## HAMILTON PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Floodway Mitigation & Town Relocation Program c/o 833 South Spruce Street Burlington, WA 98233

#### March 10, 2008

Hamilton Town Council volunteers, Dale Bonner and Joan Cromley distributed 72 surveys to the Hamilton households located within the floodway. They received 47 completed surveys, a 65% return rate. The intent of this survey is to provide political decision makers with a snapshot of Hamilton floodway resident's flood experience, socio-economic situation, and impression regarding town relocation. This survey is not intended to provide statistically significant results. Below is a summary of responses only, with no conclusions drawn by staff. The raw survey data is also attached.

#### **Housing Information**

- 68% own and 32% rent
- 47% of respondent homes are elevated, 53% are not elevated
- 30% of responding owners estimate property sale value \$100,000 or less
- 37% of responding owners estimate property sale value between \$100,001 \$150,000
- 36% report \$0 mortgage debt, 82% report mortgage debt \$100,000 or less

#### **Income Information**

- 100% of respondents report annual household income \$75,000 or less
- 25% of respondents report annual household income \$25,000 or less (very low income)

#### **Flood Experience**

- 11% moved to Hamilton less than 1 year ago, and so have not been through a flood
- 52% of respondents have been through 1-2 floods (November 2006, October 2003)
- 37% of respondents have been through 3 or more floods (Nov.2006, Oct. 2003, Nov.1995, Nov. 1990, Dec.1989, Jan.1983, Dec.1980, Feb.1980, Dec.1979, before 1979)
- 68% report water 3' or less in their home, 32% report water 4' or higher in their home

#### **Flood Insurance**

- 59% had flood insurance when flooded, 37% had no flood insurance when flooded
- 63% received flood insurance money for repairs
- 67% have flood insurance now, 33% have no flood insurance now
- 41% of uninsured respondents report cost as a barrier

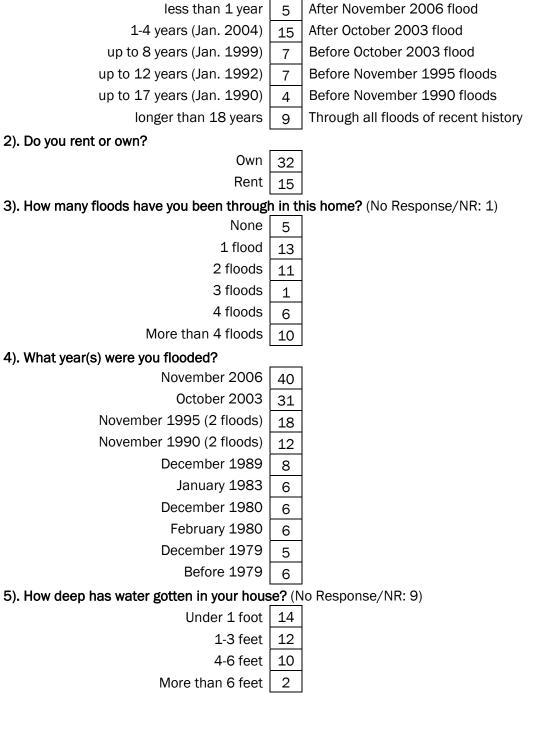
#### **Relocation from the floodway**

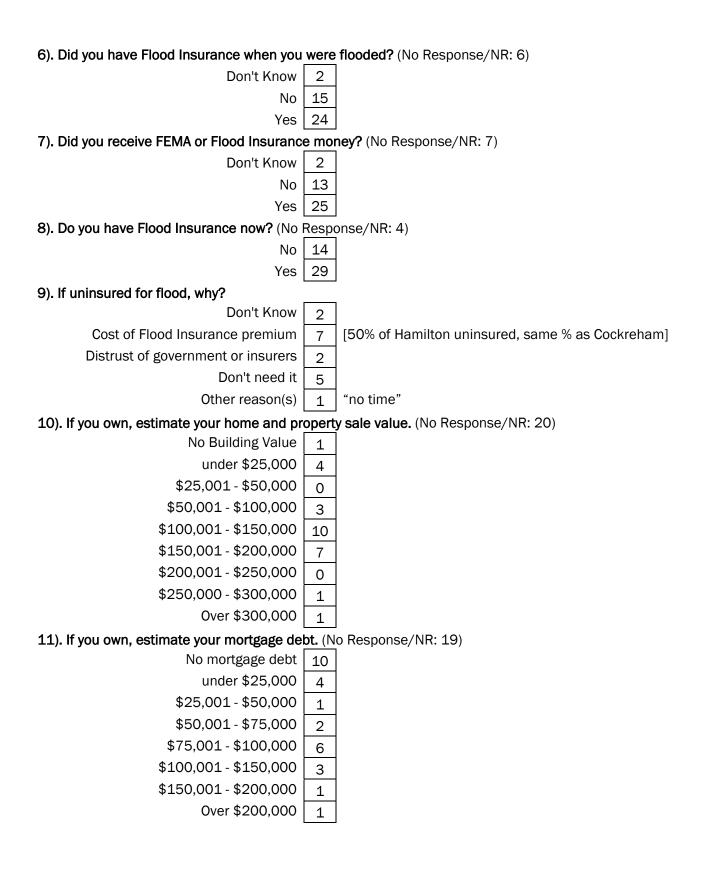
- 49% of respondents have considered moving
- 31% would consider moving if flooded again, 25% if their mortgage debt were cleared, 13% if the government did not allow rebuilding, 38% if new affordable housing were available elsewhere, 81% reported other reasons they would encourage moving, and 38% would not consider moving (respondents could select multiple options)
- 28% report lack of affordable housing elsewhere as a barrier to moving
- 15% report an inability to sell their house as a barrier to moving
- 81% report liking the area and/or having family and long-term roots as a reason to stay locally
- 49% of respondents support town relocation from the floodway
- 53% do not think Hamilton should be disincorporated (become unincorporated Skagit County)
- 9% believe Hamilton should be disincorporated (become unincorporated Skagit County)

#### There were 47 survey respondents in Hamilton

| Home Elevated? | YES | 22 |
|----------------|-----|----|
|                | NO  | 25 |

#### 1). How long have you lived in this house?





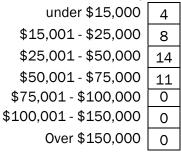


(not including Flood Insurance or other money)

| under \$1,000         | 10 |
|-----------------------|----|
| \$1,001 - \$5,000     | 13 |
| \$5,001 - \$10,000    | 5  |
| \$10,001 - \$25,000   | 6  |
| \$25,001 - \$50,000   | 3  |
| \$50,001 - \$75,000   | 1  |
| the building is worth | 10 |

more than the building is worth 10

**13).** About how much is your annual house hold income? (No Response/NR: 10) (for all income earners, social security, disability, pension, etc.)



14). Have you considered moving from the floodway? (No Response/NR: 2)

| Don't Know | 6 |
|------------|---|
|------------|---|

| 0  |
|----|
| 17 |
| 22 |
|    |

#### 15). Why do you stay living in the floodway?

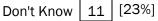
Can't find other affordable housing 13

- Can't sell my house
- Like the area/river access 26
- Family/long-time roots locally 12

Other reason(s)

### 16). Do you support Hamilton's relocation out of the floodway?

(with affordable housing options and a commercial center)



7

9

| No  | 13 | [28%] |
|-----|----|-------|
| Yes | 23 | [49%] |

# 17a). Do you think Hamilton should instead be disincorporated and the town area become unincorporated Skagit County? (No Response/NR: 2, 4%)



