



CITY OF PORTLAND

OFFICE OF HEALTHY WORKING RIVERS

1120 SW Fifth Ave., #1000, Portland, OR 97204 ♦ Commissioner Amanda Fritz ♦ Ann Beier, Director

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: April 22, 2011

Re: Accept Informational Report on the Office of Healthy Working Rivers

The Office of Healthy Working Rivers was established by Council ordinance in January 2009, based on an assessment conducted by the Office of Commissioner Saltzman in late 2008. The Office was assigned to Commissioner Fritz.

Director Ann Beier began work in September 2009, pursuing the mission of coordination and collaboration to achieve Portland's five river goals:

- *assuring a clean and healthy river for fish, wildlife and people,*
- *maintaining and enhancing a prosperous working harbor,*
- *embracing the river as Portland's front yard,*
- *creating vibrant waterfront neighborhoods, and*
- *promoting partnerships, leadership, and education.*

The highlights of the "Rivers Office" work in 2010 included

- Partnering with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on the North Reach Plan implementation (on hold pending appeal), including setting up the ongoing Advisory Committee; also planning for West Hayden Island
- Initiating the Willamette River Recreation Strategy
- Collaboration with BES on mitigation, restoration and Superfund projects

The Office of Healthy Working Rivers looks forward to working with the Council, other City Bureaus and our community and agency partners to continue to implement Portland's vision for vibrant, healthy working rivers.

We hope the Council finds the report useful and accepts it.

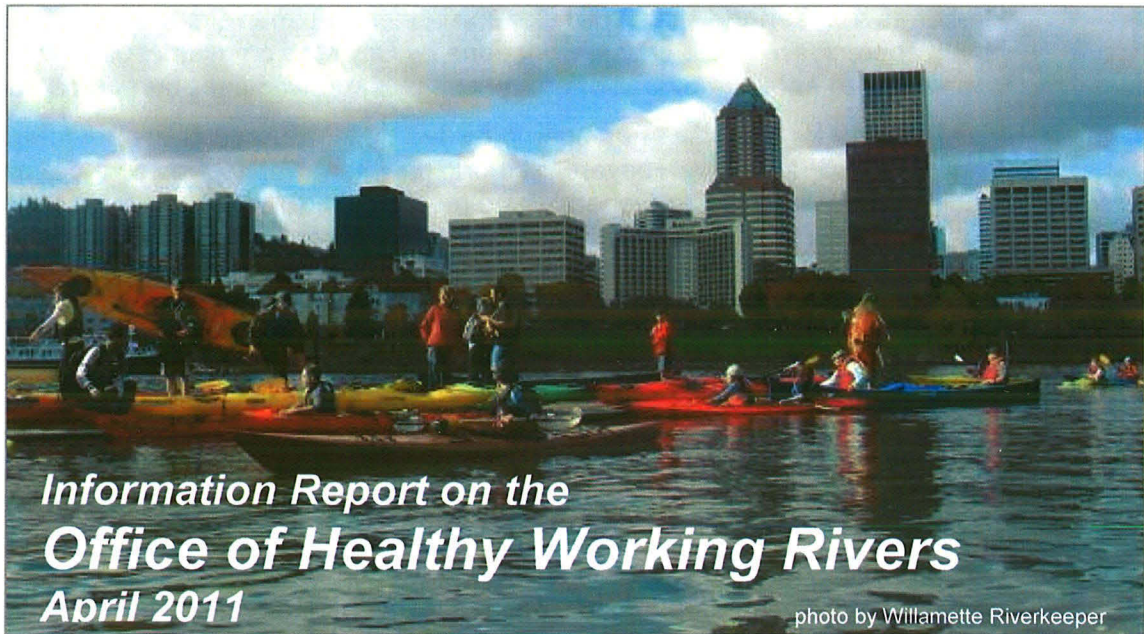
Ann Beier, Director
Office of Healthy Working Rivers

TO THE COUNCIL:

Commissioner Fritz approves the information report provided by the Director of the Office of Healthy Working Rivers and requests that the Council accept the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Amanda Fritz



1. BACKGROUND

Portland's location at the confluence of two great rivers has made it a home for people for over ten centuries. The City embraces rivers of history, of commerce, of natural diversity, and of scenic beauty. Portlanders have an instinctive understanding that rivers are as critical to our future as they have been pivotal to our past.

