

Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group June 8 Collaborative Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

With optional activities during 4:30 – 5:00 and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Portland Harbor Superfund Site (PHSS or Site) Collaborative Group (Collaborative) met for its sixth quarterly meeting on June 8, 2022. The Collaborative is led by members and co-convened by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Collaborative meeting was held as an online-only event and took place from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. with optional activities between 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. It was divided into sections as follows:

- **Optional* Informal Meet & Greet*
- [**Opening, Acknowledgements & Community Member Storytelling**](#)
- [**Materials, Introductions & Updates**](#)
- [**Presentation: “A Day in the Life of Remedial Action” and the Community Impacts Mitigation Plan \(CIMP\)**](#)
- [**Decision Point: Reach Consensus and Adopt Draft Charter Sections 4-6; Discuss Draft Charter Sections 7-10**](#)
- [**Wrap up & Reminders**](#)
- **Optional* Virtual Breakout Rooms*

Opening, Acknowledgements & Community Member Storytelling

Disclaimer on Recording

The facilitator provided the following disclaimer before recording the meeting:

- Please be aware that when you join the Zoom meeting, your name and/or video may be displayed to other meeting participants and captured in the meeting recording. The meeting sections will be recorded and posted to the [Portland Harbor Collaborative Group YouTube Page](#). By joining the Zoom meeting, you are consenting to the recording and dissemination of the recording as noted above. If you would prefer not to share your name and/or video, please email phcollaborative@triangleassociates.com.

Welcome

The facilitator welcomed Collaborative members, presenters, and those observing. They reviewed the logistics of using the Zoom platform for members and observers/public. The facilitator announced that the Collaborative is always accepting new members and to email phcollaborative@triangleassociates.com if interested in joining.

Acknowledgements & Community Member Storytelling

The facilitator opened the floor for participants to volunteer to share a poem or blessing to begin the meeting. The facilitator offered a land and water acknowledgement, then introduced Collaborative member Cherice Bock, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, to share her story with Collaborative members and observers/public. Cherice's personal connection to the Willamette River stems from her upbringing and religious traditions, her experience learning about the environmental challenges the river faces, and how environmental issues are common ground for all social justice issues. She read an excerpt of her 2014 written piece called "[Sister Willamette: Co-Lamenting with my River.](#)"

Collaborative members had a chance to offer appreciations and say thank you to Cherice, whose story is available to [view online](#).

Materials, Updates, and Introductions

Materials

The facilitator provided an overview of the following:

- **Shared Group Agreements:** Highlighted the agreement "Listen to understand, not to respond" and Collaborative members shared in the chat what this agreement means to them in the Collaborative space.
- **Agenda & Materials:** Reviewed the meeting agenda and shared that the final agenda and full materials packet are [available online](#).

Introductions

The facilitator led a round of introductions for Collaborative members. Returning members were asked to share their name, affiliation, and one word that describes their relationship to the Willamette River in the chat. Responses included "guest," "interconnectedness," "complicated," "responsibility," "center," and "healing each other," among others. There were no new members at the June meeting. Please see [Attachment A](#) at the end of this document for a list of meeting attendees.

The facilitator acknowledged Tribal participation in the Collaborative and invited Tribal members and representatives, as well as any Congressional representatives in attendance, to introduce themselves if desired.

EPA General Updates

Caleb Shaffer, Portland Harbor Team Lead, EPA, thanked members and observers/public on behalf of EPA for their involvement and for taking the time to attend the meeting. He shared general updates to the Quarterly Portland Harbor Superfund Site [Fact Sheet](#), available in the [meeting packet](#) and highlighted [EPA's Portland Harbor StoryMap](#) interactive tool.

