

Meeting Summary
Advisory Committee
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District
July 14, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location

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

Meeting Purpose

For the Advisory Committee (AC) members to:

- Consider certain operating and organizational items.
- Begin an initial consideration of, and pros and cons for Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) solutions, alternatives and approaches.
- Consider initial assignments to the Technical Committees
- Determine next steps and schedule

Summary of Action Items and Next Steps

- Invite the three Technical Committees and the public to the next AC meeting (August 18), during which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) will present, and solicit public comment, on the preliminary flood control measures being considered as part of the Skagit County Flood Damage Reduction Study (aka Skagit River General Investigation). Location of meeting to be determined.
- Skagit County staff will inform the AC about differences between the newly formed AC and the former Flood Control Committee.
- Future AC meetings will be audio recorded.
- Staff will research and report back on the feasibility of televising future AC meetings.
- Mark Watkinson will provide more information on the five year update of the Skagit Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) and on the flood mitigation measures portion of the NHMP.
- Modify the operating procedures related to decision making.
- Revisit questions and issues the AC needs to consider.
- Consider the work plan schedule and timeline.

Welcome

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting, welcomed AC members and public attendees. He shared a few personal comments regarding his background and interest in flood management, especially from his perspective growing up and attending schools in areas of the Midwest (Davenport, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Iowa) recently devastated by summer flooding.

Public Comment

- Ken Goodpaster expressed opposition over the County's proposal to remove a portion of the Cockreham Island training levee and advocated baffling, dredging and sediment removal as flood control alternatives.
- Konrad Kurp asked about the difference between the recently dissolved Flood Control Committee and the AC. Chair requested staff to provide this information at the next AC meeting.
- Arn Thoreen identified himself as an environmentalist interested in advocating for the protection and enhancement of salmon habitat.

Meeting Minutes

- Discussion held regarding details and information to be contained in future meeting summaries/minutes. The AC decided it wants AC Meetings audio recorded. The Chair requested that staff research and report back on the feasibility of televising future AC meetings.
- Moved by Jason Easton, seconded by Todd Carlson to approve the AC June 9, 2008 meeting summary as presented by staff. Consensus was not reached so a vote on the motion was held and the motion carried 13/2 with Larry Kunzler and Leonard Halverson opposing.

Regular Reports

- Historical Perspective - Larry Kunzler, local flood historian, shared that he had recently testified in opposition to proposed regulations that would allow the conversion of prime farmland into wetland banks (a concept to allow off-site mitigation for wetland conversion elsewhere in the same watershed). He read an excerpt, from a 1925 newspaper article, touting the Gunderson Farm, in the Nookachamps Valley, Skagit County, WA, having the richest farmland in the nation as an example of farmland that should not be converted to wetlands.
- County Engineer - Jim Voetberg, P.E., Skagit County Public Works Director, reported that: a) Congressman Rick Larsen had introduced legislation in the House to allocate \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2009 to continue funding the Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (General Investigation). b) Skagit County is requesting increased State funding of the Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) and requested support from other

governmental entities. c) Skagit County is working together with Cities and other entities in the County to see that FEMA flood maps (draft due out Fall, 2008) are accurate. d) The AC should anticipate tackling the question of how best to fund future long term, flood management planning activities and projects.

- Technical Committees - No reports.
- Skagit River GI - Linda Smith, Army Corps of Engineers (COE) reported that the COE is preparing to present an updated preliminary measures report at the next AC meeting scheduled for August 18, 2008. An electronic copy of the presentation may be available prior to the meeting. Linda would appreciate comments back from the AC following the presentation, especially those “red flag” issues that could derail a project. Linda noted that the U.S. Senate is proposing \$505,000 be placed in the COE budget for 2009 to continue the Skagit GI. Historically the actual budget is usually the average between the House amount (\$250,000) and the Senate figure. The COE is contracting out to Tetra Tech to coordinate and complete some of the remaining elements of the Skagit GI due to COE staffing constraints.

Agenda Topics

- Mark Watkinson, Skagit Emergency Management provided information on the five year update of the Skagit Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and how it relates to the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS). He requested support of the NHMP from the AC. After discussion Chair asked Mark to provide additional information about the NHMP to the AC.
- AC Organizational Items - Bob Wheeler, Triangle Associates (County consultant) led a discussion on AC operating and organizational issues. Topics included items brought forward from the June 9, 2008 AC meeting:
 - Two meeting rule. Agreed by consensus that, in general, no “major” issue would be introduced and voted on at same meeting (two meeting rule). Exceptions: Action could be taken on time sensitive “major” issues provided at least 10 AC members (super majority) agreed. If necessary, a determination of whether an issue is “major” or not would be determined by a simple majority of the quorum present at the AC meeting. Chair directed staff to prepare resolution necessary to amend AC operating rules and procedures to reflect the two meeting rule.
 - Composition of the Advisory Committee. Moved by Bud Norris/seconded by Todd Carlson to request that the Board of Supervisors reconsider the composition of the City members appointed to the Advisory Committee. Discussion on whether or not to change membership of AC ensued. Motion failed (For: 2 (Bud Norris, Todd Carlson) / Opposed: 11 / Abstaining: 2 (Bob Carey and Dave Pflug by proxy).
 - Restructure FCZD Board of Supervisors. It was moved by Bud Norris to restructure make-up of FCZD Board of Supervisors from County Commissioners to a three member board made up of elected officials representing Cities, Diking Districts and the County. Discussion followed. Motion died for lack of a second.

