

**CITY OF OLYMPIA
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
MINUTES
January 20, 2009**

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Kingsbury, Councilmembers Craig Ottavelli, Rhenda Iris Strub, Karen Messmer, Joan Machlis, and Joe Hyer.

The Special Study Session of the Olympia City Council convened at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

CLAMP / Deschutes River Estuary Alternatives Analysis

Joe Roush, Storm and Surface Water Program Supervisor, presented background on the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP) process to date and outlined the alternatives under analysis for the future of Capitol Lake. The four alternatives under consideration are, 1) No action, 2) Managed Lake, 3) Estuary, 4) Dual Basin Estuary.

Issue papers are being prepared for areas of key concern to the City of Olympia. The papers will address sediment and dredging, streets and infrastructure, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flooding and sea level rise, recreational activities and community events, economy, and visual appearance and will be completed in February.

Councilmember Hyer represents the City of Olympia at the CLAMP Steering Committee meetings. In addition to the City of Olympia, there are eight other entities that sit on the steering committee: GA, WDFW, DNR, DOE, City of Tumwater, Thurston County, Port of Olympia and the Squaxin Tribe.

Staff proposed a public process that involves outreach to potentially affected interests and the media, as well as an open house. Concurrent to the City's public process over the next few months, GA will be implementing more broad public involvement. Staff recommended updating the Land Use Committee on the public involvement and new information coming out of the issue papers in a couple of months.

Councilmember Machlis expressed interest in obtaining more information regarding the economic costs associated with each alternative and their impact on the local economy. Councilmember Messmer stated the public process should make clear that the culmination of public input to the Council will be an open house, not a public hearing as is typical. Councilmember Kingsbury said he'd like to see the Council forward a preferred option to the CLAMP committee, in addition to a list of issues and concerns associated with each of the options in case CLAMP recommends an alternative other than the City's preferred alternative.

City Council will forward their preferred option along with concerns regarding other options to the CLAMP Steering Committee in May or early June. The steering committee will then forward a preferred alternative to the State Capitol Committee, which in turn will make a recommendation to the Legislature. Eventual action would occur through authorization of a funding bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.