

Meeting Summary

Skagit CFHMP Technical Committee Members Workshop

March 31, 2008

4 pm -7:15 p.m.

Location: Skagit County Continental Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

Meeting Purpose:

Bring together CFHMP Technical Committee members to:

- Hear presentations about the specific requirements of a Skagit County CFHMP, status of the Skagit River General Investigation, and specifics and the update status of the Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Improve the understanding of the path forward in these planning processes and especially how these planning efforts complement each other.
- Hear additional information about CFHMP organizational and operational processes.
- To plan for the upcoming third Technical Committee workshop.

Action Items:

- Next meeting late April or early May from 4-7:15 pm. (Note May 5 was later selected to coincide with monthly Flood Control Committee meeting). Location to be the same: Board of County Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA.
- Agenda items for future meetings to include:
 - Technical Committees elect Chair, Vice Chair, 3 Representatives to Advisory Committee
 - Local efforts related to flood hazard planning
 - Relationship of the Lower Samish River and Sauk River CFHMP's to the Skagit County CFHMP effort
 - Army Corps of Engineer's Skagit River GI Measures Report
 - Lewis County flood and relationship to Skagit County

Meeting Notes:

Welcome and Introductions:

- Tom Karsh, Skagit County Public Works, welcomed everyone to the workshop, conducted member and guest introductions, directed attendees to the available handouts and explained the purpose for the workshop.

Presentations:

- Mark Watkinson, Skagit County Department of Emergency Management, presented the Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) and fielded questions about how the NHMP relates to the CFHMP.
 - The NHMP is a local, multi-jurisdictional plan developed to comply with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.
 - The County must have a current NHMP to qualify for federal disaster planning and mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
 - The NHMP addresses all possible community hazards, including: those caused by avalanche, fire, earthquake, tsunami, wind, floods, etc.
 - The NHMP is linked to the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System and which helps reduce local flood insurance premiums.
 - A required 5-year update of the NHMP is underway and should be completed by September 2008.
 - Flood control measures listed in the NHMP are not required to be engineered or meet minimum benefit/cost ratios.
 - Ideally the flood management information in the NHMP should complement and be consistent with the CFHMP.
- Chuck Steele, Washington State Department of Ecology, presented background information about CFHMP's and their funding under the Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP).
 - FCAAP will pay 75% of cost of a CFHMP.
 - Ecology must approve that a CFHMP is compliant with Washington Administrative Code 173-145 (Administration of the flood control assistance account program).
 - Ecology consults with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - FCAAP funds can be used as match for other State and Federal grants.
 - Flood management projects must be on a current CFHMP to qualify for FCAAP grants (with exceptions for certain emergencies).
 - Lewis County floods were noted as being greater than a 500 year rainfall event. How this may apply to Skagit County will be reserved for a future workshop.

- Linda Smith, Army Corps of Engineers, discussed the current efforts underway to complete the Skagit River Feasibility General Investigation Study (GI).
 - The study is being conducted under the Water Resource Development Act.
 - The study is a cost share project between the County and the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - Study goal is to identify and prioritize cost effective flood control measures that have been assessed for environmental and salmon recovery impacts.
 - CFHMP process can integrate into and be compatible with the GI. Conversely information developed by the GI can be used to develop the CFHMP.
 - Both project and non-project measures may be eligible for up to 85% federal grants once the GI is completed.
 - Next deliverable will be a Measures Report due out in May, 2008
 - Overall study will be completed within three years (subject to adequate appropriations to the USACE).

- Bob Wheeler, Triangle Associates (County consultant) fielded questions about technical committee organizational and operational issues.
 - It is the Advisory Committee of the County Flood Control Zone District that will direct the research and work agenda of the Technical Committees.
 - It is essential to have the Technical Committees select their representatives to the Advisory Committee as soon as possible (now scheduled for May 5, 2008 at the next plenary workshop of the Technical Committees).
 - It is good that the Skagit River GI has and will be generating flood management information that can be incorporated into the CFHMP process.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 pm.

Committee Members Present at 3/31/2008 Meeting:

Technical Committee Members

Name	Representing
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Bennett, Chuck	Dike, Drainage and Irrigation District 12
Borman, Neil	Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Carey, Bob	The Nature Conservancy
Carlson, Todd	WSDOT
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
DeVries, Tim	Skagit County Planning and Development Services

Easton, Jason	Washington Realtors
Ehlers, Carol	Skagit County Planning Commission
Fischer, Polly	Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Flaig, Dean	Drainage District 21
Fleek, Margaret	City of Burlington
Francois, Charyl	USACE
Freet, Bruce	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Hamburg, Daryl	Dike District 17
Helton, Bob	Skagit County Citizen
Jacobels, Chemine	USACE
Johnson, Kirk	Skagit County Planning & Development Services
Kelly, Carolyn	Skagit Conservation District
Kite, June	Conway Area
Middleton, Jack	Interested party - Bayview area resident
Nelson, Stanley	Dike District 22
O'Donnell, Dan	LaConner Area
Olson, David	Dike District 3
Pflug, Dave	Seattle City Light
Raines, Mary	Skagit Watershed Council
Schroeder, James	The Nature Conservancy
Shannahan, Jon-Paul	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Slocum, Tom	Skagit Conservation District
Smith, Linda	USACE
Solomon, Shirley	Skagit Watershed Council
Steele, Chuck	DOE
Stevens, Terry	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Stevenson, Betsy	Skagit County Planning and Development Services
Thomas, Scott	City of Burlington
Towne, Dave	Britt Slough SFCZD
Vanderheuden, Jon	USDA Forest Service
Vanderkooy, Jason	Dike District 1
Wasserman, Larry	Swinomish Indian Tribe