

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #11
Flood Control Zone District
April 20, 2009 from 2:30 pm - 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. Adopt screening and fatal flaw criteria for considering projects/measures (Intent is to send these to the Army Corps for their consideration as they assess measures in the coming months as well as using them as part of the CFHMP process)
2. Continue the process of a local screening of the Skagit GI Measures and any local projects using screening and fatal flaw criteria in order to provide input to the Army Corps for their consideration as they screen the measures, as well as using this work effort as input for the CFHMP
3. Consideration and initial decision of recommendations for Board of Supervisors and Army Corps
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any

Summary of Action Items

1. Next AC meeting scheduled for Monday, 5/18/2009, 2:30-5:30 pm, in County Commissioner's Hearing Room.
2. 3/16/2009 AC meeting summary accepted.
3. Adopting screening and fatal flaw criteria postponed while work continued on Document E-1, "Initial Advisory Committee Input On Corps Measures"

Introduction/Welcome

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened meeting by welcoming members and guests (see attached meeting attendance sheet). It was announced that Stan Walsh was participating as proxy for Larry Wasserman and that Daryl Hamburg also had the proxy of Dean Flaig. Bob asked AC members their preference regarding agenda priorities, whether to complete local project screening criteria or to continue the local screening of Skagit GI measures. The consensus was to continue work next on the Corps Skagit GI measures.

Public Comment

Chairman Boudinot asked for public comment. Comments were received from Carol Ehlers and Lauren Tracy.

Carol asked three questions: 1) once a flood project is built, who pays for ongoing operation/maintenance expenses? 2) What is the 5 year flood event mentioned in Army Corps measures, and if it is an important criterion, should it not be defined? 3) Do Army Corps rules allow for recreational trails on levees? Carol also cautioned that using assessed valuation in any formula for funding future flood projects should be carefully considered in the case of the Anacortes area which has a higher valuation compared to other taxing areas of the County and arguably would benefit the least from flood reduction projects.

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Lauren provided written comment (see attachment #1) in her request that Skagit County exercise its existing authority to raise money through assessments in order to pay for needed flood reduction measures, such as the relocation of the Town of Hamilton out of the floodway. By her estimates the County could be collecting over \$5M per year as authorized under current State statutes.

Consideration and Acceptance of AC Meeting Summary from March 16, 2009

It was moved by Jason Easton and seconded by Dave Pflug to accept the March 16, 2009 meeting summary. Approved by consensus.

Skagit GI Measures/Local Project Screening Comments/Input to USACE

Bob Wheeler and Cynthia Carlstad (consultants) led this portion of the meeting as the AC worked to complete the local screening of the Skagit GI measures. The AC worked from the latest draft of document E-3, "Initial Advisory Committee Input On Corps Measures and Consideration of Locally Identified Projects", draft dated April 20, 2009. The bulk of the meeting was taken up with this task. Revisions were approved on the go and recorded by the consultants as reflected in Document "E-4" (attached). Work will continue to complete this task/document at next AC meeting. Additional input was requested from the FCZD Technical Committees (see TC Assignments following below).

Screening and Fatal Flaw Criteria for Projects/Measures (Document C-4)

Due to time constraints work on Document C-4 "Fatal Flaw and Project Screening Criteria" was held over to the next meeting.

Regular Report Outs

- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler read part of 10/15/1996 letter from Colonel Wynn, Army Corps of Engineers to Leonard Halverson in which the Colonel acknowledges that changes made to a river's levee system will change the river with inevitable impacts.
- County Engineer: Dan Berentson, Natural Resource Administrator, representing the County Engineer addressed the following:
 - Passed out copies of a 3/31/2009 letter to the Board of County Commissioners from the City of Burlington (see attachment #2). Burlington is requesting support of the County for a "technical workshop" with the Army Corps of Engineers to hopefully resolve or at least narrow the list conflicting hydrology issues.
 - In response to measures dialogue during the meeting, especially a request for the County to bring back a proposal regarding the Nookachamps storage measure, Dan advised that at this point in time, the County was not advocating any particular measure (including the Nookachamps measure) and was depending on the AC to bring forward viable proposals.

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- Announced that the May 7, 2009 USACE/County Executive Committee meeting of the Skagit GI has been postponed. A new meeting date has not been scheduled.
 - Dan would like the AC to consider how best to update the Skagit Board of Commissioners and the public on the FCZD's flood planning activities. Bob Boudinot indicated that this topic would be on the next meeting agenda.
 - Dan was asked about the status of a pending interlocal agreement between the County and a number of other public entities regarding the Baker River flood storage measure. Dan did not know if the County had signed the interlocal and offered to email everyone an update.
- Other regular report outs cancelled or postponed due to time constraints.

Next Steps

1. Complete Document E-3 (Initial Advisory Committee Input on Corps Measures and Consideration of Locally Identified Projects).
2. Complete Document C-3 (Fatal Flaw and Project Screening Criteria) including final vote on motion to adopt the 3 E's (Engineeringly possible, Economically achievable, and Environmentally friendly) as fatal flaw criteria.
3. Discussion on the logistics of flood control planning, including: The CFHMP process/timeline. AC membership. Planning and project funding. Presenting CFHMP progress report to the public and Board of County Commissioners, etc.

Assignments

Request the Technical Committees meet on an as-needed basis to do the following:

1. For all Technical Committees, provide comments on the potential local project, "Emergency Overflow Spillway." The information on this project, along with comments from the Advisory Committee's April 20th meeting (see attachment #3)
2. For the ETC, the Advisory Committee requests that they reevaluate their proposed "Habitat Restoration Projects in the Upper Basin Tributaries" and make a decision on whether they want this to be considered as a local project and if so to better define the concept, and to specifically list upper basin projects and details where this might be practical. See attachment #3 for further details.
3. Assignment Due: Submit to Tom Karsh by 5:00 p.m. on May 6, 2009

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 04/20/09:

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			
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			
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 Stan Walsh	

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OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 03/16/09:

STAFF & CONSULTANTS	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Carlstad, Cynthia	TetraTech
Ellestad, Lorna	
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Wheeler, Bob	Triangle Associates

OTHERS	
Name	Affiliation
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Borman, Neil	Environmental Technical Committee
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Decker, Miriam	Puget Sound Energy
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Ertel, Cory	SICBA
Gibbons, Amy	USACE
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Jones, Gary	DD #3, #17, and #22
Loop, Teresa	PSE
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner Council
Shultz, John	DD #1 and #2
Tracy, Lauren	Citizen