



Trip Report

Cities of Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington; Town of La Conner; Skagit County;
Dike Districts 1, 12, and 17; Mount Vernon School District; Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
Washington D.C. March 14-19, 2010

Attendees:

Burlington: Ed Brunz, Steve Sexton, Chal Martin
La Conner: Ramon Hayes, John Doyle
Mount Vernon: Bud Norris, Jana Hanson, Kevin Rogerson
Sedro-Woolley: Mike Anderson, Eron Berg
Skagit County: Dan Berentson, Lorna Ellestad
Dike Districts 1 and 12: John Shultz, John A. Shultz
Dike District 17: Daryl Hamburg
Mount Vernon School District: Carl Bruner
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce: Kristen Whitener

This trip report is written from Burlington's perspective and focuses on the meetings and activities the Burlington group was interested in and/or participated in during the trip. There were many other activities involving specific projects/issues of interest to individual jurisdictions and organizations participating in the trip; however, for the sake of brevity, those activities are not detailed here.

Sunday, March 14

Carl Bruner, Kristen Whitener, John Shultz and John A. Shultz (representing Dike Districts 1 and 12), and the Mount Vernon and Sedro Woolley groups arrived in D.C. The Burlington group was delayed and did not get into town until Monday afternoon.

Monday, March 15

Group w/ Senator Cantwell's office, issue: general flood issues: The Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Dike District groups met with Paul Wolfe and Wyatt King, both legislative assistants to Senator Cantwell. The purpose of this meeting was to provide background/status regarding flood issues in Skagit County. Issues discussed: Skagit River hydrology and concern about lack of community support for the technical basis of the hydrologic analysis; the General Investigation study; additional Baker flood storage, and the preliminary FEMA flood maps. The group specifically requested that Senator Cantwell stand with the local communities on these issues and requested that her staff contact USGS and request its participation in the technical conference scheduled for Wednesday the 17th. We subsequently received tremendous support from both Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray, as Paul worked with Jason Park to request USGS participation in the conference, as will be detailed later. The Burlington group did not attend this meeting, as we were still enroute. Chal had been assigned lead for this meeting, and that responsibility was taken up by Eron Berg. We appreciate that Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and the Dike Districts attended on our behalf.

Group w/ Ed Pritchard, Director of the Office of Safety and Compliance, Federal Rail Administration and staff, issue: BNSF bridge replacement: The Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Dike District groups met with Mr. Pritchard and his senior bridge engineer, Gordon Davids (via phone), to discuss the BNSF Skagit River bridge. We know this bridge is a hazard to itself and the adjacent levees during Skagit floods. Ed explained that the Federal Rail Administration has no authority over the condition of the infrastructure unless it puts passengers at risk. He did not believe there was

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anything the FRA could do for us at this point. Zak Anderson, BNSF's D.C. lobbyist, also attended the meeting at our invitation. He said that BNSF's position is that the bridge is safe, and has another many decades of serviceability. He also stated that BNSF was awaiting the results of the GI study, and would take up what to do about the bridge, if anything, once that study was completed. He did say that BNSF was willing to partner on bridge replacement, but that the more money from outside was available for the bridge replacement, and the smaller the amount that BNSF would have to pay, the more likely BNSF would be willing to partner. He also stated that a similar bridge was replaced two years ago by BNSF and it cost \$153 million. The Burlington group did not attend this meeting, as we were still enroute. Chal had been assigned lead for this meeting, and that responsibility was taken up by Eron Berg. We appreciate that Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and the Dike Districts attended on our behalf.

Burlington w/ Travis Lumpkin, legislative assistant to Senator Murray, issue: BNSF bridge replacement: Chal finally arrived in time to meet with Travis to discuss the BNSF bridge issue. He had received information on the FRA meeting from Eron Berg prior to this meeting with Travis, and discussed that with Travis, in addition to Burlington's \$120,000 appropriation request for a cost/benefit study of bridge replacement. Travis said he knew Zak Andersen, BNSF's lobbyist, and would speak with him about BNSF's perspective.

Group w/ Jason Park, legislative assistant to Senator Murray, issue: general flood issues: The group, including Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington and the Dike Districts met with Jason to provide an update on several flood issues. Topics discussed included the GI study schedule and funding; hydrology and the upcoming hydrology conference; Baker flood storage, and the upcoming release of the FEMA flood maps. Eron Berg explained to Jason that the USGS had declined to participate in the technical conference, and that it would be beneficial if the USGS sent a representative. Jason got USGS contact information from Chal with the intention of contacting the USGS to ask if the USGS could participate.

