

SECTION 9

Public Involvement Process

9.1 Introduction

The TCWTP facilities plan engagement process was intended to gauge concerns of both Lake Oswego residents and those of the City of Portland and to actively engage the representatives of the two impacted communities in the facilities planning process.

9.2 Selection Process for Citizen Advisory Committee Members

The City of Portland BES and the City of Lake Oswego Public Works Department appointed citizens from both Portland and Lake Oswego communities to advise both cities on this facilities planning effort. The responsibilities of the CAC were as follows:

- Provide input on the Vision and Guiding Principles to guide facilities plan development and future treatment plant improvements
- Provide ongoing citizen input on the project at regularly scheduled committee meetings
- Review technical memoranda produced by the facilities plan project team and advise the team on plant alternatives

Requirements for advisory committee candidates included one or more of the following characteristics:

- Be a neighbor of the plant
- Be a Portland sewer ratepayer, a Lake Oswego sewer ratepayer, or a ratepayer of other service districts served by the TCWTP
- Have an interest in or be affiliated with an organization that has an interest in water quality, utility rates, wastewater treatment, or civic infrastructure

The duties of the project team and members of the CAC included helping present project information to the project OSC, the Lake Oswego City Council, and to the general public at two open houses.

9.3 Appointment of the Citizens Advisory Committee

The cities of Portland and Lake Oswego established the public involvement process with the goal of assuring accountability, openness, and responsiveness to community concerns. The mechanisms for public input in the form of the CAC and open houses aligned with facilities planning requirements.

Five representatives from each jurisdiction formed the CAC to provide public input in each stage of decision-making. The cities of Lake Oswego and Portland appointed the TCWTP CAC in April 2012. The CAC first convened on May 9, 2012, and will meet 14 times over the course of the 24-month project. The City Manager of Lake Oswego and the Director of BES selected the members of the CAC. Citizen appointees included:

Dave Gooley, City of Portland
Ruth Spetter, City of Portland
Al Iverson, City of Portland
Tom Badrick, City of Portland
Harvey Locket, City of Portland (Mr. Locket resigned during the process for personal reasons)

Mary Beth Coffey, City of Lake Oswego
Rich Martin, City of Lake Oswego
Dan Vizzini, City of Lake Oswego
Kara Warner, City of Lake Oswego
Bruce Brown, City of Lake Oswego

9.4 Facilities Planning Approach

The CAC familiarized themselves on the main issues through a tour of facilities, background reading, and presentations from project team technical experts as well as by sharing insights from their own diverse areas of expertise. The committee coordinated efforts to prepare and present the design alternatives and final plans to the public at large through two evening open house workshops in Lake Oswego. The CAC also shared its decisions at two OSC meetings.

Meeting content organized by the consulting team informed the CAC of the requirements of facilities planning and the potential benefits and impacts of the various alternatives. The CAC members were able to provide comments and advice from their areas of expertise, from the group interaction with other CAC members and by engaging in the consulting team and staff presentations.

As an essential element of the facilities planning process, the CAC also provided a platform for community members to participate in open discussion and free exchange of information. Notices for CAC meetings and open house events invited the public at large to observe and participate.

In support of the plan development, the CAC provided:

- Ongoing communication and input for the duration of the project
- Personal outreach efforts to local stakeholders known by committee members, for greater feedback and participation
- Recommendations that reflect the community values and guiding principles
- Input on the Vision and Guiding Principles
- Development of the evaluation criteria
- Summaries of CAC consensus on aesthetics and amenities afforded by the selected facilities plan alternative, such as visual design, landscaping, education interpretation opportunities, and open space
- Preferences on the overall alternative from a treatment, energy, environmental, and sustainability perspective
- Information and perspectives to visitors at the open houses
- Advocacy of community interests to the OSC

The TCWTP facilities plan CAC engagement process is summarized in Figure 9-1.

