



Skagit Flood Control Zone District Dike and Drainage Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2009; 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Dike District # 12 – 1317 Anacortes Street, Burlington

Meeting Summary

Meeting Purpose: Conduct normal business and complete task assignments as requested at February 18th Advisory Committee meeting. 1) Review Fatal Flaw and Project Screening Criteria document and provide input; 2) Review previous application of “level 1” criteria to Skagit GI Measures; 3) identify additional potential projects; and 4) provide suggestions for alternatives.

Pre-4:00 pm Sign in

4:00 pm Introductions / Roll Call (sign-in) and Meeting Purpose - In attendance: Chuck Bennet, DD #12; Ron Knutzen, DD#5; Mike Shelby WWAA; Amy Gibbons, USACE; Lorna Ellestad, SC/PW. Daryl Hamburg was excused.

4:05 pm Public Comments – Introduced Amy Gibbons as the new Skagit GI project manager for Corps replacing Linda Smith.

4:10 pm Consideration and acceptance of Technical Committee meeting screening results from February 3rd meeting – Handout (Flip chart) - Approved

4:15 pm Report out from DDTC Advisory Committee representatives attending 2/18 AC meeting and instructions for task assignments – No one available

4:30 pm Complete Task Assignments – Task # 1 on back

Task assignments:

Provide further input on project fatal flaw screening criteria (using Advisory Committee Screening Criteria Working Document including motion for “three ‘E’s’”), specifically addressing questions directed to Dike District Technical Committee. *Specific questions for the Dike and Drainage District are shown below under Criterion 1 and Criterion 3.*

- 1. On back**
2. Provide additional input on measures using Advisory Committee Document E. Advisory Committee requested more detail on non-structural measures.
3. Complete previous task assignment: Provide additional information on local projects requested to be considered; and
4. Develop suggestions for alternatives

6:15 pm Action Items

- Next Meeting – Date, Time and Location TBD
- Any messages to AC from the Dike and Drainage District Technical Committee

Adjourn

Green highlight is from AC meeting

Yellow highlight is the response from the DD TC

1. Does the project maintain or improve public safety and critical infrastructure protection relative to existing flood risk? In particular, does the project: *(Dike and Drainage Technical Committee: Define “maintain” and reason for including this word. AC questioned “maintain” which was interpreted to be no improvement from status quo)*

Maintain: No less than existing level of flood risk protection. No project can reduce the existing level of flood risk protection for a given area.

a. Reduce the potential for levee failures?; and/or

b. Increase conveyance efficiency of the existing levee system?; and/or

c. Reduce the risk of catastrophic failure due to inadequate interior drainage?

2. Can the project be implemented without increasing the flood risk upstream and downstream of the project area? If no, can the increased risk be addressed (redesign) and/or mitigated?

3. Can the project maintenance and operations be sustained locally. *(Dike and Drainage TC – Please define “sustained”. What does this mean specifically?)*

Sustained: i.e. the cost of permitting, repair, mitigation. As in “to support the weight of “permits” for maintenance”. Can the weight of the project maintenance and operation be supported locally? Programmatic resolution of ESA issues would help.

4. Does the project avoid adverse impact on soils and drainage in agricultural resource lands, except as pertains to implementation of flood hazard reduction measures (including related ecosystem restoration goals)?

No net loss of farmland. Could Urban Growth Areas be used to balance the loss of farmland to projects?

The group requested the verbiage for the 2,700 acre salmon recovery goal which was provided by Mike Rundlett below: This is a short excerpt from the Executive Summary. (Full text is available)

SKAGIT DELTA TIDEGATES AND FISH INITIATIVE SIGNATURE DRAFT - MAY 28, 2008
IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY E - 2

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed between Western Washington Agricultural Association, NMFS and WDFW (Appendix E), hereafter referred to collectively as the Parties, to support the development of this Implementation Agreement. This Agreement will facilitate the achievement of functional estuarine habitat restoration within the Skagit delta area in a manner that will result in the least possible impact to established agricultural lands in the Skagit Delta, and their related drainage infrastructure. The Implementation Agreement stipulates that up to 2,700 acres of delta agricultural lands may be converted to estuarine habitat, and that such conversion, when and where appropriate, will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, as approved and adopted by NMFS in December 2006. In addition, the Implementation Agreement will facilitate the regulatory review process required to conduct maintenance activities on tidegate and floodgates under the ownership or control of the participating Drainage, Irrigation and Diking Districts.

As a means to facilitate linkage between the permitting of tidegate and floodgate maintenance activities and the achievement of estuarine habitat restoration and smolt production goals, a clearly defined credit banking process will provide a system of checks and balances to assure that mutually supportive actions will occur in a timely and cooperative manner throughout the 25-year duration of this Agreement.