Caleb then provided the following updates:

- **New EPA Region 10 Administrator:** Casey Sixkiller is the new Administrator for EPA Region 10. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Administrator Sixkiller brings two decades of experience working at the federal, Tribal, and local levels of EPA Region 10. Collaborative members are encouraged to [read more here](#).
- **Willamette Cove Closure:** The Oregon Department of State Lands will be temporarily closing Willamette Cove from June 15 – September 5 so the Willamette In-Water Remedial Design Group can complete its sampling work. A map of the closure area is available [here](#), as is a link to the [Willamette Cove Cleanup Project Website](#). Collaborative members are encouraged to contact Jessica Terlikowski, City of Portland, at jessica.terlikowski@portlandoregon.gov with questions.
- **Willamette Cove Working Group Updates**
 - **Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day Event:** A Willamette Cove Field Day event will take place on Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Members will be able to learn about soil cleanup and contamination at the site.
 - **Upland Sampling Work Update:** The Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) upland sampling work will be underway at the same time on June 25 as the Willamette Cove Environmental Field Day event. Field staff will also be available to answer questions and provide demonstrations of their sampling work at that event.
 - **To join the Willamette Cove Working Group**, email Jessica Terlikowski (City of Portland) at jessica.terlikowski@portlandoregon.gov.
- **Cathedral Park Project Area Updates:**
 - **Remedial Design Update:** Remedial design at the Cathedral Park Project Area is ongoing. EPA is currently receiving the last of its annual results and will publish those results in Fall 2022.
 - **Cathedral Park Project Area Working Group:** The next Cathedral Park Project Area Working Group meeting will occur in late July. These meetings are open to the public. Please contact Laura Knudsen at knudsen.laura@epa.gov to join.
- **Site-Wide Updates:**
 - **Programmatic Institutional Control Implementation and Assurance Plan (PICIAP):** The PICIAP outlines the measures that will be put in place to reduce exposure to contamination and protect the remedy (i.e., area closures, fish advisories, etc.). EPA is currently reviewing a draft from the City of Portland and the State and will share the final publicly as soon as it is available in Fall 2022.
 - **Upriver Reach Dioxin and Furan Work:** EPA and DEQ sampling for Dioxins and Furans in the Upriver Reach (Sellwood Bridge – Willamette Falls) was complete in Summer 2021. Validated results are anticipated in the next month or so. EPA will prepare a fact sheet to interpret the report and conclusions.

- **Other Updates:**
 - EPA continues to meet and plan for remedial action with performing parties. EPA will continue to provide general updates at Collaborative Group meetings.

Caleb’s full updates are available to view [online](#).

City of St. Helens Update

The facilitator introduced Rachael Barry, Government Affairs Specialist, City of St. Helens, to provide an update on the City of St. Helens’ Waterfront Redevelopment Project. An aerial map of the project is available in the final [meeting packet](#). St. Helens Central Waterfront site visits will take place on **Thursday, August 4 at 6 p.m.**, and on **Saturday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m.** and are open to the public. Collaborative members are encouraged to reach out to Rachael Barry at rbarry@sthelensoregon.gov with questions.

Rachael’s full presentation is available to view [online](#).

Presentation: “A Day in the Life of Remedial Action” and the Community Impacts Mitigation Plan (CIMP)

Caleb Shaffer, EPA, shared that the purpose of this presentation is to inform community members of what to expect during the remedial action phase of the cleanup, including how cleanup activities might impact them and how EPA plans to address those impacts. EPA’s Remedial Design / Remedial Action [Statement of Work](#) has been updated to include a Community Impacts Mitigation Plan.

Collaborative members had an opportunity to ask questions. Initial questions posed during the presentation are shared below:

- *Question: Will an environmental dredge bucket be used during remedial action?*
 - *Yes, environmental dredge buckets are preferred.*
- *Question: Any way to mitigate diesel pollution during cleanup?*
 - *Air quality monitoring and associated corrective and mitigation actions will be in place throughout cleanup.*
- *Question: Why would EPA approve any dredging devices other than the most effective dredging equipment currently available?*
 - *EPA strives to compel the use of the most effective equipment but is sometimes unable to do so when the equipment is unavailable or required.*

Members were invited to join facilitated breakout sessions to provide additional potential impacts of remedial actions that may be important to them and their communities and that they think EPA should be aware of. Some priority impacts identified through this initial exercise are listed below:

- Noise (at night)
- Location of transload facilities
- Air quality issues
- Effects of dredging on river ecology – ripple effects on species
- Transportation: rail, cars, freeways, trucks, bikers, spills, accidents
- Communication to communities in numerous forms
- Diesel pollution
- High quality standards of technology and equipment

The full feedback from Collaborative members on potential remedial action impacts was recorded on a virtual whiteboard, [linked here](#) and can be found in [Attachment B](#) of this document.