Association of Washington Cities (AWC) reception at the National League of Cities conference: the Mayors, Council Member Sexton and Eron Berg attended this reception. Mayor Brunz and Council Member Sexton finally arrived in town about 4:30 p.m. The group met with several other Washington cities who were attending.

Dinner meeting with Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Carl and Kristen: the group met for dinner and prepared for the following day's events. Eron Berg and the group thought it was within the realm of possibility to get a USGS representative to participate in the technical conference on Wednesday, based on feedback they had received from the Senators' staff throughout the day.

Tuesday, March 16

The agenda for Tuesday included multiple meetings attended by a variety of participants.

Burlington and Skagit County (Chal, Dan, and Lorna) with US Army Civil Works and Corps of Engineers HQ executives, issue: Skagit General Investigation Study. Lorna Ellestad was lead for this meeting. The topics included GI study progress, Skagit River hydrology, and Baker storage. Attendees from the Corps of Engineers included Doug Lamont, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Project Planning and Review; Theodore "Tab" Brown, Chief, Planning and Policy Division, HQ USACE; Carrie Hill, HQ USACE Program Manager; Pete Luisa, Chief, Program Development Branch, Civil Works Division; Gary Loew, Chief, Programs Division, Civil Works Directorate; Chuck Moeslein, HQ USACE Civil Works staff, and Tony Niles, Regional Integration Team Manager. Amy Gibbons, Seattle District GI Manager, joined by phone. Adam LeMieux from Congressman Larsen's office joined the meeting late. Skagit County, as the Local Partner for the GI study, was the lead for this meeting. On Friday prior to this meeting, the Seattle District released a revised GI schedule and cost estimate that extended the study completion date to September 2015 and increased the cost from \$2.4 million (federal share) to \$3.4 million. The new estimate anticipated funding of about \$1 million per year for the first two years. This is problematic as the amount of funding available has been running about \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year. The Corps executives in the room quickly focused on the fact that this revised schedule and cost, when combined with typical funding amounts, was not a recipe for completing the study. Lorna asked what it would take to get the Skagit GI included as part of the President's budget. With regard to getting the Skagit GI into the President's budget, Tab Brown stated that the primary criteria for getting a project into the President's budget is: is the project already on the President's budget? Basic numbers are: 100 or so General Investigations going on nationwide. The President's budget funds about \$45 million each year. And each year Congress adds about \$60 million. Each year 1-3 studies get done. So the competition for the money is fierce and it is difficult to get your project into the President's budget. He also stated that because the project has not been in the

Administration Department

President's budget, it is considered a "new start". Our best argument for getting considered for funding would be to come up with a schedule that showed the study would be completed within three years. Then we could make the argument that if we just had enough funding for three years, we could complete the study and it would drop off the list, thereby making room for another study. They questioned what the study had been doing since 1997. Tab was interested in what the irreducible minimum amount of work/reports was needed to complete the Skagit GI. He also thought that in some cases, less information would be satisfactory if the cost-benefit ratio indicated an obvious benefit and that there may be enough information available to determine project costs. Lorna specifically asked about the need to use the MII software to determine cost since it was adding \$\$\$ and time to the schedule. Tab asked when the Feasibility Scoping Meeting read-ahead summary would be completed. Tab thought the FSM meeting would provide the opportunity to look at the question of "irreducible minimum." Amy Gibbons indicated the Feasibility Scoping package was under review and should be submitted to the HQ in a couple of weeks. Amy thought it might be possible to schedule the Feasibility Scoping Meeting for May. Lorna was surprised by this, as she had not seen any drafts of the FSM read-ahead. Lorna also wondered what was changed from the previous FSM document since the H&H review and documentation as well as the Measure's report were not complete and these reports and the Economics have been held up because the Corps has not completed the Levee Reliability Analysis. Lorna stated that these were the same issues HQ brought up when they rejected the previous FSM read-a-head. The hydrology issue was discussed. Tony said that the County had requested HEC-Davis participation in the upcoming Hydrology Technical Conference but said he was being told from the Seattle District that the hydrology had been reviewed many times and that the District was not willing to take up the issue again. He also mentioned that the hydrology debate had delayed the GI, from the Seattle District's perspective. Chal noted that the focus on the hydrology was only the historic flood estimates and there was very little work involved in adjusting the hydrology if the historic flood estimates were to be corrected. Chal also noted that the Corps had completed the hydrology as a consultant for FEMA, under contract to FEMA, and had difficulty separating its role regarding producing the hydrological analysis for FEMA, from its policy decision that it would not reevaluate the hydrology. Doug Lamont asked if the Corps HQ could send someone to the tech meeting to discuss the hydrology the following day (this was arranged; John Hunter from the HQ attended the tech conference on Wednesday. John Hunter's participation in the conference was very important and we appreciate the support we received to schedule John to attend the technical conference on such short notice). Meeting participants also agreed to try to shorten the new schedule. HQ also said they would review the revised schedule and offer any suggestions they could. HQ also requested that a Vertical Team meeting and Executive Committee meeting be scheduled as soon as possible. The Baker Storage issue and the public safety issue were mentioned as issues important to the County but there was not sufficient time for them to be addressed at this meeting. The meeting was positive and solution-oriented. We agreed to meet again either Thursday or Friday as HQ's schedule allowed.

