

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #9
Flood Control Zone District
February 18, 2009 from 12:30-5:30 pm

Location

Skagit County Commissioner's Hearing Room
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

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

1. Approve the Mission, Goals, and Objectives element of the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)
2. Adopt screening and fatal flaw criteria for considering projects/measures (Intent is to send these to the Army Corp for their consideration as they assess Skagit General Investigation (GI) measures in the coming months)
3. Conduct a workshop that:
 - a. Considers the Technical Committee (TC's) input on additional projects and their comments on the Skagit GI measures
 - b. Begins the process of a local screening of the Skagit GI Measures and any local projects 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 end of this Advisory Committee meeting in order to have some input into the Army Corp for their consideration as they screen the measures) and to consider from a local perspective local projects
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any

Summary of Action Items

1. Next AC meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2009, 2:30-5:30 pm (note time change)
2. Approved mission statement, goals, objectives element of CFHMP
3. Completed the screening and fatal flaw criteria for a majority of the Skagit GI measures. Will complete the remaining measures at next meeting and forward results to the USACE.
4. Adopted the 3 "E's" (Engineeringly possible, Economically achievable, and Environmentally friendly) as screening criteria for the purpose of expeditiously reviewing and commenting on flood reduction projects/measures for fatal flaws and forwarding the results to the USACE.
5. Requested additional input for fatal flaw criteria from technical committees. Will consider their input and finish final list of fatal flaw criteria at next meeting. Results will be forwarded to USACE.

Introduction/Welcome

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened meeting by welcoming members and guests (see attached meeting attendance sheet). Bob noted that the following members had announced that they were going to be absent and would be represented by proxies: Ramon Hayes represented by John Doyle; Mike Anderson represented by Mark Freiburger; Larry Wasserman represented by Stan Walsh; Robert Hughes represented by Gary Jones; Stan Nelson represented by Gary Jones; and Dean Flaig represented by Daryl Hamburg.

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Public Comment

Chairman Boudinot asked for public comment. No verbal or written comments were forthcoming.

Consideration and Acceptance of AC Meeting Summary from January 20, 2009

It was moved by Dave Pflug to accept the January 20, 2009 meeting summary prepared by staff (Document "A" in the meeting handouts). It was seconded by Bob Carey. Discussion: Larry Kunzler advised that he had a few minor corrections related to the Historian's "dredging" report out. Motion was approved by consensus with the understanding that Larry Kunzler may have a some "non-substantive", technical amendments related to dredging that he may submit for the record. (Note: The following correction was subsequently submitted by Larry: *"There is no real evidence that the material was ever removed from the Skagit River. It was side-casted meaning that it was thrown as close to the shore as possible, however during the next high water it was picked up and put back into the system. 60,000,000 cubic yards would have to be initially removed. I don't know where the \$4 million figure came from as I didn't reference an exact figure. I've always thought it was more like \$5 million. It could have been in the county handout that I provided but I don't remember referencing it."*)

Screening and Fatal Flaw Criteria for Projects/Measures

Cynthia Carlstad, project consultant led this portion of the workshop. Cynthia briefly reviewed the history of handout Document C-2 (Advisory Committee Input on Project Screening Criteria). Document C-2 is the compilation of recommendations for fatal flaw criteria from the TC's with additional comment from AC members.

The AC proceeded to discuss and consider final editing of criteria. The work was stopped before completion due to agenda time constraints. The AC decided to take the following action on a motion by Jason Easton, seconded by Larry Kunzler: Adopt the three "E's" (Engineeringly possible, Economically achievable, and Environmentally friendly) as the interim fatal flaw screening criteria. The three "E's" will be used to guide the AC as it screens and comments on preliminary flood reduction measures for purpose of forwarding recommendations to the USACE.

It is understood that a more detailed criteria list would be developed later, using the work already completed and any additional comment from the TC's. The final criteria list will be for the purpose of analyzing and ranking projects/measures for the CFHMP.

The motion failed by consensus, but carried by vote: 7 in favor, 6 opposed, and 1 abstention. The two meeting rule applies and the AC will further discuss and consider this action at its March 16, 2009 meeting.

Between now and the next AC meeting the TC's will be asked to meet to:

1. Provide further input on project fatal flaw screening criteria (using the 2/18/09 Advisory Committee draft "Fatal Flaw and Project Screening Document" including motion for "three 'E's'"), specifically addressing questions directed to them.

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2. Provide any additional input on measures using Advisory Committee Document E. Advisory Committee requested more detail on non-structural measures.
3. Provide any additional information on local projects requested to be considered.
4. Submit any comments to Tom Karsh by 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2009.

Initial Skagit GI Measure/Local Project Narrowing

Bob Wheeler, consultant, facilitated this portion of the meeting. Cynthia Carlstad, consultant, assisted Bob by updating Document "E" (Technical Committee Initial Input on Corps Measures) as directed by the AC during the course of the workshop. Bob reviewed the history and purpose of Document "E" reminding the AC that Document "E" contained the initial fatal flaw and missing information comments from the three FCZD Technical Committees. Each TC applied their own fatal flaw criteria to each measure and the resulting comments, captured on Document "E", were intended to inform the AC and the USACE as to which Skagit GI measures should be further considered.