The Office of Healthy Working Rivers was created by Portland City Council ordinance in January 2009. The Council established the "Rivers Office" to bring a new focus to advancing the City's vision of:

- *assuring a clean and healthy river for fish, wildlife and people,*
- *maintaining and enhancing a prosperous working harbor,*
- *embracing the river as Portland's front yard,*
- *creating vibrant waterfront neighborhoods, and*
- *promoting partnerships, leadership, and education.*

The Council adopted this vision ten years ago, following a spirited community dialogue that gave rise to Portland's River Renaissance program. River Renaissance became the keeper of the vision and developed a Council-approved River Renaissance Strategy to achieve it.

The Office of Healthy Working Rivers was created to build on the work of River Renaissance, and especially to speed implementation of Portlanders' river vision. The general structure for the Office was recommended by Commissioner Saltzman in a December 2008 memo requested by newly elected Mayor Sam Adams. Commissioner Saltzman stressed the need for a new organization focused on our rivers, directly accountable to a Commissioner, and responsible for improving river-related communication and coordination among City Bureaus.

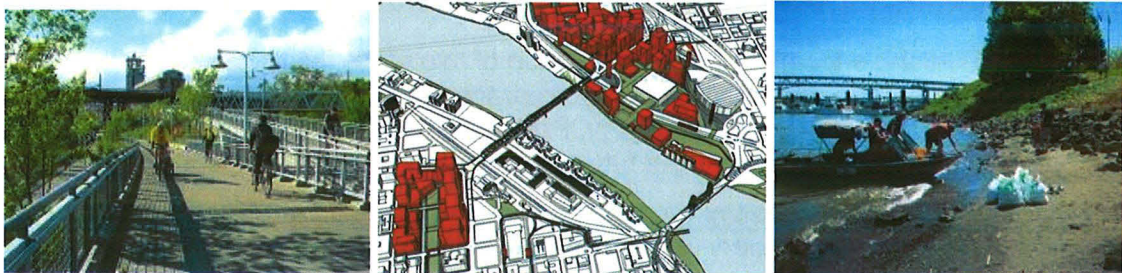
The memo identified five key issues: watershed health, natural preservation, recreation and access, economic development and the designation of the Portland Harbor as a Superfund site. While Commissioner Saltzman's assessment was highly appreciative of the critical work done by City staff on river issues, he noted an opportunity to enhance overall effectiveness by improving inter-bureau coordination.

Initial funding for the Office has been provided by the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and its ratepayers. The original intent was to provide more diverse funding sources, including General Fund revenue, for the Office to meet the Council's broad mandate to address both environmental and economic development issues related to the Rivers. Because all funding is currently provided by BES, the Office has targeted its efforts to support the BES mission to promote watershed health.

2. THE RIVERS OFFICE—BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, WORKING FOR RIVER HEALTH

After the Council created the Rivers Office in January 2009, the director was hired in fall 2009 and the Office fully staffed in December 2010. The Office collaborates with local partners and links the work of many City Bureaus to bring together the people and resources necessary to improve the health and economy of our waterways. Over its first 18 months, the Office has organized its work using three major approaches: building partnerships; engaging Portlanders; and, leveraging City efforts to improve river health.

A. Building Partnerships



Activities on the river—whether building a new bridge, restoring habitat, reclaiming a contaminated site, or promoting river-related industry—are complex, expensive, and require a comprehensive approach with multiple partnerships to be successful and cost-effective.

Seeking advice from those who know and care about our rivers - *To help assess budget and program priorities, an Advisory Committee representing a diversity of river-related interests meets on an approximately quarterly schedule.*

Ron Brockleman, Brocks Factory Sales
 Eric Burnette, Port of Portland
 Dave Cohen, Friends of Tryon Creek
 Sebastian Degens, Port of Portland
 Jeanne Galick, Galick Graphic Design
 Ann Gardner, Portland Business Alliance
 Mike Houck, Urban Greenspace Institute
 Charles Hudson, Columbia River Inter-Tribal
 Fish Commission
 Andrew Jansky, Flowing Solutions
 Ed Jones, Linnton Land Use Chair
 Chet Orloff, Portland State University
 James Ruff, Northwest Power & Conservation
 Council

Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon
 Sumner Sharpe, citizen
 Mary Lou Soscia, US EPA, Region 10
 Dick Springer, West Multnomah Soil & Water
 Alan Sprott, Vigor Industrial
 Jean von Barga, MWA Architects
 Karl Weist, Oregon Office, NW Power and
 Conservation Council
 Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper
 Bob Wilson, Waterfront Organization of Oregon
 Daniel H Yates, American Waterways
 Bill Young, citizen
 Cy Young, Dept of State Lands

Building a Willamette Community – *Working with Meyer Memorial Trust to engage upstream Willamette communities on issues of common interest, such as water quality and watershed health, brownfield sites, and public access.*

- Coordinate with manager of MMT Willamette River Initiative program
- Led a Willamette Community session at Oregon Planning Institute 2010.
- Organized break-out session on Willamette community needs at Within Our Reach conference.

Listening to Portland's River Stakeholders – *We go into the community, attending meetings covering a broad array of interests, to understand community concerns and priorities and identify key issues, common goals and solutions. We share what we learn with other City Bureaus –linking people with programs to enhance river health. Organizations included in this work:*

American Waterways, Inc.	Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Audubon Society of Portland	Oregon Environmental Council
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Oregon Governor's Natural Resources Office
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission	Oregon Maritime Museum
Defenders of Wildlife	Oregon Solutions
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Oregon State Marine Board
Edison Marine	Oregon Water Resources Dept.
Freshwater Trust	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Greenbrier Industries	Organizations represented:
Metro	Port of Portland
Meyer Memorial Trust	Portland Boathouse
Multnomah County River Patrol	Portland Business Alliance
National Marine Fisheries Service	Portland Rose Festival
North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	Portland State University
Northwest Power Conservation Council	RiversWest
OMSI	SOLV
Oregon Business Council	Swan Island TMA
Oregon Business Development Dept.	TriMet
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	University of Portland
Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development	West Multnomah SWCD
Oregon Dept. of State Lands	Willamette Partnership
Oregon Dept. of Transportation	Willamette Riverkeeper
	Working Waterfront Coalition

Supporting River-, Central City-, Portland-, and West Hayden Island Planning Efforts – *We support the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's (BPS) key planning efforts, including helping implement the North Reach Plan.*

- Recruited and recommended North Reach Plan Advisory Committee members to Council
- Coordinated design of "streamlining team" process for private developers
- Participated in Mayor's Stakeholder Committee
- Member of CC2035 River Technical Advisory Committee and Central Reach Natural Resources Inventory Technical Advisory Group; advised in planning for the Central City N/NE Quadrant
- Participated in "City Green" task force for Portland Plan
- Participating in West Hayden Island Natural Resource Inventory

Willamette River Recreation Strategy – *Teaming with Portland Parks & Recreation, we will update and refine a 2006 report on river recreation trends, needs, and recommendations. A public recreational dock strategy for the City that creates more certainty around dock siting, while protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat, will be developed and completed in 2011.*

- Conducted stakeholder interviews
- Designed Portland-specific boater-use survey

Maintenance Dredging Study – *The ability to conduct small-scale maintenance dredging at the foot of boat ramps or near docks and floating homes has become increasingly difficult and time-consuming. The Rivers Office is sponsoring an investigation of this issue.*

- Consulted with stakeholders and advisory committee to develop a problem statement and scope of work
- Contracted with Oregon Solutions to assess the scope, causes and possible solutions for this issue

Teaming with City Bureaus – The Office places a high priority on teaming with fellow City bureaus on river activities:

Rivers Office Partners with City Bureaus

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

- *North Reach Plan Implementation*
- *Central City 2035 and Central Reach*
- *Portland Plan*
- *West Hayden Island – Phase 2 responding to Council Ordinance*

Bureau of Parks and Recreation

- *Willamette River Recreation Strategy*
- *South Waterfront greenway and river access*

Bureau of Environmental Services

- *Superfund program*
- *Restoration on the mainstem Willamette / Willamette Watershed Team*
- *Mitigation bank development*

Fire Bureau

- *River Safety Committee*
- *Willamette River Clean-Ups*
- *Station 21 dock / Fire memorial promotion*

Portland Development Commission

- *South Waterfront coordination (North Macadam Inter-bureau Working Group)*
- *Harbor ReDI collaboration*