A recording of Caleb’s full presentation is available to view on the [Portland Harbor Collaborative’s YouTube Channel](#). Questions should be directed to Caleb Shaffer (shaffer.caleb@epa.gov) or Laura Knudsen (knudsen.laura@epa.gov).

Decision Point: Reach Consensus and Adopt Draft Charter Sections 4-6

The facilitator introduced the Collaborative Group’s [draft Charter document](#), reminded members of how it will be used in the Collaborative Group setting, and why having a Charter is important.

The facilitator reoriented members to the consensus decision-making process and walked Collaborative members through the steps of Charter review and approval:

Step 1: Discuss – Members will discuss three sections of the draft charter at a quarterly meeting and note any suggested revisions.

Step 2: Incorporate – The Collaborative Steering Committee will meet to review and incorporate suggested revisions into the draft Charter. Collaborative members can reach out to the facilitation team with further comments or suggested revisions in between Collaborative meetings.

Step 3: Approve – Collaborative members will convene at the next quarterly meeting to approve the revised sections of the draft charter and to discuss the next three sections.

Collaborative members took a poll to gauge support for sections 4-6. One member of the Steering Committee had residual questions about the language of sections 4-6 that she requested additional clarification on before she would feel comfortable approving. Additional changes to the language were then proposed.

Because issues and questions were expressed about sections 4-6, the group did not reach consensus and sections 4-6 were not approved. The facilitator will follow up in the coming weeks with the individuals that proposed changes to the language of sections 4-6.

Members then split into facilitated breakout rooms to discuss draft Charter sections 7-10. An excerpt of sections 4-10 is available in [Attachment C](#) of this summary.

Wrap Up and Reminders

The facilitator concluded the meeting by thanking presenters, Collaborative members and observers/public for their participation and thoughtful questions. The facilitator reminded participants of [important meeting dates](#), including **the next quarterly Collaborative Group meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.**

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The facilitator explained the logistics of using the Zoom platform to participate in the *optional* breakout rooms.

Optional Virtual Breakout Rooms

The five breakout rooms offered were focused on the following topics:

1. **General Site and Overall Project Area Updates, City of St. Helens Update, Continued:** Caleb Shaffer (EPA), Madi Novak (EPA), Sarah Greenfield (DEQ), Rachael Barry (City of St. Helens), Seth Otto (MFA) and Annie Kilburg-Smith (Triangle)
2. **“A Day in the Life of Remedial Action” and the Community Impacts Mitigation Plan, Continued:** Benjamin Leake (EPA), Meshach Padilla (EPA) and Alyssa Bonini (Triangle)
3. **Early Remedial Design Presentation Guide:** Laura Knudsen (EPA), Eva DeMaria (EPA) and Pauline Mogilevsky (Triangle)
4. **Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (to view presentation, [click here](#)):** Lauren Senkyr (Trustee Council, NOAA), Courtney Johnson (Trustee Council, Crag Law Center), Hunter Young (EPA) and Lucila Gambino (Triangle)
5. **Oregon Health Authority Lower Willamette Draft [Recreational Map](#):** Todd Hudson (OHA) and Claire Wendel (Triangle)

The optional breakout rooms portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attachment A: Collaborative Meeting Attendees

A total of 85 people attended the meeting including Collaborative Group members, EPA and DEQ staff, facilitators, and observers.

Collaborative Group Members

Beth Appert, Multnomah County
Barbara Quinn, Friends of Baltimore Woods
Ben Poe, St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society of Portland
Cassie Cohen, Portland Harbor Community Coalition (PHCC)
Cherice Bock, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Darise Weller, Linnton Neighborhood Association
Debbie Aiona, League of Women Voters
Debbie Silva, EVRAZ. Inc
Doug Larson, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (PHCAG)
Erin Cooper, Community Member
Elizabeth Kennedy Wong, Port of Portland
Jennie Cambier, University of Portland
Jessica Terlikowski, City of Portland
Jim McKenna, Oregon Governor's Office
Katy Weil, Metro
Laura Feldman, Willamette River Advocacy Group (WRAG)
Mark Whitcomb, Willamette River Advocacy Group (WRAG)
Mary Jaron Kelly, North Portland Neighborhood Services
Mat Cusma, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc
Michael Pouncil, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (PHCAG)
Sarah Taylor, Braided Rivers Campaign and Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
Todd Hudson, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Tom Karwaki, University Park Neighborhood Association