Work was halted before the AC completed reviewing and commenting on all the measures. This work will be continued and completed at the next AC meeting. Staff and consultants were asked to prepare an updated working draft (Document "E-1") reflecting the progress made at this afternoon's workshop.

Additional information about the projects being promoted by the cities of Anacortes, Burlington and Mount Vernon was requested. Staff was asked to see if representatives from those jurisdictions could attend the next meeting to explain their respective projects. Committee members expressed their concern that the official AC member representing the City of Mount Vernon (Mayor Bud Norris) was not present and had not been actively participating in FCZD activities. It was moved by Jason Easton, seconded by Larry Kunzler and approved by consensus that the AC respectfully requests that Mayor Norris consider participating either directly, or indirectly by proxy, in future FCZD/AC activities. The AC also requested a copy of Mount Vernon's Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) recently submitted to FEMA.

Regular Report Outs

- County Engineer: Tom Karsh, representing the County Engineer
 - Advised that Jim Voetberg, PE had resigned as County Engineer and introduced Jeff Miller, P.E., as Interim County Engineer.
 - Noted that the County had not taken official action to sign an interlocal agreement with area cities and dike districts to support additional flood storage at local dams consistent with their existing FERC license articles. Current draft of the agreement was provided.
 - Announced that the County had finally adopted the "Two meeting rule" resolution officially amending the AC by-laws and updating committee membership rolls. Hard copies of the resolution were provided in the handout packets.
- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler read an excerpt from a 1928 report related to Skagit River flood control from a Major Butler, representing the U.S. Secretary of War. Ironically, the report's observations and recommendations identified the same problems and possible

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solutions that we are discussing today. It suggests that we have not progressed much in the intervening years.

- Technical Committees:
 - Gary Jones spoke to the importance of Measure #38 from the perspective of the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee and Stan Nelson, Dike District #22 Commissioner. Gary noted that benefits from many of the other flood reduction measures being discussed would be negated unless flood water could be effectively conveyed out to the bay(s). This is essential for reducing the adverse impacts from any size (100-500 year) flooding event.
 - Todd Carlson, a representative from the Land Use Technical Committee, reported that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is a member of the Washington State Natural Disaster Planning Task Force. In that capacity WSDOT has worked closely with the Governor's Office to get the Governor's support for the following local flood reduction planning efforts:
 - Encourage full funding (\$1.3M/year) of the Skagit GI, at least that portion necessary to complete the H and H and a levee failure risk analysis.
 - Continue to help fund Skagit County's required matching funds and in-kind service activities (\$800K/year) for the Skagit GI.
 - Support continued funding of the three bridge corridor project (\$3.5M).
 - WSDOT will work with local bridge owners and environmental interests to develop a comprehensive, coordinated debris removal strategy.
 - Improve communication capacity along I-5 to better control traffic and to warn the travelling public of flood conditions.

Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives

Bob Carey moved to approve the final draft of the Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives element of the CFHMP (Document "B"). The motion was seconded by Todd Carlson. After discussion, the motion was approved by consensus with the understanding that there would be future opportunities to update/refine the document as necessary.

Next Steps

The Technical Committees will be asked to meet as needed to complete any unfinished work on flood reduction projects fatal flaw criteria and to identify new structural and non-structural flood control measures. In particular the AC requested that the DDTC meet to define the terms "maintain" and "sustain" as they are used in the fatal flaw criteria developed by that committee.

Next AC meeting scheduled for Monday, 3/16/2009, from 2:30-5:30 pm in the County Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon.

Meeting adjourned

Chairman Boudinot thanked everyone for the extra effort involved in staying attentive during a 5 hour workshop marathon. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 02/18/09:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE						
Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy	Position Vacant
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley			X (Mark Freiburger)	
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 (Daryl Hamburg)	
Halverson, Leonard	At-Large	Sterling Area	X			
Hamburg, Daryl	DDTC	Dike District #17	X			
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner			X (John Doyle)	
Hughes, Robert	LUTC	Ag. Adv. Committee			X (Gary Jones)	
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian	X			
Nelson, Stanley	DDTC	Dike District #22			X (Gary Jones)	
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 (Stan Walsh)	

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OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 02/18/09:

STAFF & CONSULTANTS	
Name	Affiliation
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
Miller, Jeff	Skagit County Public Works
Wheeler, Bob	Triangle Associates
OTHERS	
Name	Affiliation
Borman, Neil	Marine Resources Committee
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Gibbons, Amy	USACE
Jensen, Brandon	Pentec Environmental
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Knutzen, Ron	Dike District #5
Lagerlund, Nels	Ag. Adv. Committee
Olson, David	Dike District #3
Schwartz, Ralph	Skagit Valley Herald
Smith, Linda	USACE
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management