Dike Districts, Burlington, Skagit County with HQ Civil Works re: levee vegetation policy: John Shultz was lead for this meeting, assisted by Daryl Hamburg. The meeting was chaired by James Dalton, HQ Corps of Engineers, Chief, Engineering and Construction Division. Steve Stockton, Chief, Civil Works Directorate, Corps of Engineers, joined by phone. Others in the room included Lance Wood and Katy Chekouras, attorneys at the Headquarters; Tammy Conforti, who helped author the proposed new levee vegetation policy; Carrie Hill, Program Manager at the Headquarters; Tony Niles, Regional Integration Team Manager; Lorna Ellestad and Dan Berentson from Skagit County, Adam LeMieux from Congressman Larsen's office; John A. Shultz, assistant to John, and Mayor Brunz and Council Member Sexton. This was a positive meeting. John explained how the Seattle District had effectively developed its own "reverse levee vegetation" variance which was contrary to the Corps policy of: no vegetation on levees unless a variance was issued. In the Seattle District, effectively what is going on is the opposite: vegetation is required to be installed on the levees for all PL84-99 repairs. People in the room expressed interest and concern about this approach. The Corps has a new levee vegetation policy out for public comment, and it is the intent of the HQ to resolve the "Seattle variance" with the new policy. Comment period for the new policy was extended. The group discussed specific language that would ensure no District could process a variance without the concurrence of the local sponsor. Follow up: submit comments on the Federal Register posting. James Dalton indicated the next day that he would be traveling to the Seattle District on Friday, and would bring up this issue with the District.

Elected officials and selected staff w/Representative Larsen: Eron Berg was lead for this meeting with a large delegation in attendance from Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, La Conner and. Skagit River hydrology issues were discussed in some detail with attention paid to the areas of disagreement between the local agencies'

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experts and the federal agencies' experts. The GI Study was also discussed with the request made that the Corps come up with a realistic scope and timeframe that includes a realistic level of funding. Representative Larsen indicated support for this request and further indicated that he was planning to make an appropriation request "somewhere north of a million dollars" for this purpose.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Staff w/ Skagit County elected officials/staff and Puget Sound Energy staff: One of the tasks of FERC headquarters is to oversee the transition process within the first few years a hydroelectric project license has been reissued. This meeting, attended by FERC staff, was also joined by Ed Schild and Mark Quehrn of PSE by telephone, and by Amy Gibbons of the Seattle District, Corps of Engineers. Chal briefed the status of the new license with respect to the flood control elements. Puget Sound Energy indicated its position was that it would continue to follow the protocols of the settlement agreement, paragraph 4.1.1 to provide reservoir drawdown in advance of a flood. Chal asked whether a process to address the footnote on Aquatics Table 6, which precludes drawdown until trigger flows from either the Baker or Skagit Rivers are met, has been formulated. Ed said that a protocol had been developed and already tested a couple of times since the license went into effect. Chal had not seen the protocol (we will follow up with Skagit Department of Emergency Management to see if that office is included in the protocol). Ed and Mark indicated PSE had met the requirements of the settlement agreement, paragraph 4.1.2, which required Puget to work with Skagit County and the Corps of Engineers to revise the Water Control Manual to include protocols for drawing down the Baker reservoirs in advance of a Skagit flood. Basically, Puget Sound Energy wrote a letter to the Corps. Asked whether the Corps intended to modify the Water Control manual, Amy Gibbons at the Seattle District stated that the District had determined it had the authority to modify the manual, but did not intend to do so. She said "there is no interest by the Corps to change the WCM". Mark Quehrn of PSE asked why the City felt it was necessary to modify the Water Control manual, as that inferred the local communities could not trust PSE to draw down the reservoirs per paragraph 4.1.1. The comment was made that basin analysis require that regulatory reservoir flood operations be considered and the question was asked if the contract between the County and PSE resulted in regulatory reservoir operations. After the meeting, Chal, Dan, and Lorna had a conversation with Steve Hocking, FERC's attorney assigned to this relicensing effort. Steve stated that FERC's emphasis would be the license provision 107c, as well as the other license provisions that FERC had added. License provision 107c requires PSE to submit a report within three years regarding the viability of providing additional flood storage in the lower reservoir. Follow-up required: 1) check w/ PSE to verify PSE's position that it has complied with 4.1.2. Also, check to see about the protocol regarding the footnote in Aquatics Table 6. Hocking suggested that the County and PSE meet monthly face to face and include the Corps. In addition, clarify that the Seattle District has declined to modify the Water Control Manual.

