership of the Arts Selection Committee. Mike Sweeny with Washington State Arts Commission advised that the membership included the Project Manager, two members from Washington Senate staff, a local community member, professional artist (community member), and an architect with Miller Hull Partnership. Mr. Sweeny said he serves as the facilitator for the committee.

Mr. Pickering noted that the Arts Selection Committee approved the art concept presented by the Newhouse artist, RYAN! The artwork is a large metal composition of endangered, threatened, and at-risk species and rare botanical motifs placed outside conference rooms and workspaces.

Mr. Kirkman noted that meeting materials and photographs are quickly outdated because of the accelerated pace of construction over the last four weeks.

Sidney Hunt, Project Manager for the Pritchard Building project, updated members on the status of the Pritchard Building project. Both Pritchard and O'Brien Building designs are essentially complete. On May 1, 2024, the GC/CM is scheduled to release bids for both projects, which will complete MACC costing for finalization by June/July 2024.

Mr. Hunt reported on the receipt of the demolition and hillside stabilization permits. Demolition activities are in progress. The work includes salvation of hillside stones to be used on the project within the design. The library stacks are scheduled for removal in approximately one month. Hillside stabilization activities are scheduled to begin at the end of June, which meets the critical path timeline before the rainy season.

The Arts Selection Committee approved an art proposal for the project.

Originally, mobilization and initiating the project was scheduled to begin in April. That schedule was moved back to begin after the completion of the legislative session. On September 11, 2023, the GC/CM began mobilization activities and installing construction fences while tenants began packing to leave the building creating a two-week overlap. The contractor now has 100% access and control of the site. Abatement and demolition activities have been in progress for the last several weeks. Utility work is in progress as well.

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) in partnership with DES, approved the artwork concept for the exterior of the building of two columns, made of cast bronze highlighting the building entrance from the south and east. Each will have the texture of a cedar tree, the iconic tree of the Pacific Northwest. The two columns will be placed at the nexus of the new building expansion and the existing historic Pritchard Library. The columns align with the remaining portico columns.

Mr. Kirkman encouraged members to track progress on the projects by visiting <https://bit.ly/43Htc2Q> to view weekly updates. Mr. Ferguson advised that he would send a link to members to the DES photo account page (Flicker).

Several members conveyed appreciation for receiving updates on progress.

Chair Heck said he is appreciative of the artwork designed for the buildings.

Future Announcements and Adjournment of Meeting – Action

Chair Heck reported the next meeting of the State Capitol Committee is scheduled on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 10 a.m. The next meeting of the CCDAC is scheduled on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 10 a.m. Both meetings will be hybrid meetings.

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Chair Heck asked about the amount of appropriation within the capital budget to remove the eyesore (GA Building) on Capitol Campus. Mr. Ferguson said he is not aware of any additional appropriation since the last appropriation.

Mr. Lyons explained that DES received \$4.3 million to complete demolition design work for the “worst eyesore in the history of Western Civilization.” DES plans to submit a budget request for construction funds to disassemble the building in the 25/27 capital budget. The GA Building is the fourth largest building on the campus. Approximately 50% design has been completed. The committee is scheduled to receive an update at its third and fourth quarter meetings regarding historic mitigation measures and redevelopment plans for the site.

With there being no further business, Chair Heck adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Prepared by Valerie L. Gow, Recording Secretary/President
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