

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #15 Flood Control Zone District September 21, 2009 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location

Lobby meeting area, 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. Discuss CFHMP draft update status
2. Review and complete the project/measure screening and evaluation criteria document (C-4, Handout #4)
3. Final discussion and vote on projects/measures that will be moved forward ("short list") for further evaluation in the draft CFHMP (Handout #5).
4. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments (if any).

Introduction

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to AC meeting #15. Bob noted the meeting purpose and expressed his hope that at the conclusion of this meeting there would be agreement and a vision for how to move forward to complete the CFHMP update. Bob provided copies of the following documents to AC members: 1) Washington State RCW 86.12 (Required elements of a Comprehensive flood control management plan (CFCMP), 2) WAC 173-145-040 (Washington State Administrative Code requirements for a CFCMP), and 3) Project Management Plan (revised 9/09) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District for Skagit River Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Project Feasibility Study (available online).

Public Comment

Mark Killgore, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), advised that the Army Corps of Engineers and PSE had just this past week executed an Agreement for Flood Control and Replacement Power for the Baker River Project, FERC Project No. 2150 (Attachments #1 and #6). Mark then fielded numerous questions mostly about how this agreement fits in with the overall FERC license requirements. The short answer is that this agreement implements the applicable provisions of Article 107 (a) of the new FERC License. PSE will continue to work with its settlement partners to complete the other flood control elements of the new FERC License.

Acceptance of 08/17/09 AC Meeting Summary

It was moved by Daryl Hamburg, and seconded by Jason Easton to accept the 8/17/09 AC meeting summary as presented by staff. Discussion followed with Dave Pflug requesting more

information be included about the short list measures introduced last month as recommendations from the Environmental and Land Use Technical Committees. Motion carried 13/0/1 (Larry Kunzler abstaining). Note: Following the meeting Dave Pflug advised staff that he discovered that he had been missing page 3 of the 8/17/09 meeting summary and that what staff had presented did not need to be amended.

Regular Report Outs

Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler noted that he volunteered to work with County staff to help draft the flood history elements of the updated County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP). One of his early discoveries in compiling flood event history for the CFHMP is that many flood events are not listed in the current plans and that the 1917 and 1995 flood events appear to be almost identical. Larry supports this determination with the following historical documents: December 20, 1917 article from the Mount Vernon Herald (Attachment #2), Table showing the Army Corps of Engineers data for Historical Flood Flows of the Skagit River (Attachment #3), Historical flood event news articles from 1917/1918 (Attachment #4), and The Skagit River Flood Report by J.E. Stewart, USGS July 1918 (Attachment #5). These items are also available on the website at <http://www.skagitriverhistory.com/>.

County Engineer: Lorna Ellestad, Skagit General Investigation Study (GI) Project Manager for Skagit County, reported out on the following flood planning related activities: 1) The Army Corps Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM), scheduled for September 23, 2009, as been postponed. Army Corps HQ, Washington, DC. plans to provide comments on the FSM read-ahead document back to the Seattle District by October 1. These comments will determine when the FSM will be rescheduled. Some of the missing FSM information includes completing the Levee reliability Study. 2) The Skagit GI Project Management Plan - has identified the County as being responsible for updating the Army Corps Hydrologic and Hydraulic Existing Conditions report and the Measures design and cost report as part of the Economic benefits analysis for all of the measures. These tasks will be completed under contract to Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (nhc). 3) The County (Dan Berentson and Lorna) met with Rick Larson and Senator Cantwell's Congressional staffers to discuss the status of local flood planning and funding needs/opportunities. 4) The Hamilton repetitive loss issue, identified as a non-structural flood damage reduction measure in both the Skagit GI and the CFHMP, is part of the grant award the County will receive during the 2009 - 2011 biennium from the Washington State Department of Ecology to help off set the local funding match for the Skagit GI.; the County is also currently pursuing a FEMA repetitive loss buy-out grant that was submitted on behalf of several landowners; and is partnering with the Skagit Watershed Council on a Middle Skagit Habitat Assessment project as part of the Hamilton effort. 5) The 3-bridge levee setback project is making progress on the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for the acquisition of identified distressed properties acquisitions..

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Amy Gibbons answered a few questions and confirmed that the FSM will be postponed at least a month (as noted by Lorna in the County Engineers Report Out). Amy also noted that the Corps budget for the Skagit GI has not yet been approved. The final amount will dictate the level of detail in the finished plan.

Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC): Daryl Hamburg, Chairman of the DDTC reported that the DDTC met to conduct normal business on September 1, 2009. The meeting focused on confirming its recommendations for project screening and evaluation criteria. Daryl also advised that October 19 will be the kick-off date for Flood Awareness Week (a week of flood fight coordination training and public outreach). Details will be made known in local

newspapers and other media venues. Daryl was pleased to announce that Cathy Dujardin will be the Army Corps Skagit Flood Fight Coordinator this year. Gary Jones (proxy for Stan Nelson) advised that the DDTC also wanted to add the Skagit GI flood risk reduction Measure #38 (Interior Drainage) to the CFHMP short list. No official action was taken on Gary's proposal at this time.

Environmental Technical Committee (ETC): Bob Carey noted that the ETC did not meet this month, but had (via email) agreed to amend (for purpose of clarification) the ETC recommendations for projects to be included in the first cut of the CFHMP short list.

Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC): The LUTC did not meet this past month and there was no report out.

CFHMP Drafting Subcommittee: Bob Boudinot advised that that the drafting subcommittee (consisting of Larry Kunzler, Daryl Hamburg, Tom Karsh, Meghan MacMullen, Lorna Ellestad, Dan Berentson, and himself) met on September 10 to strategize on how best to go about developing the updated CFHMP. Bob explained that much of the information required to be included in the plan is now available from existing sources (such as the Army Corp's FSM Read Ahead Report). It was acknowledged that additional technical information is needed before the final evaluation and ranking of flood reduction measures. Megan MacMullen (County staff) has been tasked with drafting the first eight chapter (existing information) portion of the plan. Larry Kunzler will take the lead in developing the history chapter. Meghan handed out copies of the draft plan table of contents and opined that there should be a working draft for the AC to review in the next two months. Lorna explained that the technical information needed before the AC could complete the final three chapters of the CFHMP will be developed in tandem by the Army Corps of Engineers, the County and the County's consultant as part of the Skagit GI.

Project screening and evaluation criteria (Handout #4, Document C-4)

The AC continued its deliberations on project screening and evaluation criteria. Debate focused on Handout C-4 (this is the latest draft project criteria list developed by County staff as requested by the AC). Bob Carey asked that the AC consider the following amendments to C-4: 1) In the Engineering section, criterion #6 to read: Does the project reduce water surface elevation and/or peak flow? 2) In the Economic and Land Use section, the first sentence of criterion #1 to read: Does the project minimize the net loss of farmland impacts to agricultural viability? 3) In the Economic and Land Use section, criterion #4 to read: ~~Is the project cost effective~~ Does the project minimize local costs? After discussion and considering the proposed amendments, Daryl Hamburg moved to approve Document C-4 with the first two amendments proposed by Bob Carey. Jason Easton seconded the motion. Motion approved by consensus.

This is the first (straw man) vote on the project screening and evaluation criteria document. Staff will amend Handout #5 consistent with the AC action today, and have it available for review and a final vote at next month's meeting.

Measures to move forward in draft CFHMP (Handout Document #5)

The AC turned to Handout #5, a list of projects/measures that the technical committees brought forward as motions. These are projects that the technical committees believe should be further evaluated in the CFHMP. The AC had previously reviewed and taken action on the list proposed by the DDTC and today would consider the motions proposed by the ETC and LUTC.

It became apparent early on in the discussion that there were strongly held divergent opinions on the merits of some of the proposed projects. Due to meeting time constraints and the need for full discussion on this matter, the Chair asked members if they would care to postpone action on this item and carry it over to next month's meeting. It was approved by consensus to carry over and place at top of next month's agenda.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. Discussion and final vote on amended Document C-4 (Project screening criteria).
2. Discussion and first vote on Handout #5 (Preliminary projects to move forward for additional evaluation in the CFHMP).
3. Invite FEMA representative to answer hydrology and floodplain mapping status questions.
4. Begin the discussion of how best to move forward with local flood planning and project funding options.
5. Find a better meeting room.
6. There were no assignments for the Technical Committees.

The next AC meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

See attendance sheet following page

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 09/21/09:

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			
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 Gary Jones	
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		

OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 09/21/09:

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Fischer, Polly	Marine Resources Committee
Flagan, Jan	Skagit County Public Works
Gibbons, Amy	United States Army Corps of Engineers
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner Council
Shultz, John	Dike Districts #1 and #12
Thomas, Scott	City of Burlington
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management