

Document "A"

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #6
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District
November 17, 2008 from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Location

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

Meeting Purpose

For the Advisory Committee (AC) members to conduct normal business and:

1. Provide perspectives and discuss the Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project Feasibility Study (Skagit GI).
2. Complete work on draft Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria element of the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)
3. Using Technical Committee input develop criteria for screening and selecting flood reduction projects
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any

Summary of Action Items

1. Winter monthly AC meetings to be held from 2:00-5:30 pm. Next meeting December 15, 2008.
2. Complete work on the draft Mission, Goals and Objectives element of the CFHMP (Document B) at December meeting.
3. Begin work to refine project screening criteria submitted from FCZD Technical Committees (Document C) at December meeting.
4. PW to report on content and budget for Public Involvement Plan (draft previously handed out to AC members at October 20, 2008 meeting).

Welcome

AC Chair Bob Boudinot opened meeting by welcoming everyone to AC meeting #6. Bob noted that Gary Jones was there as proxy for Robert Hughes and that Daryl Hamburg had the proxy for Dean Flaig. Best wishes were given to Polly Fischer who was in attendance this evening celebrating her 80th Birthday. Polly was mercifully spared a rendition of Happy Birthday.

Public Comment

Carol Ehlers advised that she had been in communication with Dean Maxwell, Mayor of Anacortes and was representing the Mayor who requested that the CFHMP list and show locations of petroleum pipelines and public water supply facilities at risk during floods. Carol also suggested that the AC familiarize itself with the "Action Agenda", a report forthcoming from the Puget Sound Partnership. The report will be submitted to the State Legislature this coming session and includes prioritized recommendations for restoring the health of Puget Sound. It may impact flood risk reduction planning and ecosystem restoration in the Skagit River Basin. (Note: The PSP Action Agenda was issued December 1, 2008 and can be found on the State PSP website: <http://www.psp.wa.gov/>).

Document "A"

Approval of October 20, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting summary:

The October 20, 2008 meeting summary was approved by consensus as sent out by staff (Document A) with the following corrections: 1) Replace "roll" with "role" when describing Army Corp's responsibilities in flood disaster response and preparedness; 2) Change "Holtkamp" to "Holtcamp" Road; 3) Next AC meeting date should have been shown as November 17 instead of November 20, 2008.

Regular Report Outs

- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler read an editorial written by the Mayor of Hamilton and published in the local newspaper on December 4, 1909 following a rather significant flooding event. The editorial encouraged the County to rally to repair damage from the recent "freshet" and suggested a glorious future for those who persevere. It was noted that the Mayor and his newspaper soon relocated to Concrete.
- County Engineer: James Voetberg, P.E./County Public Works Director, reminded everyone of the importance of the work being done by the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) by noting how the County was only spared from major flood consequences when last week's predicted storm track turned south at the last minute. Jim advised that the County had forwarded a new hydrology report "Re-evaluating the magnitude of historic floods on the Skagit" prepared by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has agreed to consider this new information (including an earlier report prepared by Pacific International Engineers) to determine the appropriate 100 year flood flows for the Skagit. This may take a few months to accomplish. Jim acknowledged that long time County employee, Ric Boge, was leaving the County for a new job and wanted to thank Ric for all his efforts as Surface Water Manager for Skagit County and gave him credit for helping re-establish the FCZD flood planning efforts.
- Technical Committees:
 - Daryl Hamburg, representing the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC), advised that the DDTC had produced a rough draft of the project screening criteria and that it was meeting again in December to continue work on the criteria, hopefully with more input from the Drainage Districts.
 - Bob Carey, reporting for the Environmental Technical Committee (ETC) advised that the ETC project screening criteria was still a work in progress and that the ETC would be meeting before the December AC meeting to continue working to complete its task.
 - Esco Bell, representing the Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC), reported that the LUTC had met to refine its previously submitted project list and the revised list has been submitted to the AC. Esco emphasized the LUTC opinion that conflicts over hydrology need to be resolved as the first order of business for proper flood management planning. Federal flood flow estimates need to be reconciled with local hydrology estimates.
 - Skagit GI: Kristen Kerns, representing the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (Corps), reported that Colonel Wright, District Engineer would soon be sending out response letters to folks who had submitted comments on the Corps' list of preliminary flood risk reduction measures. Kristen indicated that the Corps will begin developing the hydrology and hydraulic impacts for various alternatives (combinations of flood risk reduction projects/measures).

Document "A"

Skagit GI

Bob Wheeler (consultant) facilitated a general discussion to solicit AC member perspectives on the Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project Feasibility Study (Skagit GI) currently being conducted by the Corps. AC members and public attendees had an opportunity to individually comment. No official action was taken by the AC. Wheeler (consultant) verbally summarized the perspectives as follows: 1) Most folks criticized and expressed concerns about the Skagit GI, pointing out its numerous difficulties, but that in the end most agreed that it is an essential component to the work of the FCZD. 2) The AC will use information from the Skagit GI and local knowledge to develop packages of flood reduction projects/measures acceptable to stakeholders. 3) The AC should strive to help narrow down the number of flood reduction measures currently being evaluated by the Corps. (Note: Individual comments are not being included in the meeting summary but are recorded on audio CD, copies available from Skagit County Public Works).

Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria

The AC continued working on editing the draft mission statement, goals, objectives and measurement criteria element of the CFHMP (Document B). Document B is the working draft showing the changes resulting from last month's work session including additional comments submitted in the interim from AC members. This work session was facilitated by Wheeler with assistance from Cynthia Carlstad (consultant). It was noted by Wheeler that the CFHMP is not required by statute to have measurement criteria (a way to evaluate the success of the CFHMP). Wheeler suggested that in the interest of completing the goals and objectives in a timely fashion (which are a required component of the plan), that the AC consider postponing any debate on the measurement criteria in order to focus its time and energy on completing the goals and objectives sections and then moving on to complete the project screening criteria.. The AC concurred. Progress was made but time ran out before completing all the edits to the objectives section. Consultants will update Document B, showing the changes made at the evening's meeting, and will send it out to the AC members in time for the December 15, 2008 meeting. It is anticipated that work will continue as needed to complete the final draft of Document B at the December meeting, with final review and approval the following meeting.

Criteria for Considering Projects

Cynthia introduced Document C "Draft Criteria for Screening and Selecting Projects/Measures". Document C is a compilation of the recommendations for flood project screening/selection criteria developed by the FCZD Technical Committees at the request of the AC. Cynthia used a diagram to show how this element fits into the development CFHMP and how it could also be used by the Corps as it moves forward with the Skagit GI. Cynthia noted that the recommendations from the ETC were still a work in progress and therefore not shown in Document C at this time. General discussion followed. AC agreed to consider Document C after consultants added comments received from the ETC at the December AC meeting. Consultants were asked to look into the feasibility of linking the project criteria with the CFHMP goals and objectives. Consultants were also asked to bring back ideas for dividing the screening criteria into two or more phases with the goal of having a phase 1 list that could be used to quickly screen out flood reduction proposals that have fatal flaws.

Old Business

The final draft of a resolution proposing changes to the AC operating procedures (Document D) was approved by consensus. These changes, if approved by the Skagit County Commissioners, would: 1) In general, require that no major issue would be introduced and voted on at the same meeting (two meeting rule), 2) Clarify that AC members representing the DDTC

Document "A"

do not have to be a Dike or Drainage District Commissioner, and 3) Update the AC membership roll by replacing David Olson with Daryl Hamburg and add Leonard Eliason representing Dike District #17 to the DDTC. Staff will take a resolution before the Skagit Board of Commissioners for approval.

Next Steps

1. Complete work on draft mission statement, goals, objectives element of the CFHMP.
2. Begin work reviewing the project screening/selection criteria developed by FCZD Technical Committees.
3. Encourage ETC and the DDTC (if necessary) to continue working to refine or complete developing project criteria that can be forwarded to the AC for consideration at the next AC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

See meeting attendance sign-in sheet following page

Document "A"

PRESENT AT MEETING 11/17/2008 FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS						
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley	X			
Boudinot, Bob	Env. TC	Skagit Land Trust	X			
Carey, Bob	Env. TC	The Nature Conservancy	X			
Carlson, Todd	Land Use TC	WA Dept. of Transportation	X			
Easton, Jason	Land Use TC	Washington Realtors		X		
Flaig, Dean	D&D TC	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 TC	Ag. Adv. Committee			X (Gary Jones)	
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian	X			
Nelson, Stanley	D&D TC	Dike District #22	X			
Norris, Mayor Bud	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon		X		
Olson, David	D&D TC	Dike District #3			X (Daryl Hamburg)	
Pflug, Dave	Env. TC	Seattle City Light	X			
Wasserman, Larry	Env. TC	Swinomish Indian Tribe	X			
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE						
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Staff, Public Works					
Boge, Ric	Skagit County Staff, Public Works					
Carlstad, Cynthia	Skagit County (consultant)					
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County Staff, Public Works					
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Staff, Public Works					
Voetberg, Jim	Skagit County Staff, Public Works					
Wheeler, Bob	Skagit County (consultant)					
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon					
Borman, Neil	FCZD Environmental Technical Committee					
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen					
Fisher, Polly	Marine Resources Committee					
Kerns, Kristen	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers					
Kurp, Konrad	Citizen					
Moe, Don	Dike District #1					
O'Donnell, Dan	FCZD Land Use Technical Committee					
Schroeder, James	The Nature Conservancy					
Schwartz, Ralph	Skagit Valley Herald					
Shultz, John	Attorney for Dike District #1					
Stevenson, Betsy	Skagit County Planning and Development Services					
Thoreen, Arn	Citizen					
Warinner, Bob	U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife					