

## MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #8  
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District  
January 20, 2009 from 2:00-5:30 p.m.

### Location

Training Room, Sedro Woolley City Hall  
325 Metcalf Street, Sedro Woolley, WA

### Meeting Purpose

For the Advisory Committee (AC) members to conduct normal business and:

1. Review and approve the Mission, Goals, and Objectives
2. Adopt screening and fatal flaw criteria for considering projects/measures (Intent is to send these to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their consideration as they assess measures)
3. Begin process of screening Skagit GI Measures using screening and fatal flaw criteria in order to, from a local perspective, narrow measures to a smaller number (Intent is to complete the local screening by the February Advisory Committee meeting in order to have some input into the USACE for their consideration as they screen the measures)
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any

### Summary of Action Items

1. Next AC meeting will be an extended meeting/workshop scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 12:30 - 5:30 pm, in the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA.
2. Approved draft of the Mission, Goals, and Objectives section of the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. Consultants will prepare a final draft to be considered for confirming the January approval at the next AC meeting.
3. Consultants will prepare a draft of the project screening and evaluation criteria by combining and reconciling the criteria received from the FCZD Technical Committees. Draft will be sent out to AC members for review and comment. AC comments will then be incorporated into a draft criteria document sent to the AC for its consideration at the next AC meeting.
4. Consultants will prepare an AC assignment to the Technical Committees requesting that the TC's meet to consider: a) The USACE Skagit GI list of preliminary flood reduction measures and whether there are any potential projects/measures missing from that list, and if so to provide the AC with such project information. b) In addition the TC's will be asked to screen the existing list of Skagit GI projects for their collective take on projects with fatal flaws (non-starters), no-brainers, missing information, and potential alternative packages. Consultants will compile TC recommendations and provide this information to the AC for consideration at the next AC meeting.

### Welcome

AC Chair, Bob Boudinot, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking AC members, staff and public attendees to introduce themselves. Note: Jason Easton was unable to attend due to family emergency.

### Public Comment

No public comment

## Regular Report Outs

- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler presented a brief summary overview of the history of dredging on the Skagit River. Included were handouts entitled “Dredging for Navigation” and “Skagit River History”. Larry noted that dredging on the Skagit was primarily for the purpose of improving river navigation and had never been shown effective in reducing either the occurrence or severity of flooding events. Larry shared that many studies have concluded that dredging is not a viable option to reduce flood hazards due to environmental concerns and excessive costs associated with the initial dredging and then required maintenance dredging at 3-5 year intervals. Example: 1.6M cubic yards of material was removed from the Skagit River from 1920-1960. Approximately 88M cubic yards would have to be initially removed to accommodate a 100 year (220,000 cfs) event, and then maintenance dredging every 3-5 years to handle at an estimated cost of \$4 M (1996 figures).
- County Engineer: Voetberg, P.E./County Public Works Director
  - Advised that the storm event earlier in January that caused minor flooding on the Skagit River caused major flooding on the Samish River and the smaller Skagit tributaries. He noted that each storm event seems to have its own unique characteristics and impacts and that further underscores the need for comprehensive flood hazard reduction planning.
  - Jim advised that Skagit County has not taken any action on the proposal of the City of Burlington that the County consider entering into an interlocal agreement focused on increasing flood storage capacity behind the Skagit dams. Jim noted that he has advised the Board of County Commissioners that any such agreement should be reviewed by the FCZD Advisory Committee prior to execution.
    - Bob Carey requested an update of the flood storage interlocal at the next AC meeting. Chair and County Engineer agreed.
  - It was noted that Mark Carey, Mitigation Director, with FEMA made a presentation to the County Commissioners earlier today to explain FEMA’s response to a recent NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion which potentially impacts the local Federal Flood Insurance Program. The presentation was televised and recorded for viewing on Skagit TV Channel 21. A multi-hazards roundtable workshop is being presented by UW later in week on the same topic.
    - Larry Wasserman requested that FEMA and/or NOAA Fisheries be invited to update the AC on this matter, perhaps at the March meeting. Chair and County Engineer agreed to explore the possibility.
- Technical Committees:
  - Daryl Hamburg reported that the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC) met last month and drafted a two phase/fatal flaw criteria list. It is still a work in progress.
  - Bob Carey noted that the Environmental Technical Committee (ETC) also drafted a fatal flaw criteria list.
  - Esco Bell reporting for the Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC) announced that the LUTC met and is recommending that the Option #2 criteria list (previously mailed to AC members) was the LUTC’s preferred criteria list. The LUTC ruled out a two tiered approach.

