

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #16 Flood Control Zone District October 19, 2009 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. Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) Draft Update Status
2. Discussion and final vote on amended Document C-4 Project Screening Criteria
3. Discussion and final vote on Preliminary Projects to move forward for additional evaluation in the CFHMP
4. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments, if any

Introduction

Bob Boudinot, Chairman of the FCZD AC, opened by welcoming everyone to the 16th meeting of the Committee. He listed the three items to discuss on the agenda, and invited public comment.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Acceptance of 09/21/09 AC Meeting Summary

It was moved by Larry Kunzler, FCZD AC member, and seconded by Bob Carey, FCZD AC member, to accept the 09/21/09 AC meeting summary as presented by staff. The motion carried 12/0/0.

Regular Report Outs

County Engineer: Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works, reported it was Flood Awareness Week for Skagit County. He informed the group of the activities taking place throughout the week, and explained that all were welcome to attend. Specifically, there will be a public meeting regarding Flood Awareness on the Samish River.

Berentson went on to talk about a letter recently received by Chuck Steele, Washington State Department of Ecology, regarding flood plain management in Skagit County. The letter praised the County for its Community Rating System and its successes in the Agricultural Legacy Preservation Program.

Berentson reported the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will receive about 30% of what they were expecting. Amy Gibbons also told the County the USACE will not be participating at the AC meetings, and County expenses associated with the AC are not eligible as match for the Skagit GI. Also, the Project Management Plan was distributed for comments; due the end of October.

In addition, he explained the County and City of Burlington are purchasing thirty (30) crest stage gauges (CSG) that will add to the river level data currently being collected by the U.S. Geological Survey. The gauges consist of a section of 2" galvanized pipe with cork dust and a measuring stick inside to record the high water marks at specific locations. They are very efficient and economical and the same as the USGS uses to collect High Water Marks on other streams.

Berentson and Mark Killgore, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), also presented a letter from October 14 from the USACE addressed to Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt and Ed Shields, PSE, in response to the County and PSE's joint request to modify the Baker River Water Control Manual dated August 28, 2009 (Attachment 1). The County and PSE requested that the USACE codify the flood draw buffer data in its water control manual. The USACE's letter explains that while it supported the protocol, it was not going to make a change to its manual.

USACE: The USACE was not present; no report.

CFHMP Drafting Subcommittee: Kunzler explained his process of compiling Chapter Six - Flood History for the CFHMP draft. He began with the text provided by Brown and Caldwell, the consultants who compiled the 1989 Skagit River CFHMP. He was able to trace the work back to the original text provided in a USACE document. Kunzler requested suggestions/input regarding his compilation. He added that the County's plan will be unique such that it will be the only plan in which local articles and first-hand accounts regarding flood events will be used.

Meghan MacMullen, Skagit County Public Works, shared her effort towards compiling the CFHMP draft. She began with the Future Scoping Meeting Read-Ahead document provided by the USACE. She then focused on the Stillaguamish CFHMP, and will continue to reference information from other plans put out by Snohomish, King, and Yakima counties. MacMullen also requested suggestions/input regarding her portions of the Plan.

Gary Jones, proxy for FCZD AC member Daryl Hamburg, stated there should be a reference to previous studies performed in the County. Kunzler responded he had several documents from which a list could be made. He also felt it was important to list all the flood events that have been recorded in the County to date. In addition, Chairman Boudinot pointed out there should be discussion regarding reducing development in the flood plain (non-structural).

Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC): The DDTC did not meet; no report.

Environmental Technical Committee (ETC): The ETC did not meet; no report.

Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC): The LUTC did not meet; no report.

Flood Historian: As Kunzler was searching through documents to compile the historical chapter for the CFHMP, he came across an article (Attachment 2) that was thought to be lost when the Skagit County Times burned down years ago. The article anticipated major flooding much like what was experienced in 1897. Kunzler noted our county was unfortunate to

experience similar flooding again in 1990, 1995, and 2003. Additionally, he presented an aerial photo (Attachment 3) of part of the County in which the changes of the highway and landscape can be viewed. More information regarding this and other flood information is available on his website at <http://www.skagitriverhistory.com/>.

Discussion and Final Vote on Project Screening and Evaluation Criteria (Document C-4)

The AC continued its discussion on the project screening and evaluation criteria from the previous month's meeting. Scott Thomas, proxy for FCZD AC member Mayor Ed Brunz, described the general belief of the group to be that while it is understood some projects will not fit all the criteria, they should still be evaluated. Esco Bell, proxy for FCZD AC member Mayor Bud Norris, expressed flexibility is important. Todd Carlson, FCZD AC member added the criterion is a good tool with which to start. Stan Nelson, FCZD AC member, asked for clarification of the criteria in that he wanted to know if dike districts would be held to it as well. It was explained this was not the case.

Based on the discussion, Kunzler suggested the first sentence of the second paragraph be rewritten to express all projects *should* be considered in the process. Dave Pflug, and Bob Carey, both FCZD AC members, added to the language. It was agreed to change the wording to read, "Generally, all projects or alternatives should strive to meet elements of each of the three criteria categories." Discussion continued regarding the thought that the wording might be too loose. However, Carlson explained the criterion is meant to assist in implementing the process rather than hindering it.

Carey moved to accept Document C-4 with the abovementioned revised sentence. Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried 11/1/0 (Jones against). This document will be listed in the draft CFHMP.

Final Vote on Preliminary Projects for Additional Evaluation in the CFHMP

The AC turned to Handout #4, a list of projects/measures the technical committees brought forward as motions. These are projects 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 began discussion in considering the motions proposed by the ETC and LUTC.

The group discussed the Nookachamps and fixing Highway 9 in Clear Lake with the Fir Island Bypass being discussed at great length. Hamburg, expressed concern about the cost-to-benefit ratio. Carey pointed out the project would provide salmon habitat by creating more fresh water inputs and sediment in an area that is currently eroding. He thinks farmland drainage on Fir Island would improve as well. Carey also pointed out that he thought it would be more beneficial if it was constructed in conjunction with the West Mount Vernon Bypass. More information is necessary to determine the costs and benefits of these projects. Kunzler expressed the tribes would probably be happier with the advantage of the two projects.

Finally, Kunzler wanted to know more about the Three Bridge Corridor Levee Set Back project. Specifically, he's heard conflicting information about whether or not the levees will be removed. He feels it should be vetted by the public.

After the discussion, Hamburg moved and Pflug seconded to accept the addition of items 9, 10, and 11 on the Preliminary Projects list to be included in the future CFHMP. The motion carried 12/0/0.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. Begin the discussion of how best to move forward with local flood planning and project funding options.
2. There were no assignments for the Technical Committees.

The next AC meeting will be on Monday, November 16, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance sheet attached.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 10/19/09:

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 Scott Thomas	
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 Larry Kunzler	
Hamburg, Daryl	DDTC	Dike District #17	X		X Gary Jones	
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 Esco Bell	
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X			
Wasserman, Larry	ETC	Swinomish Indian Tribe		X		

OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 10/19/09:

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Borman, Neil	Environmental Technical Committee
Brunisholz, Jacques	Town of LaConner
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Ertel, Cory	Land Use Technical Committee
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Town of LaConner
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner Council
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management