

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting Flood Control Zone District June 21, 2010 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location

Skagit Room, Skagit County Administrative Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA.

Meeting Purpose

For the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Advisory Committee (AC) members to conduct normal business and:

1. CFHMP First Draft – Review Guidelines
2. “Blueprint” Meeting Discussion
3. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments (if any)

Introduction

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

Carol Ehlers mentioned the *UGA Open Space Plan* has useful environmental information for the *Skagit River CFHMP*. The document, which received an award from the Governor, includes activities from Farmland Legacy, Seattle City Light, and the national parks. On another subject, Ehlers pointed out a story regarding a new culvert on Fidalgo Island. While the culvert opened up the creek for better flow during record rainfall, it allowed the yellow perch to be washed out. She explained how it is an example of balancing one need for another.

Acceptance of April 19, 2010 AC Meeting Summary

Larry Kunzler moved to accept the meeting summary from April 19, 2010. Todd Carlson seconded the motion. Motion passed (13-0-0).

Regular Report Outs

County Engineer: Mark Carey and Ryan Ike, both from FEMA, gave a presentation to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners regarding the Flood Insurance Map release scheduled for June 30. Pursuant to the Board’s request, the public comment period has been extended from 30 to 90 days. FEMA also presented a technical memo, as requested by the County, which was a follow-up to the technical conference that took place in Washington, D.C. The memo stated that FEMA considered the data presented by the local entities, but will continue to use the same data as before (attached). Community meetings will be planned for public comment.

The County hired Robert McGaughey as its County Engineer. The search for a Public Works Director continues.

Skagit River General Investigation (Skagit River GI): Lorna Ellestad introduced two representatives from Senator Patty Murray’s office: Uriel Ybarra, Regional Director, and Sheila Babb. Both were in attendance as a part of their tour of Skagit County. Ellestad provided them with a background packet containing information from the technical conference in Washington, D.C. Copies are available upon request. Ellestad went on to explain that NHC is completing its

10% design of the measures. A formal scoping meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be scheduled for the first of the year (2011). Dan Johnson, USACE, added that he is focusing on keeping everyone on track; there are a lot of pieces to fit together.

CFHMP First Draft – Review Guidelines

County staff handed out the first draft of the *Skagit River CFHMP*. It was requested the group review the plan for items of importance that may have been left out, areas that should be developed further, or additional sources of information that should be referenced. The AC and TCs will meet to discuss the Plan in September.

“Blueprint” Meeting Discussion

Boudinot opened the conversation by explaining there was a request for the FCZD, CFHMP, and Skagit River GI to be better organized. A subcommittee was formed, which included Todd Carlson, Bob Carey, Leonard Halverson, and Esco Bell. The group put a “blueprint” together for review.

Carlson explained the subcommittee was formed, because it seems cohesion is lacking between the CFHMP and the GI. The question about funding sources is pressing, and the recent absence of Swinomish Tribal representation is critical. It is agreed everyone wants to reduce flood hazard risks. However, because of the turn-over in county leadership, accomplishing this goal is unclear. The “blueprint” is an alternative way to pinpoint the actions required to finish the CFHMP and GI.

Carey added that while there has been increased coordination between entities and increased congressional support, there have also been budget cuts, and the loss of consultants and leadership. This leads to a fundamental disconnect of what the FCZD is trying to do. The subcommittee wants to figure out how to continue to build momentum while filling in the gaps.

Halverson suggested the Upper Skagit Tribe join the FCZD. Mayor Ed Brunz and Kunzler agreed another tribe should be contacted. Ultimately, though, Halverson expressed it is important to not lose sight of the primary purpose of flood risk reduction, which is to protect life and property.

Esco Bell described the CFHMP as a flexible funding tool, and that the FCZD does not need the analytical information required for the GI to begin a list of suggested projects, at this time. Daryl Hamburg agreed with this approach. Kunzler further expressed that immediate needs and long range plans should be put together by the Dike and Drainage Districts Technical Committee.

Carlson continued the discussion by providing an overview of the “blueprint” flow chart. Specifically, the chart is designed to try to clarify the role of the FCZD committees. It illustrates the addition of a “flood director” who can lead the process of the CFHMP and GI. Kunzler pointed out Ellestad currently fulfills that role.

Jason Easton does not want to lose momentum, and feels the FCZD should set the GI aside in order to focus on the draft CFHMP. Ellestad further explained the CFHMP and GI have distinctly different processes and it is a good idea to keep the two separate.

Berentson stated county government is very similar to a professional football team: Skagit County voters are the season ticket holders, the Board of Skagit County Commissioners are the owners of the team, the Skagit County Administrator is the General Manager, and the Public

Works Director is the coach. He further explained that this analogy must make him and Ellestad the Offensive and Defensive Coordinators. All in all, the FCZD can give advice to the owners, but is unable to call the plays.

In closing, Boudinot stated the “blueprint” has given much to ponder. The FCZD may need to be better organized, and the subcommittee has started that conversation. This can be discussed further at future meetings.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting:

Technical Committees should read through the draft ordinance put out by FEMA regarding flood insurance rate maps.

The next AC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 20, 2010, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Technical Committee members have been requested to attend, as well. The FCZD is on hiatus until then.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 21, 2010:

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			
Brunz, Mayor Ed	Cities and Towns	City of Burlington	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			
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		
Solomon, Shirley	ETC	Skagit Watershed Council		X		

OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 21, 2010:

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Symonds, Kara	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Babb, Sheila	Representative for Senator Patty Murray
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Borman, Neil	Environmental Technical Committee
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Ertel, Cory	Skagit and Island Counties Building Assoc.
Fischer, Polly	Marine Resources Committee
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Johnson, Dan	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jones, Gary	Dike District 3
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
Lagerlund, Nels	Agricultural Advisory Committee
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Shultz, John R.	Dike Districts #1 and #12
Ybarra, Uriel	Representative for Senator Patty Murray