- Skagit General Investigation (Skagit GI): Kristen Kerns, representing the USACE reported that:
  - A NEPA required Environmental Scoping Meeting on the Skagit GI Measures was held by the USACE on January 8, 2009. Comments from the public, local, state, and federal agencies were received and will be considered when moving forward with Skagit GI. A summary of the comments and responses will be forthcoming.
  - A new project manager (replacing Linda Smith) has been hired and will be onboard later in February, 2009. Linda and Kristen will stay around to assist in the transition.
  - The final draft Lower Skagit Environmental Baseline Report has been completed and is available for public review.
  - A draft of the upper Skagit Environmental Baseline Report is being reviewed by agencies and stakeholders and should be completed soon.
  - The USACE had begun hydrologic analysis of various flood reduction alternatives (combinations of flood reduction measures) beginning with proposed bypasses.
  - The flood levee failures analysis is still pending and has been delayed due USACE personnel being diverted to flood response activities.

#### Consideration and acceptance of meeting summary from December 15, 2008

It was moved by Bob Carey, and seconded by Stan Nelson to accept the December 15, 2008 meeting minutes as drafted. No additions or corrections were requested. Meeting summary was approved as drafted with Ramon Hayes and Larry Wasserman abstaining.

#### Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria

The AC continued deliberating on the draft Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives element of the CFHMP (Document B) with facilitation assistance from Bob Wheeler and Cynthia Carlstad (consultants). Document B is the working draft showing the changes made by the AC at the previous monthly meeting with the recommendations requested from the LUTC for objective statement #'s: 2.10, 2.11 and 3.3. Discussion followed with agreed amendments edited live on-screen by Cynthia. On a motion by Daryl Hamburg, second from Ramon Hayes, the working draft (as edited at the meeting) of the Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives element was provisionally approved. Consultants were directed to prepare a final draft, incorporating the changes from this afternoon's work session (edited version) and to send it out for review and confirmation at the next AC meeting.

#### Screening and Fatal Flaw Criteria for Project/Measures

Consultants led this portion of the meeting which focused on completing a fatal flaw screening criteria list and then using that information to screen the 37/38 preliminary flood reduction measures currently under evaluation by the USACE as part of the Skagit GI. It was noted that timing is critical. The USACE would like this information by February in order to justify how it prioritizes and focuses its Skagit GI hydrology and hydraulic analyses on projects and alternatives (combination of projects) with the most local support. Some AC members felt uncomfortable forwarding a preliminary list of preferred projects to the USACE when so much project information was unknown and not available. In the end it was understood that any list of locally preferred screening criteria and projects forwarded to the USACE would only be the starting point for a more thorough vetting of these projects for purposes of the updated CFHMP.

The AC also understood that this effort would provide a baseline of useful information of known and unknown project details necessary to help move the Skagit GI process and CFHMP update forward.

To assist the AC complete the assignment at next month's meeting the consultants were asked to prepare detailed task assignments for both the AC and the TC's to be completed prior to the next AC meeting. The AC will be asked review a draft of the fatal flaw criteria (cleaned up version of Document C-1 previously sent out to the AC for review) and submit any comments back to the consultants. Comments will be incorporated in a revised C-1 for consideration in February. Similarly the TC's will be asked to meet to screen the Skagit GI measures with their own fatal flaw criteria and to forward that information to the consultants. The consultants will then incorporate that information into a draft project screening document as a starting point for AC discussion and action in February.

Miscellaneous

None

Next Steps

1. Final (confirmation) approval on draft mission statement, goals, objectives element of the CFHMP.
2. AC and TCs to complete task assignments (noted above in Screening and Fatal Flaw Criteria for Project/Measures).
3. Complete final draft of the "fatal flaw" project screening/selection criteria and forward to the USACE.
4. Complete final draft of the preliminary screening of Skagit GI projects and measures and forward to the USACE.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 1/20/09**

<b>Advisory Committee Members</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Proxy</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley	X			
Boudinot, Bob	ETC	Skagit Land Trust	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			
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner	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		
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X			
Wasserman, Larry	ETC	Swinomish Indian Tribe	X			

<b>STAFF &amp; CONSULTANTS</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Carlstad, Cynthia	TetraTech
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Voetberg, Jim	Skagit County Public Works
Wheeler, Bob	<u>Triangle</u>

<b>OTHERS</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Bills, Shawn	Senator Patty Murray
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
DenHerder, Rod	URS
Ertel, Cory	Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association
Kerns, Kristen	USACE
Lagerlund, Nels	Ag. Adv. Committee
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner
Raines, Mary	Skagit Watershed Council
Shultz, John	Representative for DD#1 and DD#12
Walker, Kent	USACE