- Bob distributed a handout containing a list of questions that the AC may want to consider as the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan is developed. Brief discussion followed. Topic will be revisited after COE measures presentation next month (August 18, 2008).
- AC Work Plan and Schedule - Cynthia Carlstad, Tetra Tech (County consultant) briefly introduced a draft meeting topic schedule and a GANT timeline chart showing elements of the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan to be completed in the next eight months. Brief discussion followed. Questions were asked about the existing conditions portion of the CFHMP. Who will write the existing conditions report? Will the AC have a role in reviewing and approving the existing conditions report? Will the existing conditions report be consistent with the COE's GI? Will the AC approve the existing conditions report by consensus? These questions and further discussions on the work plan timeline chart will take place at a future AC meeting. Cynthia will provide AC members an electronic copy of the GANT work plan timeline chart for follow up discussion with AC.

Technical Committee Assignments

- Technical Committees (TC) Assignments - Discussion facilitated by Bob Wheeler regarding how the AC can best interface with, and utilize the expertise of, the TC's. Discussion repeated comments from the last meeting that more information was necessary in order to be able to ask questions on the measures and that the AC could lean on the TC's to help establish goals, objectives and criteria for reviewing measure. Some members felt that they needed this information before they could analyze and select solutions. Others thought that statements of interests would be useful and that a good problem statement would help them get the data necessary to support decisions on the measures. Bob Boudinot thought it would be good to establish an understanding of the forces at work (e.g., federal regulations and budgets), a sort of reality check to see what projects and measures could realistically expected to be accomplished. It was agreed that the presentation of measures by COE would help determine what the AC needs to know in order to evaluate the pros and cons of individual measures.
- Agreed that TC members would be encouraged to attend the COE preliminary measures presentation (scheduled for August 18, 2008) in preparation for TC review and comment on individual flood control measures being considered by COE. It is anticipated that the technical committees will meet after the presentation to discuss the measures and to prepare comments for AC consideration and response to COE.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting and Agenda Topic(s)

Next meeting of the AC will be August 18, 2008 and will focus on the COE preliminary measures report presentation (location and meeting time yet to be determined). It is anticipated that the presentation topic will generate more than normal public interest so a larger meeting room and additional meeting time will be required.

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Future AC Agenda Topics

- September 15 meeting agenda to include development of mission statement, goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria for flood control measures.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

See next page(s) for meeting attendance roll.

PRESENT AT MEETING 7/14/2008 FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE						
Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy	Position Vacant
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro Woolley	X			
Boudinot, Bob	Environmental Technical Committee	Skagit Land Trust	X			
Carey, Bob	Environmental Technical Committee	The Nature Conservancy	X		X (Pflug)	
Carlson, Bob	Land Use Technical Committee	WA Dept. of Transportation	X			
Easton, Jason	Land Use Technical Committee	Washington Realtors	X			
Flaig, Dean	Dike and Drainage District Technical Committee	Drainage District #21	X			
Halverson, Leonard	At-Large	Sterling Area	X			
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner	X			
Hughes, Robert	Land Use Technical Committee	Agricultural Advisory Committee	X			
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian	X			
Nelson, Stanley	Dike and Drainage District Technical Committee	Dike District #22	X			
Norris, Mayor Bud	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon	X			
Olson, David	Dike and Drainage District Technical Committee	Dike District #3	X			
Pflug, Dave	Environmental Technical Committee	Seattle City Light		X (proxy)		
Wasserman, Larry	Environmental Technical Committee	Swinomish Indian Tribe	X			

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (7/14/2008 Advisory Committee Meeting)	
Name	Representing/Affiliation
Carlstad, Cynthia	Skagit County (consultant)
Wheeler, Bob	Skagit County (consultant)
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County (staff, Public Works)
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County (staff, Public Works)
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County (staff, Public Works)
See, Michael	Skagit County (staff, Public Works)
Voetberg, Jim	Skagit County (staff, Public Works)
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County (staff, Emergency Management)
Konrad, Kurp	Unaffiliated