Various City meetings w/ Senators and staff: Scheduled meetings were held throughout the day to provide an opportunity for all of the jurisdictions to discuss individual project priorities with the Senators, Representative and staff. One topic of discussion was a request to get a USGS representative to the technical conference on Wednesday. The Senators' offices coordinated this request to the USGS, with Paul Wolfe of Senator Cantwell's office working with Jason Park of Senator Murray's office, who handled the arrangements.

Special help from the Senators re: USGS participation in the technical conference: Late Tuesday, Steve Blanchard, Chief, Office of Surface Water at the USGS, called Chal and informed him that he would send his deputy, Robert Mason, to the conference on Wednesday. We very much appreciate the help from our Senators in requesting USGS attendance at the meeting. Mr. Mason's participation and perspective was essential at the technical conference the next day.

Elected officials and selected staff w/Senator Cantwell: Eron Berg was lead for this meeting with a large delegation in attendance from Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, La Conner and Skagit County. Meeting began with a thank you to the Senator for helping to get USGS to the technical meeting. Skagit River hydrology issues were discussed in some detail with attention paid to the areas of disagreement between the local agencies' experts and the federal agencies' experts. The Senator indicated that she would call Colonel Wright and attend a meeting with us as a group to further discuss these issues in the event our technical conference was not successful. The GI Study was also discussed with the request made that the Corps come up with a realistic scope and timeframe that includes a realistic level of funding. Senator Cantwell was supportive of our request.

Elected officials and selected staff w/Senator Murray: Eron Berg was lead for this meeting with a large delegation in attendance from Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, La Conner and Skagit County. Meeting began with a

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thank you to the Senator for helping to get USGS to the technical meeting; she then departed the meeting to attend to a vote that had been called on the floor of the Senate. The meeting continued with her staff including Legislative Director Evan Schatz, and Legislative Assistants Jamie Shimek and Sarah Bolton. The focus of this meeting was the GI Study with the request made that the Corps come up with a realistic scope and timeframe that includes a realistic level of funding. Evan reminded the group that Senator Murray's office had funded the GI for the past five years and continued to be supportive of the project.

Skagit County, City of Burlington and Consultants: Dan Berentson, Lorna Ellestad, Chal, Malcolm Leytham of Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, and Albert Liou of Pacific International Engineering met for dinner to finalize preparations for the technical conference the following morning.