EPA

Caleb Shaffer, Portland Harbor Team Lead
Laura Knudsen, Community Involvement Coordinator
Benjamin Leake, Remedial Project Manager
Richard Francis, Remedial Project Manager
Hunter Young, Remedial Project Manager
Eva DeMaria, Remedial Project Manager
Meshach Padilla, Public Affairs Specialist


DEQ

Sarah Greenfield, In-Water Coordinator
Dave Lacey, Source Control Coordinator

Triangle

Annie Kilburg-Smith, Director
Lucila Gambino, Associate
Alyssa Bonini, Associate
Pauline Mogilevsky, Project Associate
Claire Wendle, Associate
Anna Shepherd, Project Associate

Attachment B: Community Impacts Mitigation Plan Collaborative Member Feedback



Community Impacts Mitigation Plan (CIMP)

Portland Harbor Collaborative Group Meeting, 6.8.22

Fish consumption advisory to zero

Dust

Additional jobs

Water quality degradation

Noise

Relocation for houseless community

Light at night

Traffic & Parking

Odor

Temporary closure of parks

Potential air emissions - volatilization

Recreation

(Alyssa) What other potential community impacts should be considered for the CIMP?

- PRP employees and operations
- Potential air emissions-volatilization
- Noise - particularly at nighttime
- Impact to river traffic & commerce
- Impact to river traffic (recreation)
- Location of transload facilities
- Dust from vehicle traffic, transload facilities etc.

(Annie) What other potential community impacts should be considered for the CIMP?

- Impacts to boaters (yachts of all types and sizes) navigating the river
- Air quality issues
- Worries about groundwater issues who live on property and how the trucks will be coming out on them
- Impacts on UP state, especially those who live on crops, and how the trucks will be coming out on them
- Communicating impacts to rivers
- Transportation: rail, cars, freeways, trucks, bikes, spills, accidents
- Public safety
- Spills and accidents
- Heavy trucks on freeways and potential contamination along the way
- Transportation communication on how toxic materials will be managed
- Impacts on how the trucks will be managed and how they will be managed
- Transportation communication on how toxic materials will be managed
- Impacts on how the trucks will be managed and how they will be managed
- Communication to communities forms
- Jobs, economy boost

(Pauline) What other potential community impacts should be considered for the CIMP?

- Recreation - get specific about which activities will be impacted and at what point
- University needs to provide input
- Women's row team practices on river. Needs to be aware of all activity near practice routes
- Businesses: scaled down the work also. Cathedral Park and South of Baxter McCormick projects. Need outreach
- Dredging could impact Baxter McCormick
- Shipping
- Commercial businesses - Tom had 4 operates most of year. Don't just shut down - needs coordination with commercial operations
- Call us all. Pauline already has noise by 2023 and the call us all. Right for the noise. Company takes it down that out.
- Most people in Cathedral Park prefer work. Allowed to stick to be done in other time frame
- Dredging is just white noise
- Residential areas will probably only get noise half the year
- Question: range for how long (if needed) sections will be under cleanup?

(Lucia) What other potential community impacts should be considered for the CIMP?

- Diesel pollution concerns to mitigate impacts and alert the community
- All quality is already an issue, so communication is very important to this area
- Technology being used - efficiency - prioritize new machines
- What are the obstacles with getting new machines and how can we work to get that
- EA to share study with folks of impact of Superfund Clean and Green (links City of Seattle)
- In a positive: job creation
- Concern about loss of jobs - this clean up can put companies out of business
- Impact to wildlife in the water and along the river - is this a consideration?
- Volatilization - big impact to health
- Echo the diesel pollution concern -
- High quality standard technology and equipment - higher standards than the state

Attachment C: Draft Charter Sections 4-6, and 7-10

Convener & Co-Convener *(Section 4)*

EPA is the lead convener and DEQ is a co-convener of the Collaborative. They will receive recommendations from the individual members.

- **EPA:** Convenes and attends Collaborative meetings, presents as needed, serves as a resource, and receives feedback and individual member recommendations from the Collaborative's members.
- **DEQ:** Co-convenes and attends Collaborative meetings, presents as needed, and receives feedback and individual member recommendations from the Collaborative's members.

