

MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #7
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District
December 15, 2008 from 2:00-5:30 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. Complete work on the draft Mission, Goals, and Objectives.
2. Using Technical Committee input, develop screening criteria for considering projects/measures.
3. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any.

Summary of Action Items

1. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, location to be determined (Note: The normal date/location of the AC meeting needed to be changed due to holiday schedule).
2. Neared completion of draft Mission, Goals and Objectives element of the CFHMP (Document B). The AC requested that the consultants prepare a revised draft by incorporating changes consistent with the direction given by the AC. In addition, the AC requests that the revised draft highlight any feedback from the Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC) regarding its recommendations related to Objectives 2.13, 2.14, and 3.3.
3. Began work to refine project screening criteria submitted from FCZD Technical Committees (Document C). AC requested additional criteria information:
 - a. Technical Committees asked to meet to revise their recommended criteria to fit a two step process: First a screening/fatal flaw phase and then a project package (combination of alternatives) evaluation phase. TC's to report back to AC in time for this information to be considered at the January AC meeting.
 - b. Larry Kunzler and Lorna Ellestad were asked to find examples of historic development criteria developed during earlier flood reduction planning efforts and forward that information to the AC.
 - c. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Kristen Kerns was asked for examples of USACE screening criteria.

Welcome

AC Chair, Bob Boudinot, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Public Comment

No public comment

Regular Report Outs

- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler displayed two maps of historic flood planning interest. One showing an early survey of Skagit County (circa 1866-1885), and the second a 1925 Metzger's Map. Both maps contain historic information such as locations of early watercourses and swamp areas, Indian tribal village sites, and pioneer family sites. The maps also show the locations surveyed by Stewart, early USACE Engineer.

Document "A"

- County Engineer: Voetberg, P.E./County Public Works Director
 - Asked Dan Berentson, County Communications Director, to update the AC on the status of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and its annual budget. Dan noted that the draft plan that had been sent to the AC was a work in progress, and that more details would be forthcoming once the CFHMP was more evolved. Dan also confirmed that the budget provided for the video recording of any significant FCZD events.
 - Jim advised that the City of Burlington has asked the County to consider entering into an interlocal agreement focused on increasing flood storage capacity behind the Skagit dams. It was agreed staff would email copy of the draft interlocal to AC members.
 - Jim noted that FEMA will be making a public presentation in response to a recent NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion which potentially impacts the local Federal Flood Insurance Program. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for January 20, between 10:15-11:00 am in the Skagit County Board of Commissioner's Hearing Room.
 - The National Committee on Levee Safety will be hosting a webinar "Exploring the Need for a National Levee Safety Program" scheduled for December 16, 2008. Staff will email webinar details to the AC.
- Technical Committees:
 - Stan Nelson, representing the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC), advised that the DDTC is continuing to meet to revise its project screening criteria and will meet in late December or early January in order to complete the assignment from the AC.
 - Bob Carey, reporting for the Environmental Technical Committee (ETC), advised that the ETC continues to meet to work on project screening criteria. The ETC will be meeting before the January AC meeting to complete its recommendations for project screening criteria.
 - LUTC: No update to report on at this time.
 - Skagit General Investigation (Skagit GI): Kristen Kerns, representing the US ACE, reported that:
 - The USACE had begun hydrologic analysis of various flood reduction alternatives (combinations of flood reduction) measures.
 - The USACE has begun planning for a flood levee failures analysis
 - The USACE is holding an environmental scoping meeting January 8, 2008 to take comments on the Skagit GI preliminary flood reduction measures pursuant to NEPA requirements. Notice of meeting will be emailed to AC members.
 - The USACE is still recruiting for a new project manager for the Skagit GI.
 - The Skagit GI Executive Committee, which has project oversight responsibilities, will be meeting the first quarter of 2009.

Document "A"

Consideration and acceptance of meeting summary from November 17, 2008

It was moved by Jason Easton and seconded by Todd Carlson to accept the November 17, 2008 meeting minutes as drafted. Discussion: Larry Kunzler requested that meeting summaries contain more meeting discussion details. Jason noted (for future reference) that one of the attendance sheet headers was missing and should be added for clarity. Meeting summary was approved as drafted with Larry Kunzler abstaining.

Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria

Facilitated by Bob Wheeler and Cynthia Carlstad the AC continued working on editing the draft Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives element of the CFHMP (Document B). Document B is the working draft showing the changes resulting from last month's work session. The document is near completion. Bob and Cynthia will update Document B pursuant to the action of the AC, and will send out for final review and discussion at next month's meeting. In addition the AC requested that the Land Use Technical Committee convene to review the latest draft of Document B, and to focus on Objectives: 2.10, 2.11 and 3.3 for the purpose of providing feedback to the AC in time for their January meeting.

Criteria for Considering Projects

Cynthia facilitated this portion of the meeting by continuing to walk the AC through a revised Document C "Draft Criteria for Screening and Selecting Projects/Measures". The revision resulted from adding criteria submitted from the ETC. After discussion, the AC requested (by consensus) the following work products for next month's meeting:

- A matrix that links individual criteria with specific CFHMP goals/objectives.
- Examples of project screening criteria developed during earlier flood reduction planning efforts.
- Project screening criteria used by the USACE.
- Assigned the Technical Committees the task of reducing down the number of screening criteria and then deciding if this reduced list could be further separated into two tiers. The first tier list would be used to quickly filter out projects or measures with fatal flaws. The second tier list used to assist in ranking a project and/or selecting alternatives (combination of projects). Technical Committees to report back to AC in time for January meeting.

Miscellaneous

- A few AC members asked for more information as to why "dredging" had been deselected as a viable flood reduction measure. Larry Kunzler offered to locate earlier planning documents that addressed this matter and report back. No official action taken by the AC
- Larry Kunzler urged the AC to look into the amount of money spent to date on flood reduction planning efforts. Larry offered to research the matter and report back to the AC. No official action taken by the AC.

Next Steps

1. Complete work on draft mission statement, goals, objectives element of the CFHMP after considering input from the LUTC.
2. Work to complete the project screening/selection criteria with input developed by FCZD Technical Committees. Include review of historical and USACE criteria.

3. Next meeting scheduled for January 20, 2009 (place to be determined).

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12/15/08:

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			
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			
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner		X		
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		
Olson, David	DDTC	Dike District #3			X (Hamburg)	
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X			
Wasserman, Larry	ETC	Swinomish Indian Tribe		X		

STAFF & CONSULTANTS	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Carlstad, Cynthia	TetraTech

Document "A"

Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
Karsh, Tom	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Voetberg, Jim	Skagit County Public Works
Wheeler, Bob	Triangle Associates

OTHERS	
Name	Affiliation
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Cole, Matt	
Ertel, Cory	Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association
Jones, Gary T.	Attorney for D/D Districts
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Lagerlund, Nels	Ag. Adv. Committee
LeBlanc, Jamie	Anacortes Water Treatment Plant
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner
Olson, David	Dike District #3
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management