

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #18 Flood Control Zone District January 19, 2010 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Skagit County Administrative Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

Meeting Purpose

For the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Advisory Committee (AC) members to conduct normal business and:

1. Discuss CFHMP draft update status
2. Board of County Commissioners
3. FEMA Flood Maps - FEMA Representative
4. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments (if any).

Introduction

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to AC meeting #18.

Public Comment

There was no public comment. However, the public asked questions throughout the FEMA presentation.

Acceptance of November 16, 2009 AC Meeting Summary

It was moved by Jason Easton, and seconded by Esco Bell to accept the November 16, 2009 AC meeting summary as presented by staff. Motion carried 11/0/1.

Regular Report Outs

County Engineer: Dan Berentson spoke on behalf of the County Engineer. He stated the County is going to set-up a public involvement plan for the review of the new FEMA maps. He also pointed out that Larry Wasserman resigned from the Committee. As a result, the Environmental Technical Committee has been tasked with nominating another member to the Advisory Committee.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Lorna Ellestad reported that the USACE is planning to reschedule the Skagit GI Feasibility Scoping Meeting in October even though the County requested it be held earlier. NHC is under contract to review the Corps Hydrology and Hydraulics and have been having trouble accessing Corps files. A new scope has been prepared to address initial omissions in the Corps methodology used to perform the Hydrology analysis. The review of the Corps hydraulic model will be completed by the next FCZD meeting and revised scope prepared to address any outstanding issues. NHC has also been working to complete a scope of work to prepare a 10% design and cost estimate for the proposed Corps measures. Corp staff has still not completed the levee failure analysis model, and the County has been encouraging the Corps to contract this work out.

CFHMP Drafting Subcommittee: A rough draft of Chapter 8 was submitted for review.

Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC): The DDTC did not meet; no report.

Environmental Technical Committee (ETC): The ETC did not meet; no report.

Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC): The LUTC did not meet; no report.

Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler provided two articles and supporting data showing why the hydrology being used by FEMA, USACE, and US Geological Survey are highly questionable. Kunzler stated the newspaper articles are the only two written observations, recorded by the same man (Chuck Dwelley, editor of the Concrete Herald), in the same spot, (Crofoot subdivision near Concrete) in both the 1917 and 1921 flood events. What Mr. Dwelley observed the day of both floods does not support the levels being used by the federal government. The articles and supporting data are attached to the minutes and can be viewed online at www.skagitriverhistory.com.

FEMA Presentation

Boudinot shared three flood maps he brought to the meeting: the flood insurance study map from 1980, the current flood insurance study flood map, and the flood insurance study maps recently released and retracted. Ryan Ike, FEMA, spoke to the Advisory Committee and the Skagit County Board of Commissioners regarding the recent release and retraction of the FEMA flood maps. Ike hopes revised maps will be released in March of this year. He continued by explaining the process for public review of said maps. They will be released with a period of time for public meetings and written appeal and FEMA will work with the local communities on when the 90 day appeal period will officially start. FEMA will complete the Community Coordination meetings and publish the Base Flood Elevations twice before the appeal period will begin. At the end of the appeal process, all information will be reviewed by FEMA before the maps are finalized. He also noted that while Michael Baker Corporation will be making the mapping corrections, a new consultant, PBS&J, will be the lead in the review process.

Ike also commented that part of FEMA's modeling process for the flood insurance study involves modeling the levees, not necessarily the hydrology. It was understood that the depth of the hydrology will not affect the elevations as much as the method FEMA uses for modeling the levees. The method is creating the numbers for elevations rather than the quantity of water in the river.

Ike took questions from the group. The common theme was the concern regarding FEMA's review of information submitted during the appeal process. Many feel the data submitted has not been taken into consideration. It was also mentioned there is a desire to hold a discussion about the hydrology of the Skagit River with FEMA and several other parties. Ike assured those questioning him that FEMA will evaluate and incorporate submitted data where appropriate. Ike also committed to distributing a technical memorandum TM that addresses what and how additional information provided by the community was considered in the analysis. This memo will be provided in response to those that submitted material to FEMA and will be released no later than the same time as the revised Preliminary FIS maps. FEMA also committed to scheduling and providing a presentation on the TM to those that provided information once the information is released. Ryan was asked again about the possibility of having a technical panel review the base information and the maps and Ryan said that if it was up to him, he would like to get all of the experts in the same room and work this out. Unfortunately, it is not his call. FEMA is continuing to prepare additional work products designed to help communicate the flood risk to the public.

Ryan was also asked about the outdated text in the FIS report and he told everyone that he welcomed "new" narrative from folks to update the report.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. There were no assignments for the Technical Committees.
2. Review the FEMA Flood Maps Discussion that took place at the last meeting
3. Begin reviewing CFHMP draft

The next AC meeting will be on February 16, 2010, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON January 19, 2010:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE						
Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy	Position Vacant
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley		X		
Boudinot, Bob	ETC	Skagit Land Trust	X			
Brunz, Mayor Ed	Cities and Towns	City of Burlington	X			
Carey, Bob	ETC	The Nature Conservancy	X			
Carlson, Todd	LUTC	WA Dept. of Transportation		X		
Easton, Jason	LUTC	Washington Realtors	X			
Flaig, Dean	DDTC	Drainage District #21	X			
Halverson, Leonard	At-Large	Sterling Area	X			
Hamburg, Daryl	DDTC	Dike District #17	X			
Hughes, Robert	LUTC	Ag. Adv. Committee	X			
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian	X			
Nelson, Stanley	DDTC	Dike District #22	X			
Norris, Mayor Bud	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon			X Esco Bell	
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X			
Vacant	ETC					X

OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON January 19, 2010:

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Dahlstedt, Ken	Skagit County Commissioner
Dillon, Sharon	Skagit County Commissioner
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
Flagan, Jan	Skagit County Public Works
Holloran, Tim	Skagit County Administrator
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Symonds, Kara	Skagit County Public Works
Wesen, Ron	Skagit County Commissioner

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Bruuish, Jacques	Citizen
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Fischer, Polly	Marine Resources Committee
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Lagerlund, Nels	Agricultural Advisory Board
Looy, T.	PSE
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Shultz, John R.	Dike Districts #1 and #12
Shultz, John A.	Dike Districts #1 and #12
Sjostrom, Elizabeth	WSDOT
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management