

**From:** [Chal Martin](#)  
**To:** [Dan Berentson](#); [Lorna Ellestad](#)  
**Subject:** D.C. Trip; possible Tech Conference  
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Dan, looks like the heavy political days for the D.C. trip will be Monday and Tuesday, March 15 and 16. Bud said he would be there on those days but needs to leave early Wednesday to get back for a council meeting. I have not heard back from Mike Anderson yet, but I know he was interested and I think Ramon is also going to bring up the trip with the La Conner council tonight. Ed of course will be there, as will Steve Sexton, one of our Council members. John Shultz is going, representing Dikes 1 and 12; I have the question into Gary Jones and Daryl Hamburg. That would provide representation from the main dike districts. There may also be a couple of other staff people go. We would like to extend an invitation to you and Lorna and the County Commissioners to also attend.

Last year, our little team made good progress with the Agency meetings, but zero progress on the political front. Not enough horsepower with just one mayor. With the release and then withdrawal of the preliminary maps, I see this as the best, and maybe last, window to make progress on the hydrology issue at the political level. What we need is support from the federal delegation to help us with processes to resolve the issue: through the GI study as well as through FEMA. My thought is that the elected officials would meet and discuss; and our staffers would meet with their staffers to provide the background on the reports.

I have the question in to FEMA with regard to setting up a technical conference. Albert has said he can attend if we can put something together. If you guys and Malcolm can get back there and also advocate for setting up a technical conference, it would be greatly appreciated. Again, I think we have a window of opportunity here to address the foundational issue in this period before FEMA reissues the maps.

The arc of this story is: if we can get the hydrology corrected, then the general atmosphere of frustration and ambivalence about the GI study could be changed to enthusiastic support. And that could make an eventual regional flood project possible.

We might not be successful in this effort. But I think now is the time to push, and push hard. I am not seeing a better opportunity in the future. Chal

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