

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory and Technical Committees Joint Meeting Flood Control Zone District July 16, 2012 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location

Board of Skagit County Commissioners' Hearing 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. Acceptance of Meeting Summary
2. History
3. Skagit GI Update
4. Puget Sound Energy
5. Flood Awareness Week (October 2 – 5)
6. To determine next steps and assignments, if any, for Technical Committees (TC)

Acceptance of May 21, 2012 AC Meeting Summary

Jason Easton made the motion to accept the meeting summary. Bob Boudinot seconded. Motion passed (10/2/0) with Larry Kunzler and Leonard Halverson respectfully against.

History

Kunzler stated that water would not flow between the “two hills”, in the Sterling area, as had been stated by Kara Symonds and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the AC's previous meeting. To support his statement, he provided two documents and a map. The first was a document, from the USACE, in which the USACE believed the water will actually flow into Gages Slough towards Avon or Samish Bay. His map came from the Dames and Moore Report showing Gages slough as the old river channel. Today, several businesses and homes have been developed within the area. This lead him to request review of the Levee Breach Scenario for Dike District 12 (DD12) that was presented during last year's Flood Awareness Week. The second document, also from the USACE, showed a formulation of alternatives that was written back in 1978. He pointed out the information in this document was very similar, if not the same, as the formulation information recently provided by the USACE. It is of concern if we are repeating history.

Kunzler also raised concern that the dikes within Dike District 12 (DD12) have not been moved back as was previously planned. Robert Hughes added that he noticed plans had changed within DD12's levee project, as well. Daryl Hamburg agreed there had been a change in the project, which requires public conversation in order to understand how DD12's project has developed. Halverson also raised concern about yards of dirt being dumped within the floodway, and without permits, from Lafayette Road downstream. Easton suggested DD12 come to a meeting to explain the project in further detail.

Skagit GI Update

Symonds updated the group on the Skagit GI. To recapture recent activities, she said staff met with the USACE to attend the Feasibility Scoping Meeting in order to hold a process check of

the Skagit GI, and several Alternative Formulation Workshops were held to develop the six preliminary alternatives, which were then vetted through public outreach. Comments, from the public outreach alternative meetings, are being compiled and will be posted online by the USACE. At the public meetings, Symonds heard non-structural measures and interior drainage are of greatest interest to the public. Levee setback or new levees, however, raise more concerns.

The USACE will consolidate the six alternatives to four: Sterling Spill, Riverbend Spill, levee setbacks, and No Action. These alternatives will go into 10% design. This means costs and impacts of the four alternatives will be studied further. It was also pointed out that this is a good opportunity to work with the character of the river and ecosystem function. Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and TetraTech will be used by the USACE for the design, hydraulic modeling, and economic analysis.

There was also a National 3x3x3 Charrette in May to go over the measures and alternatives. At this charrette, it was mentioned criteria for choosing the most effective alternatives should be considered next.

As a side note, Symonds stated the non-structural measures and interior drainage should be gone into further detail in the *Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan*. She also requested any documents of interest should be routed to her for posting online.

Puget Sound Energy

Dan Berentson said the County has been meeting with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and the USACE to address issues regarding hard storage in the Lower Baker system. The FERC relicensing agreement held 29,000 acre feet as a placeholder through the Skagit GI. The first point was to find out how much, up to 29,000 acre feet, can be stored at the Lower Baker dam without dam modifications. Irena Netik, PSE, stated it to be about 20,000 acre feet.

The next question centered on the cost of replacing lost power; another stipulation of the relicensing agreement. If dates were changed from November 15 to October 15, about 1,500 megawatt hours would be lost at the Upper Baker Dam, and about 6,500 megawatt hours would be lost at the Lower Baker Dam. About 3% – 4 % inflation would be figured into the formula for figuring out cost, as well. This would be figured into cost to benefit ratio in the Skagit GI.

Flood Awareness Week (October 2 – 5)

Meghan MacMullen, Skagit County Public Works, shared the dates for Flood Awareness Week (FAW) this year. Activities are not yet scheduled. She asked for comments or suggestions for this year's FAW.

Gary Jones requested certification for sandbaggers at the high school event. MacMullen and Hamburg stated this will be addressed within the next year. Hamburg added it might be beneficial to attend the school in an assembly to teach a larger group of high school students.

Berentson added FAW is taking place earlier in the season. He also said the levee breach scenario, mentioned earlier in the meeting, can be made available on paper. Perhaps, these table top scenarios should be recorded. This event had been labeled "Invitation Only" due to limited space. Hamburg stated the next table top will be open invitation. Berentson ended by sharing the idea that staff has requested a Sector and Field Observers field scenario too.

Halverson suggested an agreement, with the local stores, should be set up to close their businesses when the threat of a flood is imminent.

Public Comment

Dan Lefeber, DD12, said he has received indications from Eric Winters, USACE, that flooding may be a more serious threat this year. He added that perhaps the table top scenarios should be placed on public access television from which everyone can learn.

Carol Ehlers suggested the USACE's study showing how levee breaks would look, in various places in the area, be put on the internet. She's noticed data is different amongst the county departments regarding gages slough location, which should be addressed. Drill and practicing truly is crucial. The high school students should be taught the importance of why they are being shown how to sandbag.

Bob Helton suggested to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners that monuments be placed throughout the County to show how high the water has gotten in the past.

Gary Jones mentioned a book called *Filters Against Folly* as being a good reference to better understand human actions. The author focused on ecology and self sustainable systems. In reading the book, however, one can find similarities and points of interest that would parallel the ways in which people address the topic of flood risk reduction too.

Mark Watkinson would like to coordinate with Hamburg regarding certification for the sandbaggers. Following these table top scenarios, an after action document would be a good idea to provide.

Easton congratulated Skagit 2060 for recently receiving a Smart Visions Award from the Governor of Washington.

Helton added the 2060 report talks about sea level rise, and he's curious to know how the existing tide gates are going to operate under these conditions. Hamburg stated these things will be discussed.

Ehlers also raised the idea of glacier rebound, and that geology should be added to discussions.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. Sketch non-structural and interior drainage plans
2. Farm, Fish, Flood Initiative
3. Dam storage
4. New business should be referred to Symonds or Berentson

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley		X	
Boudinot, Bob	ETC	Skagit Land Trust	X		
Boudreau, Mayor Jill	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon			X Blaine Chesterfield
Carey, Bob	ETC	The Nature Conservancy		X	
Carlson, Todd	LUTC	WA Dept. of Transportation	X		
Easton, Jason	LUTC	LUTC	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		
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X		
Sexton, Mayor Steve	Cities and Towns	City of Burlington		X	
Solomon, Shirley	ETC	Skagit Watershed Council	X		

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Flagan, Jan	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
See, Mike	Skagit County Public Works
Symonds, Kara	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Ellestad, Lorna	Dike District 12
Ertel, Cory	Puget Sound Energy
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Johnson, Kirk	SC Planning and Development Services
Jones, Gary	Attorney for Dike Districts 3, 17, and 22
LeBlanc	City of Anacortes
Lefeber, Dan	Dike District 12
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Oppenheimer, Jory	Puget Sound Energy
Radabaugh, David	Department of Ecology
Schultz, John	Attorney to Dike District 1 and 12
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management