Portland Bureau of Transportation

- *Sellwood Bridge TAC*
- *Going Green project*
- *Moody Street improvement*

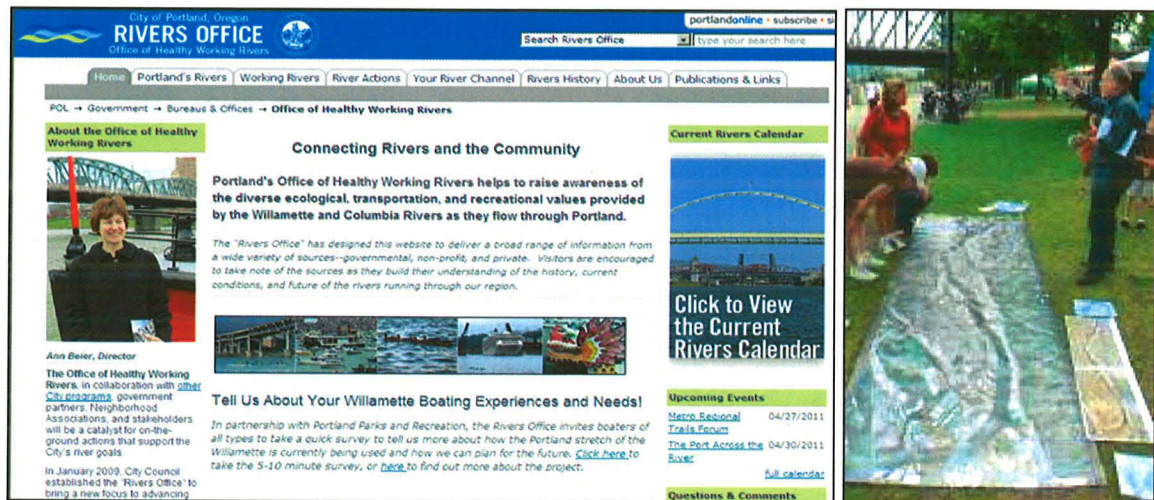
Intergovernmental Relations

- *Review of/comment on state and federal legislation*

River In Focus Brownbags

- *BES Johnson Creek Restoration Program*
- *BPS The River Plan*
- *PPR Cathedral Park Master Plan*
- *BES Tabor to the River*
- *PPR South Portland Riverbank Project*
- *BES Columbia Confluence Project*
- *PPR-BES Elk Rock Island*

B. Engaging Portlanders



Connecting Portlanders to our Rivers is a key goal of the Rivers Office. We provide information on watershed health, river activities and City projects to help people understand, appreciate and take advantage of opportunities to enjoy one of Portland's greatest assets—our rivers.

Rivers On-Line – *The Office places a high priority on ease of access to information and has designed a new and encyclopedic river website.*

- New pages developed for river character, history, commerce
- Full guide page for experiencing the Willamette
- New facility featuring videos of River In Focus presentations, as well as links to Rivers Office flickr and youtube sites.

River Information-Central – *The Office acts as an accessible and inviting clearinghouse of river information for the public.*

- acts as point-of-contact for a wide range of citizen inquiries on river topics
- creates and distributes monthly event calendars
- publishes River News Digest
- hosts monthly River-in-Focus brownbags
- conducts on-line surveys to gauge Portlander's river interests and concerns

RiverFest—Portland's Annual Celebration of the Willamette: – *The Office coordinated successful 2009 and 2010 RiverFests where over 4000 participants celebrated the Willamette River.*

- Chaired Steering and Partnership Committees
- Expanded partnership base

C. Leveraging City Efforts to Improve River Health



While we celebrate our rivers, we understand much more needs to be done to secure their long-term health. Restoring river habitat is expensive and takes time. The Office works closely with City bureaus, property owners, and regulatory agencies to fine-tune efforts in this very complex matrix of urban and natural environments. Our goal is to focus City efforts on high priority sites, while retaining flexibility to seize other opportunities that arise. The Office emphasizes partnerships that leverage resources to fund both restoration and the monitoring necessary to ensure our investments are successful.

Catalyzing River Restoration: – *The Rivers Office is working with BES to initiate a restoration site in the North Reach of the Willamette River.*

- Funding pre-design of a riverbank restoration project that will benefit both upland and riparian habitats.
- Working closely with BES Willamette Watershed Team to coordinate project implementation with multiple partners.