Wednesday, March 17

FEMA technical conference, Skagit River hydrology: In addition to Skagit County and City of Burlington staff and consultants, this meeting was attended by Kevin Long, Chief, Engineering Management Branch, Mitigation Directorate, FEMA; Siamak Esfandiary, Ph.D., P.E., CFM, Program Specialist, Mitigation Directorate, Engineering Management Branch, FEMA; Ted Perkins, Hydraulic Engineer, FEMA Region X; Will Thomas, Michael Baker Corporation (FEMA's technical consultant); Zhida Song-James, Ph.D., P.H., CFM, Michael Baker Corporation; Ray Martinez, Michael Baker Corporation; Robert Mason, HQ USGS, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Water; John Hunter, P.E., HQ USACE Hydraulic Policy. Burlington Council Member Steve Sexton and La Conner Administrator John Doyle were able to attend the conference until 1:00 p.m. Adam LeMieux came to the conference about 4:00 p.m. This was a good technical conference in which the concerns about the hydrology were presented and discussed in depth by all participants. Commitments for followup actions: 1) Robert Mason stated the USGS would look again at the datum issue, likely using the resources of the Washington State Water Science Center. 2) Kevin Long indicated Michael Baker would check the hydraulic models provided by the County/City consultants to determine their accuracy (Siamak indicated his concern that the hydraulic models, instead of reducing uncertainty, would actually increase uncertainty. Zhida Song-James did not seem to share Siamak's pessimism. At any rate, Zhida will review the models). After these actions are complete, next steps will be determined. Will Thomas made a point of stating that it was FEMA's policy not to change its analysis if the change would not result in a correction of at least one standard error (about 14%). He stated that even if the historic flood data points were reduced to the PI Engineering estimates, the 100-year regulated peak discharge estimates would only change by 9% (this seems to get back to the "best science" vs. "defensible" argument – however, we note here that the Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and PI Engineering estimates for the 1921 peak discharge, 195,000 cfs and 170,000 cfs respectively, are 14.5% and 25.4% below the current USGS estimate of 228,000 cfs.) Robert Mason stated that the USGS did not have the resources to create a market for answers, but that there was new information presented that the USGS had not previously seen. John Hunter, Corps Headquarters, stated that the Corps did not consider a 100-year flood event to be a design standard. Overall, this conference, which was attended by some of the top experts in the country on these matters, provided the forum necessary for the County's, Cities' and Dike Districts' consultants to communicate concern about overstated hydrology, to people who understood the arguments.

Meeting with John Anderson, minority staff for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee: This meeting was set up by John Shultz on behalf of the Dike Districts to discuss draft Clean Water Act legislation. The meeting was attended by Mayors Brunz and Hayes, John A. Shultz, and Daryl Hamburg. John Anderson also invited two other staff members attend. Topics discussed included the potential for executive orders and legislation affecting surface water. It was John Anderson's opinion that the proposed Clean Water Restoration Act would not move forward, at least for the time being. This proposed legislation would include expanded definitions of what constitutes "waters of the United States." This is an issue of significant concern to flood and stormwater management agencies.

Meeting with Senators Cantwell and Murray for the Association of Washington Cities: This meeting was set up by AWC for the senators to brief AWC attendees on the status of legislation affecting Washington cities. From the Skagit group, it was attended by Mayors Brunz and Hayes, John Shultz and John A. Shultz. Delegations from other Washington cities in D.C. for the City conference also attended. Issues affecting Washington were discussed.

Senator Cantwell with Burlington and Dike Districts: This meeting was attended by Mayor Brunz, Council Member Sexton, Daryl Hamburg, John Shultz, and John A. Shultz. Discussion included the BNSF Skagit River bridge and the hydrology technical conference.

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Thursday, March 18

Meeting with Skagit County, Dike Districts and Burlington and Susan Gilson, Executive Director, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA): Topics discussed included prospects for legislation revising the Clean Water Act, and revisions to the Guidelines and Principles for federal projects and new legislation being proposed placing Levee Certification into the Corps realm of responsibility. Skagit County, Mount Vernon, Burlington and the Dike Districts are all members of NAFSMA. NAFSMA positions on water issues can be found on the NAFSMA web page, <http://www.nafsma.org/>.

Meeting with Jamie Schimek and Jason Park, Senator Murray's office, regarding Dike District issues: This meeting was set up to discuss Dike District issues and was attended by Daryl Hamburg, Mayor Brunz, Council Member Sexton, John Shultz, John A. Shultz, and Chal. Jamie is taking over from Carrie Desmond on flood issues. The group explained in general, issues related to levee vegetation and the BNSF Skagit River bridge.

Skagit County w/ Senator Murray's office: Dan Berentson and Lorna Ellestad met with Evan Schatz, Legislative Director, of Senator Murray's office. The focus of this meeting was funding for the General Investigation study and the expanded schedule recently drafted by the Seattle District. Evan indicated Senator Murray intended to seek the Corps capability figure (\$1.137 million) for FY11 and wanted the County to meet with the Senator face to face to discuss the Skagit GI in the near future.

