

City of Portland Streamlining Committee Meeting Notes 9/16/2025

Streamlining Committee Members

Kristin Politano (DSL)

~~Trey Fraley (USACE)~~

Danielle Erb (USACE)

Mischa Connine (NOAA NMFS)

~~Delia Negru (DEQ)~~

~~Daria Gneckow (DEQ)~~

~~Haley Teach (DEQ)~~

Kevin Stertz (ODFW)

Lauri Brewster (ODFW)

Erin Abernethy (USFWS)

Jeff Everett (USFWS)

~~Jeff Dillon (USFWS)~~

~~Morgan Steele (City – PP&D)~~

Ronda Fast (City – BES)

Marc Peters (City – BES)

MS Teams and Portland Building, Room 211

DEQ representatives could not attend. Follow-up meeting with project team and DEQ is scheduled for Tuesday, 9/23 at 11am.

Business Meeting:

RF: informal time for us to talk about this meeting itself, discuss future topics, items of common interest, follow up on projects that you've heard about in prev. meetings but want updates about, any rulemaking that may be relevant for others.

Team members noted that some proposals may not be in their assigned geography. When that is the case, they will triage follow up with the right staff.

MC: Need ODFW response re: West Lents In-Water Work Window extension request. KS will get appropriate staff to respond to close the loop between USFWS, DSL, and ODFW. Preference for a response vs. no response, even if no concerns.

Committee members gave staffing and organizational updates, noting staff cuts across the board, confusion around rule-making, and uncertainty regarding FY26 budgets. Specific project questions can still be answered.

JE: updates to National Listing Workplan (USFWS) continues to the degree possible given uncertainty.

KP: Division 85 rulemaking re: compensatory mitigation underway. New fee schedule effective January.

Project Presentation - Cottrell Pond (PWB and BES):

Burke Strobel, City of Portland Water Bureau (PM and fish biologist)

Angie Kimpo, City of Portland Water Bureau (mitigation)

Bob Fraley, City of Portland Water Bureau (filtration permitting)

Tim Brooks, Winterbrook Planning (PWB permitting consultant)

~~Chris Lastomirsky, Engineering Services, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services~~

Roslyn Gray, Engineering Services, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Stephanie Trujillo, Engineering Services, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Project is required as part of Multnomah County land use permit for Bull Run Filtration project. Condition of approval requires: “the establishment of a natural stream channel and additional riparian planting areas on the pond property.” Must be completed before Filtration facility operational (in 2026).

The pond increases Johnson Creek temps by ~8 degrees Celsius. Native fish (sculpin and speckled dace) found downstream. Numerous bullfrog (non-native, invasive). Red skinned newt and coastal giant salamander found nearby, red-legged frog in the area.

Preliminary estimates for cut/fill: 1,500cy (dam); 2,000 cy (pond sediment).

RG: desire to get feedback on two different approaches to design given time constraints to complete design, permitting and procurement:

- 1- low-flow design installing grade control features, removing dam and pond sediment; or
- 2- 2- excavation centered on dam removal, re-use excavated soils onsite, keep pond sediment in Johnson Creek (a sediment starved system) - allow site to self-adjust over time.

Level 2 screening shows “clean” sediment for purposes of USACE. Brian Marcum provided additional comments re: sediment sampling results after the meeting: *None of the sediment detections exceed USACE SEF screening criteria. However, DDE and nickel marginally exceed DEQ’s Ecological Risk criteria for freshwater sediments. DEQ’s screening criteria are far more conservative than the SEF numbers across the board. Nickel is below background levels so that is what it is, but we’ll need to determine what our benchmark will be for establishing clean leave surfaces and reusing sediments.*

USACE

DB noted that sediment quality is a coordination point between the Corps and EPA. Project team noted that coordination with PSET team continues: sampling plan approved, review of results in process. Sediment definition memo will be submitted to USACE and the project team plans to do more sampling during construction.

Project is within Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for coho and chinook. Although not a Section 10 waterway, and excavations are not regulated by the Corps, mechanized grading activities (below OHW) are regulated. Proposal can qualify for Nationwide 27 (as it’s currently written) and SLOPES ([V-Restoration](#)) as long as project is designed to stay within the conditions of that permit. Project team will submit a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for USACE to review, include ecological reference info. **Can do JPA application? Or just PCN?**

USACE permit timelines include a 30-day comment period (tribes and public), including Section 106 review (archaeological).

Nationwide permits expire in March 2026, but remain active for another year. Work must begin, or be under contract by March 2027, or a new permit application will be required.

NOAA-Fisheries/NMFS

MC echoed much of what DB said and that the project will be a net positive. Project can be designed to meet SLOPES conditions.

USFWS

JE/EA echoed net benefits of project. EA asked if the team knows about any freshwater mussels in the project area? Project team has not observed any to-date.

DSL

No exemptions or expedited permit pathways identified initially, project will likely need an Individual Permit with a 120-day timeline, although KP has been processing them more quickly.

Project team should review OAR 141.085.690 regarding converting one type of wetland type to another. Consider asking JCWC for letter of support. Could make the argument that project is “self-mitigating”, given overall benefits.

Conduct an ORWAP/SFAM to document pre- and post-project changes. A 30-day public comment period included permit timelines, including to tribes. For comments to be considered, they need to be relevant to proposal.

If *only* the dam (earthen berm) is removed, TB wondered if the project may be able to meet the volume thresholds under the General Authorization (barrier removal). KP suggested a follow-up with project team, after DEQ requirements are more certain. Include ODFW to discuss desired habitat elements.

ODFW

No native reptiles have been observed. Need a Wildlife Capture, Holding, Transport, and Relocation permit if native wildlife found (CHTR).

RF noted that Jade Ujcic-Ashcroft (BES Biological Sciences staff) has a programmatic CHTR permit that could potentially be utilized and he can also conduct a habitat assessment for the project team (including for freshwater mussels). Habitat currently is considered “Category 4”, so mitigation goal is no net loss of quantity or quality.

Fish passage approval will likely be required (coastal cutthroat downstream), but work with local biologists Ben Walczak or Michael Hayworth to confirm. Salvage permits take 4-6 weeks. Permit applications are not oriented to dam removal, but note this in application. Approvals include reporting and monitoring requirements.

****One last follow-up from RF:** sometimes questions from project teams or O&M staff come up – Ronda will send detailed information with “review and respond” in subject line. A topic for upcoming business meeting.