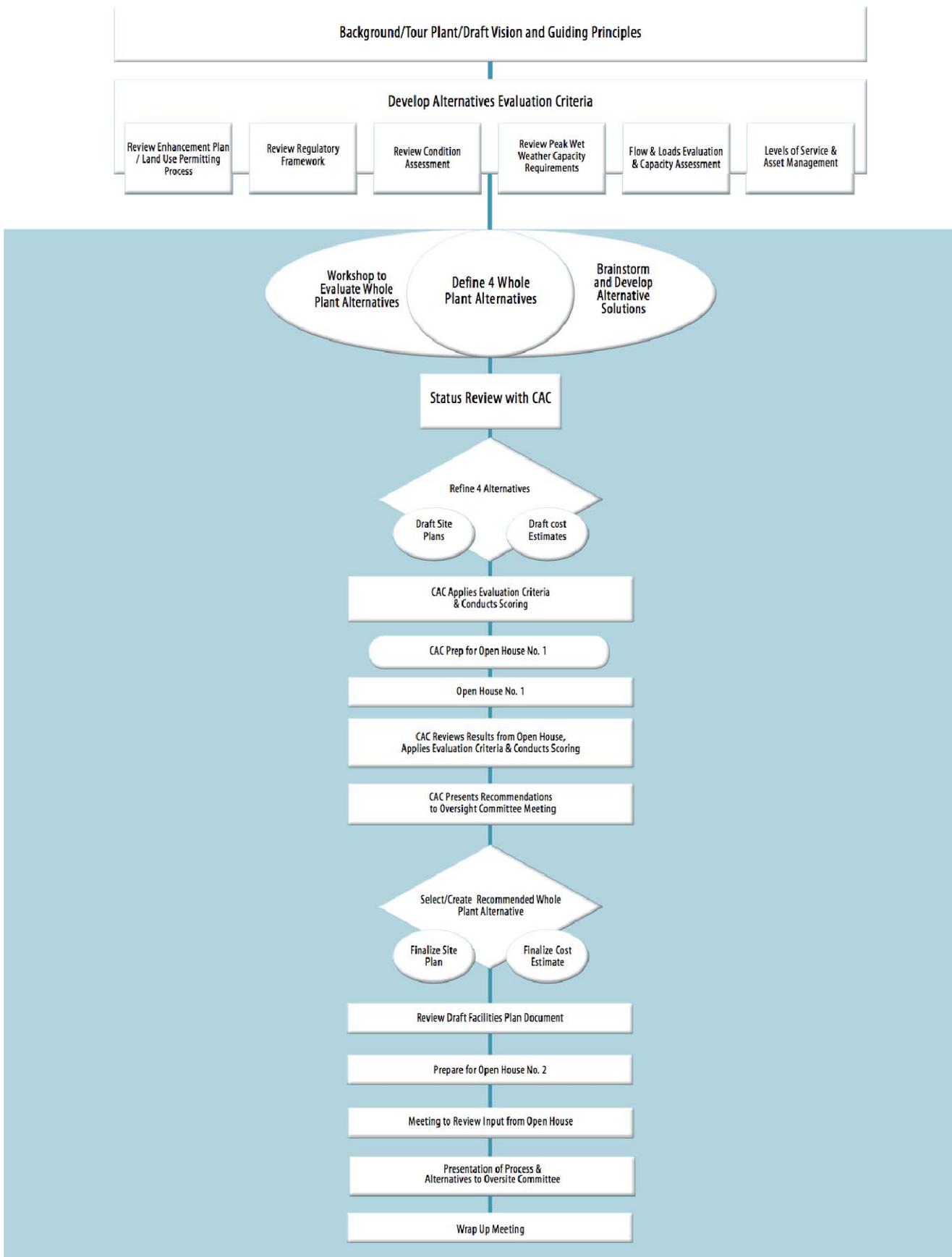


FIGURE 9-1
Flowchart of the TWCTP CAC Engagement Process

9.5 Summary of CAC Public Meetings

The CAC public meetings are summarized below in chronological order. Meeting notes and presentation materials for each are available at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/61928>