Meeting with Betsy Robblee and Adam LeMieux, Congressman Larsen's office, regarding City of Burlington, flood issues, and the BNSF bridge issue: This meeting was attended by Daryl Hamburg, Mayor Brunz, Council Member Sexton, John Shultz, John A. Shultz, Chal, Dan Berentson and Lorna Ellestad. The meeting, originally planned for 30 minutes, was rescheduled and cut short. However, a basic discussion/update was provided.

Friday, March 19

Meeting with Tony Niles and Seattle District Staff re: GI study schedule and next steps: This meeting was set up to follow up on next steps involving the GI study, following the meeting earlier in the week. In the room in D.C. were Dan, Lorna, Chal, and Tony Niles (HQ Regional Integration Team Manager); on the phone from the Seattle District were Beth Coffee, Chief of Planning, Corps of Engineers; Linda Smith, Project Manager, Corps of Engineers, Amy Gibbons, Skagit River GI Project Manager, Corps of Engineers; and Mona Thomason, Planning Division, Seattle District Corps of Engineers. The discussion started with the new schedule. Mona stated she did not have a copy of the new schedule in front of her, but recalled that the review timelines seemed long. Lorna emphasized USACE HQ said it was critical to get the schedule to three years. Mona inquired why three years was important. Tony stated that at the meeting on Tuesday, "Gary Loew was in the room and said a project with a 5-year schedule was not a project with an end date in site and that it would take a three year schedule to get the project funded. Chal mentioned that the 3-year schedule needed to end with a completed Chief's Report September 30, 2013. Amy was concerned that there were too many measures and that evaluating all of the measures would take more time than was available. She said the local community must help reduce the number of measures. Lorna stated that the number of measures were a product of the "reach" analysis that the Corps put in place for its economic study. Many of the measures were simply repeated for each reach. Tony committed the Headquarters staff to look at what might be possible, insofar as reduced HQ review time. Amy was pessimistic about completing the necessary work at the Seattle District, essentially in two years. She also stated that she expected legal action by the Swinomish Tribe, based on her conversations with Larry Wasserman of the Swinomish Tribe, who was unhappy at the amount of funding (\$300,000) dedicated to environmental study. Amy believed Larry wanted at least \$1 million for environmental study. Linda Smith also stated that "if we're doing the dams, the Tribes will want a lot of environmental work." Amy asked for a commitment by the County that it would support the Corps hydrology if no changes came out of the technical conference two days earlier. Dan Berentson mentioned there was a need for both a vertical team meeting and an Executive Committee meeting. Tony agreed.

Combined travel expense for Mayor Brunz, Council Member Sexton, and Chal:

\$1905.51 hotel and air fare for three
\$ 702.00 approximate per diem for three
\$ 300.00 approximate for cabs, metro and luggage
\$2907.51

Respectfully Submitted,



Chal A. Martin, P.E.
Public Works Director / City Engineer

c: Trip Participants

City of Burlington, Mayor and Council
City of Mount Vernon, Mayor and Council
City of Sedro-Woolley, Mayor and Council
Town of La Conner, Mayor and Council
Skagit County Board of Commissioners
Dike District Commissioners, Dike Districts 1, 3, 12, 17, and 22

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Itinerary

Washington D.C. Itinerary, March 14-19, 2010
Cities of Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington;
Town of La Conner; Skagit County; Dike Districts 1, 12, and 17;
Mount Vernon School District; Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce

Sunday 14 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
9:00 p.m.	Arriving Skagit Partners	Hotel Restaurant	Red Roof Inn Hotel 500 H St. Northwest (202) 289-5959 Red Line, Gallery Place/China Town

Monday 15 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
7:00 – 8:00	Travel Team Update schedules and tasks	Hotel Restaurant	Red Roof Inn Hotel
8:00 – 5:00	National League of Cities (Check participant list – opportunity to meet with other cities with similar issues)	Conference Center	Marriot Wardman Park Red Line, Woodley Park/Zoo
9:30 – 10:00	Paul Wolfe (FEMA Issues) Wyatt King (New staff person: COE Issues) (Lead: Martin w/ Berg, Shultz, Shultz, Hanson, Rogerson)	Senator Cantwell’s Staff	511 Dirkson Red Line, Union Station
1:00 – 2:00	Edward Pritchard Director, FRA Office of Safety and Compliance Kenneth Rusk, Mark Brinck (Lead: Martin w/ Anderson, Brunz, Norris, Sexton, Berg, Shultz, Shultz, Hanson)	Federal Rail Administration (Issue: BNSF Skagit River Bridge)	1200 New Jersey Avenue Call from lobby for escort Edward (202) 493-6247 Mark (202) 493-6239 Green/Yellow Line: Archives/Navy Mem’l
2:00 p.m.	Jason Park w/ La Conner (Lead: Hayes w/ Doyle)	Senator Murray’s Office	173 Russell Red Line, Union Station
2:30 p.m.	Ben Byers, Capital Tour w/ Gallery pass (Shultz, Shultz, Anderson, Berg, Rogerson, Whitener, Bruner, -- Hayes and Doyle to join group late enroute – call Whitener cell phone 360-770-9952)	Start at Congressman Larsen’s office, 10 people	108 Cannon Orange/Blue Line: Capital South
3:15 p.m.	Travis Lumpkin w/ Burlington (Lead: Brunz w/ Sexton, Martin)	Senator Murray’s Office	173 Russell
4:15 p.m.	Travis Lumpkin w/ Sedro Woolley (Lead: Anderson w/ Berg)	Senator Murray’s Office	173 Russell
4:30 – 5:00	Jason Park (Skagit Flood Issues) (Lead: Martin w/ Berg, Shultz, Shultz, Hanson, Rogerson)	Senator Murray’s Office	173 Russell
5:30 – 7:00	AWC Reception (Entire travel team to attend)	Conference Center	Marriot Wardman Park Red Line, Woodley Park/Zoo
7:30 – 9:30	Dinner Meeting Travel Team	To be determined	TBD

Tuesday 16 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
6:00 – 7:30	Travel Team Update schedules and tasks	Hotel Restaurant	Hotel
8:00 – 5:00	National League of Cities (Check participant list – opportunity to meet with other cities with similar issues)	Conference Center	Marriot Wardman Park
8:15 – 9:30	Breakfast meeting w/ Joint Flood Issues Group (Anderson, Brunz, Hayes, Norris, Sexton, Hanson, Berg note: Hayes and Doyle arrive Baltimore 8:51 a.m. note: Brunz and Sexton depart 9:35 for meeting w/ Rock Salt and COE)		Hotel Restaurant
8:30 – 10:00	Doug Lamont, Tab Brown, Pete Luisa, Gary Loew, (and Anthony Niles, Carrie Hill from RIT): GI funding, schedule, and Baker Storage (Lead: Ellestad w/ Berentson, Martin)	Corps of Engineers	441 G St NW (1 block from hotel)
10:00 – 11:30	Rock Salt Dep. Asst. Secretary of the Army (Policy and Legislation) Steve Stockton Chief, Civil Works and James Dalton, Chief, Eng. & Const. HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers (Lead: Shultz w/Hamburg, Brunz, Sexton, Martin, Shultz, Berentson, Ellestad, LeMieux)	Assist Sec of Army (Civil Works) HQ, Corps of Engineers	441 G St NW
12:00 – 12:20	Congressman Larsen / Joint City County re: Skagit Flood Issues (note 12:30 conflict for County, below) (Staff Lead: Berg w/ Anderson, Brunz, Hayes, Norris, Sexton, Hanson)		108 Cannon
12:30 p.m.	Congressman Larsen w/ Mount Vernon (Lead: Norris w/ Hanson, Rogerson, Whitener, Bruner)	Cong. Larsen's Office	108 Cannon Orange/Blue Line: Capital South
12:30 – 1:00	Evan Schatz, Carrie Desmond and Travis Lumpkin w/ Skagit County Commissioner / staff (Lead: Berentson w/ Ellestad)	Senator Murray's Office	173 Russell Red Line, Union Station
12:45 p.m.	Congressman Larsen w/ Sedro-Woolley (Lead: Anderson w/ Berg)	Cong. Larsen's Office	108 Cannon