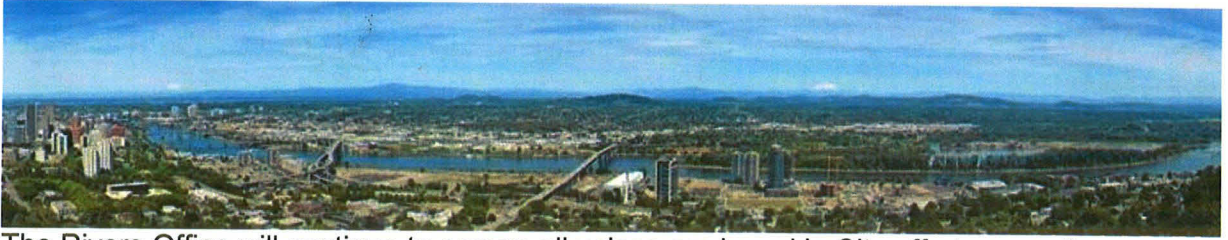
Developing a Mitigation Bank Framework: – *The Office is leading the effort to develop the legal and policy framework for the City's first mitigation bank, which should allow more flexibility for developers to meet environmental safeguards.*

- Staff are being formally trained in a number of mitigation specialties and best practices.
- Staff are researching mitigation approaches in use by other jurisdictions across the country.
- The Office has developed a multi-year workplan to implement a mitigation bank.
- The Office is working closely with the regulatory and resource agencies involved with mitigation, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Oregon Department of State Lands, Metro, and BES' Superfund program team.

Assisting City's Efforts in Portland Harbor Superfund: – *The Office coordinates with BES Portland Harbor Superfund Programs by sharing information to help support the myriad interests and opportunities necessary for success.*

- Staff attend monthly Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group meetings
- Rivers Office Director and BES Superfund Program Manager meet regularly to share information and coordinate activities.
- The Office provides its River In Focus series as a public outreach outlet for Superfund information.

3. WHAT'S NEXT?



The Rivers Office will continue to ensure all voices are heard in City efforts regarding the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Making sure there is ready access to clear information will allow Portlanders to be fully informed and engage effectively in community river decisions.

Overall, we will work with other Bureaus to implement plans for land use, restoration, and development along our rivers—and with our partners to make sure that Portlanders have access to our rivers for recreation, commerce, industry and education.

- *Support BES efforts to design, fund and construct a restoration project in the North Reach.*
- *Submit draft mitigation bank documents (prospectus and banking instrument) to regulatory agencies for approval.*
- *Complete and report to Council the Willamette River Recreation Strategy.*
- *Complete the maintenance dredging study and report findings to advisory committee.*
- *Promote and support events that bring people to our rivers, such as PDX Bridge Festival and Willamette Riverkeeper's Big Float, which increase the number of Portlanders directly enjoying the River and appreciating improvements to water quality.*
- *Partner with TriMet to sponsor a new exhibit at OMSI that provides a learning opportunity about engineering and building the new bridge, as well as Willamette River ecology (expected to open this summer).*
- *Renew periodic publication of "State of the River" reports that describe Portland's progress toward achieving its river goals.*
- *Form coalitions with the Rivers Office Advisory Committee, neighborhood organizations, industry groups, agency partners, under-represented communities, and others to implement river-related projects*
- *Implement assigned tasks in West Hayden Island evaluation in response to Council direction.*
- *Work with partners to inform and celebrate improved watershed health.*



**For additional information, contact
The Office of Healthy Working Rivers**

river@portlandoregon.gov

503.823.0275

www.portlandonline.com/river

Agenda No.
REPORT NO.
Title

Annual report for Year 2010 of Office of Healthy Working Rivers (Report)

<p align="center">INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Commissioner Fritz</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>APR 22 2011</u></p>
<p align="center">COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance and Administration - Adams</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz <i>Amanda Fritz</i></p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Leonard</p>	<p>LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <i>[Signature]</i> Deputy</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p align="center">APR 27 2011 ACCEPTED</p>
<p align="center">BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: OHWR Bureau Head: Ann Beier</p>	
<p>Prepared by: Ann Beier Date Prepared: 4/21/11</p>	
<p>Financial Impact Statement</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date April 27th</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval</p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 30 minutes (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Fish	2. Fish	✓	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	<i>[Signature]</i>	
4. Leonard	4. Leonard	✓	
Adams	Adams	✓	