Steering Committee *(Section 5)*

A Steering Committee will guide the work of the Collaborative. The Steering Committee will consist of a small group of individuals that are Collaborative members, and it will be facilitated by the Collaborative facilitator. Further, the membership of the Steering Committee will ideally include at least four individuals, with the objectives of having representation from the Tribes, communities, and up to one performing responsible party (PRP) representative, while keeping the group small enough to ensure scheduling is not overly burdensome. For example, the Steering Committee might include one or two Tribal representatives or members and one or two additional members from the members list below (i.e., neighborhoods, coalitions, conservation interests, advisory groups, public agency representatives¹, etc.) to ensure equitable representation of affected communities. The PRPs may have up to one individual to represent their interests on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee roles and responsibilities include:

- participate in planning meetings/conference calls to prepare for Collaborative meetings (up to three hours) and total estimated 46 hours per year (including the Collaborative);
- recommend meeting topics/agendas;
- develop Collaborative agenda topics for the year;
- reserve the ability to determine whether to excuse agencies or PRPs from Collaborative meetings when necessary; and
- other duties as assigned.

The Steering Committee membership can rotate based on which of the upcoming meeting topics are relevant to specific Collaborative members, the need for input and guidance from those specific members, and to spread the responsibility between individuals over the course of the year. If one member would like to [serve for as long as they wish, that is acceptable](#) ~~volunteer for the entire year, that is acceptable~~ if it does not conflict with others' participation.

¹ Public agency representatives include individuals from the City of Portland, the Port of Portland, and the State of Oregon, among others.

EPA and DEQ will participate in Steering Committee meetings as observers, not members. The role of the EPA and DEQ is to clarify when proposed Collaborative topics arise that are outside of the Superfund scope, but EPA and DEQ will not control the direction of the Steering Committee.

Members *(Section 6)*

The vision of the Collaborative Group is to convene a diverse group of individuals who are representative of the lived experiences, interests, and perspectives of Portland’s environmental justice communities. In addition to diversity of background and identity, the Collaborative will also seek diversity of interests. The list below are examples of proposed² interest groups that might make up the initial Collaborative Group membership. The Collaborative Group does not replace formal government-to-government Tribal consultation nor Tribal feedback that is already provided on project areas through the Technical Coordinating Team (TCT)³.

The following is meant to be inclusive and iterative and is likely to change over time. If there are additional groups that want to have representation and members, they are welcome. The proposed member groups are listed in alphabetical order.

- A. Tribes:** The Collaborative will invite affected Tribes and interested federally⁴ and non-federally recognized Tribes to participate in the Collaborative.
- B. Civic Engagement Groups (i.e., WRAG, etc.)**
- A. Diverse Communities:** i.e., Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), Asian Americans, immigrant, and refugee communities, and others are all welcome.
- B. Environmental and Conservation Groups**
- C. Houseless Community Groups**
- D. Neighborhood Groups:** We recognize that there will be multiple representatives from neighborhoods, coalitions, advisory groups, etc. Representatives that have the capacity and willingness to participate are invited to do so.
- E. Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG)**
- F. Portland Harbor Community Coalition (PHCC)**
- G. Performing Responsible Parties:** One to three, potentially rotating, representatives that have a site-specific or site-wide agreement signed with EPA and are working in good faith with regulatory agencies and community stakeholders.
- H. Public Health and Environmental Health Groups**
- I. Social Justice Groups/Community Based Organizations (CBOs)**
- J. Workforce Development Groups**
- K. Youth-led Groups**

² “Proposed” is the term used to identify the groups that the Collaborative hopes to bring to the table; however, they may or may not participate based on their interest and capacity.

³ TCT members include the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Five Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; and the Nez Perce Tribe. Other TCT members include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); and U.S. Department of Interior (DOI).

⁴ The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Five Tribes.

Resource Agency Members (Section 7)

Resource Agency Members provide information to Collaborative Members, EPA, and DEQ but they do not develop recommendations for EPA and DEQ to consider. Resource Agency Members may be standing members or requested for specific topics and be excluded from Collaborative meetings by the Steering Committee. They shall otherwise meet the required criteria of members and should meet the optional criteria. Resource Agency Members include:

- A. **The City of Portland**
- A. **Multnomah County**
- A. **Metro**
- A. **The State of Oregon**, represented by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of State Lands, and the Oregon Department of Transportation
- A. **Port of Portland**

Facilitator (Section 8)

The Collaborative meetings will be facilitated by a neutral, third-party facilitator.