Tuesday 16 March (cont.)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
1:30 p.m.	Steve Pezetti (AFG Program, FEMA) (Lead: Anderson W/Berg)		800 K Street, RM 5060 (202) 786-9799
1:30 p.m.	Mo Fayyad and FERC Staff (Puget to join via teleconference) Compliance Division Baker Flood Storage (may mention Ross timing issue) (Lead: Martin w/ Brunz, Hayes, Norris, Sexton, Doyle, Hanson, Rogerson, Berentson, Ellestad, Shultz, Shultz, Hamburg)	FERC	888 First Street, NE Mo (202) 502-8759 Red Line, Union Station
2:30 p.m.	Senator Cantwell / Sedro-Woolley (Lead: Anderson w/ Berg)		511 Dirkson Red Line, Union Station
3:00 p.m.	Betsy Robblee and Adam w/ La Conner (Lead: Hayes w/ Doyle)	Cong. Larsen's Office	108 Cannon
3:00 p.m.	Senator Cantwell / Mount Vernon (Lead: Norris w/ Hanson, Rogerson, Whitener, Bruner)		511 Dirkson
4:00 p.m.	Senator Murray, Evan Schatz and Sarah Bolton w/ Mount Vernon (Lead: Norris w/ Hanson, Rogerson, Whitener, Bruner)		173 Russell
4:45 p.m.	Senator Cantwell / Joint City County re: Skagit Flood Issues (Staff Lead: Berg w/ Anderson, Brunz, Hayes, Norris, Sexton, Hanson)		511 Dirkson
5:45 p.m.	Senator Murray, Evan Schatz and Carrie Desmond Joint City County re: Skagit Flood Issues (Staff Lead: Berg w/ Anderson, Brunz, Hayes, Norris, Sexton, Hanson)		173 Russell
7:30 – 9:00	Prep Mtg w/ Consultants for FEMA tech conference Wed. (Leads: Martin/Ellestad w/ Berentson)	Hotel Restaurant	
7:30 – 9:30	Dinner Meeting Travel Team	To be determined	TBD

Wednesday 17 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
7:30 – 8:30	Travel Team Update schedules and tasks	Hotel Restaurant	Hotel
8:00 – 5:00	FEMA, COE, USGS Tech Conference Hydrology (Leads: Martin / Ellestad w/ Berentson, Sexton, Doyle)	Michael Baker Jr. (Call 6 th floor reception at (703) 960-8800. Meeting is in the Capitol Room)	3601 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22304 Yellow Line, Eisenhower
9:00 a.m.	Coffee hosted by Senator Murray (Can be attended by travel team members <u>not</u> otherwise scheduled to see the Senator in person)		173 Russell Red Line, Union Station
10:00 – 11:00	John Anderson, PhD, P.E. Minority Chief of Staff Water Resources & Environ. Subcommittee (Lead: Shultz w/ Hamburg, Brunz, Hayes, Shultz)	House Trans & Infr. Cmte	Rayburn, B-375
11:30 – 12:30	Senators Murray and Cantwell (Set up for AWC members attending City Conference) (Shultz, Shultz, Hamburg, Brunz, Hayes)		188 Russell
2:15 p.m.	Senator Cantwell / La Conner (Lead: Hayes w/ Doyle)		511 Dirkson
4:30 p.m.	Senator Cantwell / Burlington (Lead: Brunz w/ Sexton, Shultz, Shultz, Hamburg)		511 Dirkson
7:00 – 9:00	Dinner Meeting Consultants / Travel Team Review Tech Conference outcome and next steps		TBD

Thursday 18 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
6:30 – 8:00	Travel Team Update schedules and tasks	Hotel Restaurant	Red Roof Inn Hotel
8:00 – 12:00	FEMA, COE, USGS Tech Conference Hydrology (reserved to follow on if necessary for specific issues or clarifications)	FEMA Mitigation Division	500 C Street SW Or Baker Jr. HQ
1:00 – 1:30	Susan Gilson Executive Director Discussion: NAFSMA issues relevant to Skagit meetings (Lead: Martin w/ Brunz, Sexton, Berentson, Ellestad, Shultz, Shultz, Hamburg)	National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies	1333 H Street NW West Tower, 10 th Floor (202) 289-8625 Cell 202 368-9088
2:30 p.m.	Carrie Desmond and Jason Park (Dike District issues) (Leads: Shultz, Hamburg w/ Brunz, Sexton, Martin, Shultz, Berentson, Ellestad)	Senator Murray's Office	173 Russell
3:30 – 4:00	Betsy Robblee and Adam Burlington and DD issues (joint) (Leads: Brunz, Hamburg w/ Sexton, Martin, Shultz, Shultz)	Cong. Larsen's Office	108 Cannon
7:00 – 9:00	Dinner Meeting Travel Team	To be determined	TBD

Friday, 19 March

<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting With</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Location / Phone</u>
7:00 – 9:00	Travel Team Update schedules and tasks	Hotel Restaurant	Hotel
10:00 – 11:00	Tony Niles and Seattle District (Lead: Ellestad w/ Berentson, Martin)	HQ USACE	441 G St. NW