- Meeting 1, May 9, 2012. This chartering meeting provided an initial overview of the project and an opportunity for CAC and team members to introduce themselves and explain their roles. Presentations also formulated the core questions the CAC and project team would address in the coming months, including those concerning budget, permitting, and technical issues.
- Meeting 2, June 13, 2012. Dave Green from CH2M HILL presented an overview on community issues surrounding wastewater treatment and answered attendee questions regarding the TCWTP, the facilities plan, and technical topics. Meeting agenda included an update on the Foothills Development Plan, the upcoming Tryon Creek Plant Tour for CAC members, and the development of a Vision and Guiding Principles document.
- Meeting 3, July 11, 2012. Meeting focused on developing and refining the project Vision and Guiding Principles. Chairman of Birdshill Citizens Planning Organization (CPO) Charles B. Ormsby spoke about his concerns about the Tryon Creek planning process.
- Meeting 4, August 8, 2012. Attendees gave feedback on the recently drafted Vision and Guiding Principles, received recommendations from the Enhancement Plan, and reviewed the Regulatory Framework under which TCWTP operates.
- Meeting 5, September 13, 2012. The CAC heard the Condition Assessment task findings as well as estimates and model projections for peak flows to the plant. Ben Schonberger of Winterbrook Consulting presented the salient land use criteria and permitting procedures that will affect the plan for the TCWTP.
- Meeting 6, October 11, 2012. CH2M HILL described the condition assessment map developed at the request of the CAC to understand the structures related to mechanical and electrical equipment at the site. Michelle Burkhart of CH2M HILL provided the committee information regarding flow and load capabilities and dynamics. Paul Suto of BES explained how his bureau's Strategic LOS would align with the TCWTP Vision and Guiding Principles.
- Meeting 7, February 12, 2013. The CAC reviewed whole plant alternative concepts developed during the December workshops. The committee also scheduled project tasks for the year ahead, including the public open house and meetings of the OSC.
- Meeting 8, March 13, 2013. Discussion continued on the major alternative concepts and the flexibility in each to incorporate features from the other plans. Mike Faha of GreenWorks presented proposed edge treatment options for the Whole Plant Alternatives as part of the Enhancement Plan and answered questions about environmental and community impacts.
- Meeting 9, April 10, 2013. The CAC reviewed of the refined whole plant alternatives and cost estimates based on earlier feedback as well as the plausibility of a fifth alternative, involving relocation of the TCWTP. The attendees heard BES and Lake Oswego recommended rankings of preferred alternatives and discussed the reasoning behind the choices. Public comment brought up the concern for future growth and density in the area and the potential risk of sewage overflow. Team members prepared task for upcoming first open house in Lake Oswego.
- Meeting 10, May 22, 2013. BES staff presented feedback from various professional perspectives on the whole plant alternatives. The remaining time allowed for free form discussion where CAC members debated the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.
- Meeting 11, July 10, 2013. Dave Green of CH2M HILL summarized the feedback of the alternatives from previous meetings. Michelle Burkhart of CH2M HILL lead discussion about a possible new alternative based on a melding of attributes of Alternatives B and C. CAC members offered suggestions for refinement and raised questions on technical details in anticipation of the development and presentation of the preferred alternative.

- Meeting 12, September 11, 2013. The CAC continued its discussion of the details of the preferred alternative presented in the last meeting. The members reviewed 30-year applicable standards and revisited principles from the 2007 Enhancement Plan. Mike Faha of GreenWorks talked about landscape design in respect to changes in the neighborhood over the long term and how a plan could align with future municipal projects. Attendees explored the trade-offs of different landscaping approaches.
- Meeting 13, November 13, 2013. The CAC reviewed feedback from the OSC meeting held October 15, 2013. Michelle Burkhart of CH2M HILL led discussion about implementation of the recommended plan, including the potential timing and packaging of proposed components.
- Meeting 14, April 9, 2014. The CAC received and reviewed information on project phasing and rate implications and planned for Open House 2. Since the CAC had not met for several months, the team reviewed the project drivers and characteristics of a 30-year facilities plan.

9.6 Open Houses

The project team publicized the TCWTP open houses in a number of ways, including on the project website. An article that appeared in Hello LO, the community e-blast in Lake Oswego, is provided in Appendix T.

Great care was taken to foster dialogue at the open house. Exhibit stations facilitated discussion on attributes of the planning process by designating a CAC or consulting team member to explain the process and answer questions. Each participant received a workbook and a feedback form upon entry. Some participants took additional copies of the workbook for friends to expand the reach of the open house feedback. Twenty-six members of the community gave their names at the check-in desk at the first open house, but 34 were counted in attendance.

Overall, feedback regarding the open house event was considered positive. The Workbook, Feedback Form, and Summary Results are included in Appendix T. Meeting notes and presentation materials are available at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/61928>.

- Open House 1, April 24, 2013. An evening event hosted by the CAC took place in the clubhouse of Oswego Pointe Condominiums in Lake Oswego. Posters and presentations outlined the decision process, major aspects of three plant alternatives, and a selection of landscaping options. Attendees had an opportunity to ask project team members questions, discuss the issues amongst themselves, and post comments and rankings to a feedback board. The project team summarized the results of the public comment. The CAC and consulting team reviewed this feedback as they moved forward in the planning process.
- Open House 2, April 24, 2014. The second open house hosted by the CAC took place at the clubhouse of Oswego Pointe Condominiums in Lake Oswego. Seventeen members attended this open house and slightly over 50 percent were new participants (community members who did not attend Open House 1). Attendees had an opportunity to review the 30-year planning process and information about cost and phasing before preparing a feedback form that was subsequently summarized and sent to the CAC.

9.7 Oversight Committee Meetings

Oversight Committee meetings convened on July 19, 2012, and October 15, 2013. The OSC was briefed on the overall context of the facilities plan and on salient issues and challenges. At the second meeting, the OSC endorsed the Vision and Guiding Principles, and evaluation criteria used by the technical team and developed by the CAC. On October 15, the OSC endorsed the CAC/Technical Team/Staff Preferred Alternative as a basis for future planning.