Decision-Making & Submitting Recommendations (Section 9)

Collaborative members may participate in:

- making decisions on processes for how the Collaborative functions, and
- developing recommendations to submit to EPA and DEQ on how to move the cleanup forward.

Members will engage in the consensus-based decision making and recommendations process (See Attachment A); however, Resource Agency Members shall not.

Working Groups (Section 10)

The Collaborative is a site-wide effort which geographically covers numerous project areas. Working groups may form to focus on project areas (i.e., Cathedral Park Project Area, Willamette Cove, etc.) and/or topics, and to make recommendations to the Collaborative. Working groups may retain their own structures and decision-making processes and are not required to make recommendations to the Collaborative. If working groups would like to make recommendations to the Collaborative, they will follow the steps outlined in the adopted decision-making framework. Working groups will share updates and community involvement opportunities with the Collaborative. All working groups must be inclusive and open for anyone to participate. If a working group would like to form, the following general steps are suggested:

1. Contact the facilitation team that a working group might form.
1. Meet with the facilitation team to share the vision and proposal for the working group.
1. Attend a Steering Committee meeting to discuss proposal.
1. Share with members that working group will form at next quarterly Collaborative Group meeting.

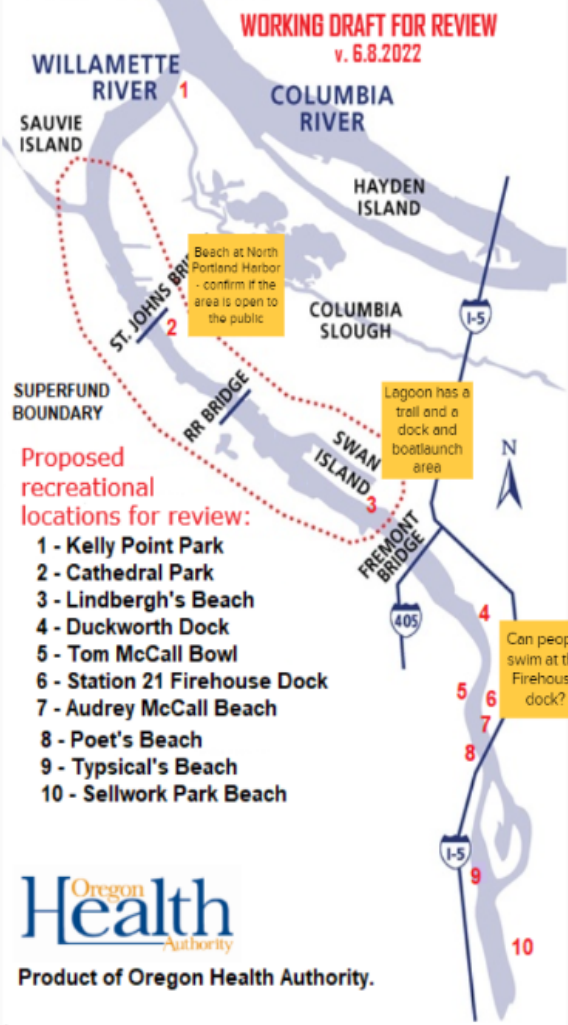
Additional specifics of Working groups and how these efforts will be coordinated will be further discussed and determined by members as the Collaborative process evolves.

Attachment D: Oregon Health Authority's Draft Recreational Map Feedback

Portland Harbor Collaborative Meeting: June 8
Portland Harbor Recreational Map Breakout Room



PORTLAND HARBOR RECREATIONAL MAP



Where not to go: GASCO Beach and Willamette Cove

Other things to consider:

- Currents
- Debris
- Algae blooms
- Water temperature
- Sewage overflows
- Caution for dogs swallowing water
- Follow reach rules
- Website links for CSOs, algae blooms, river conditions, fish advisory

Map Feedback:

- Are the locations accurate? Are there more places?
- What else should we include? What feedback would you like to give?

Include signs for trails or public access (Ex. Linnton Beach Trail)	Trail on 107th with overlook to beach, extends Forest Park trail down to river	Include fishing locations	Recreation locations - paddleboarding rest stops, kayaking areas	Icons for kayak/paddleboard accessible
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