

Handout #2

MEETING SUMMARY

**Advisory Committee Meeting #20
Flood Control Zone District
April 19, 2010 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Location

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

Meeting Purpose

For the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Advisory Committee (AC) members to conduct normal business and:

1. FCZD AC and TC Membership Updates
2. Funding
3. CFHMP Draft Update Status - Chapters 5 – 8
4. Washington, D.C. Trip
5. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments (if any)

Introduction

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to AC meeting #20.

Public Comment

Dan O'Donnell presented a resolution on behalf of the Skagit County Democratic Party regarding Flood Control. It has been submitted to U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen. No action has taken place thus far.

Acceptance of April 19, 2010 AC Meeting Summary

It was moved by Stan Nelson, and seconded by Larry Kunzler to accept the February 16, 2010 AC meeting summary as presented by staff. Motion carried 11/0/0.

Regular Report Outs

County Engineer: Dan Berentson spoke on behalf of the County Engineer. The County is still going through an interview process to pick a Director for the department. Berentson is no longer Communications Director for the County. He now works solely in the Natural Resources Division of Public Works.

Skagit River General Investigation (Skagit GI): Lorna Ellestad reported the meeting with Senator Patty Murray in Washington, D.C. was very successful in that this is the first time the Skagit GI has received support for full funding from congressional representatives. Now, the County must find sources for its match requirements should it receive the full funding.

The County, cities, dike districts, and others also met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) headquarters in Washington, D.C. to discuss the end date for the study, and the Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) issue. In the meantime, NHC is still under contract with the County and continues to review the H&H and list of measures.

After the technical conference, FEMA decided it will not release its maps until the review of the hydrology has been completed.

Ellestad introduced Amy Gibbons, USACE, who is leaving the Corps. Gibbons introduced Dan Johnson, USACE, who will be taking her place as Project Manager for the Skagit GI. Johnson has been reviewing the study over the last month, and hopes to meet the schedule. He looks forward to working with the County.

Washington, D.C. Trip: Chal Martin, City of Burlington, agreed the trip was a success because of the Senator's support. The meeting regarding H&H was well received. The meetings concerning the Skagit GI centered around reducing the schedule from five years to three years. The group also met with FERC to discuss Baker storage. The follow-up meeting, back in Skagit County, with Senator Murray was very beneficial, because several people representing various areas of the community were able to show they have the same focus.

CFHMP Drafting Subcommittee: The subcommittee did not meet; no report.

Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC): The DDTC did not meet; no report.

Environmental Technical Committee (ETC): The ETC met on Tuesday, March 23, and Bob Carey spoke on behalf of the group. With Larry Wasserman's and Stan Walsh's resignations, the Committee elected Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council, to be the representing ETC member for the AC. Neil Borman was elected as Chair, and Carolyn Kelly was elected as Vice Chair. The group discussed that while it can not select measures, (do to lack of environmental information), it feels it can still review the other chapters of the draft CFHMP. Also, the group would like to better understand the relation between the CFHMP and the Skagit GI.

Land Use Technical Committee (LUTC): The LUTC did not meet; no report.

Flood Historian: Kunzler was asked to provide documentation, at the previous meeting, when he stated the Skagit River used to flow south. In response to this, he brought a piece from James E. Stewart's work, done through USGS, which can be found in chapter 2 of the draft CFHMP. It states the Skagit River's flow south was due to glacial movements, and it describes the path it took years ago. Kunzler mentioned that in his own investigations, of certain areas in the county, many of the rocks here came from Canada as well. This, too, is due to glacial movements. More flood information can be viewed online at www.skagitriverhistory.com.

Funding

Boudinot opened the discussion with two questions: 1.) How does the County plan to fund the Skagit GI and 2.) Is it possible to devote a source of funding towards building projects? The County is going to need a dedicated funding source in order to meet its match requirement for funding the Skagit GI, which comes to approximately \$2 million over the next two years. The Board of Skagit County Commissioners (BCC) is going to have to decide how the County goes about meeting this match. Currently, the City of Burlington is entering into an interlocal with the County to contribute \$40,000 for the next two years. Funding will have to come from several sources, however. Not only does the Skagit GI need funding, but any future flood risk reduction projects will need funding too.

The general discussion surrounded the possibility of a tax; preferably a sales tax. Kunzler fully supports putting a sales tax to the public for a vote. Boudinot pointed out the Farmland Legacy program taxes the county, but has found several other sources to support its endeavors, as

well. Mayor Ed Brunz felt the topic should be taken back to each jurisdiction's constituents. Carey pointed out it is important to "tell the story" before asking for money. Kunzler added "the story" is that the County needs funding for the planning process of the Skagit GI. Daryl Hamburg also shared that it is critical to have several options to pursue should a sales tax not be successful. It was finally decided the BCC and County senior staff should be present for this conversation at the next AC meeting.

CFHMP

It was suggested pictures of local flooding be displayed in the plan.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. There were no assignments for the Technical Committees.
2. Continue funding conversation with Skagit County staff.

The next AC meeting will be on May 17, 2010, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 19, 2010:

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			
Brunz, Mayor Ed	Cities and Towns	City of Burlington	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			
Hamburg, Daryl	DDTC	Dike District #17	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 Esco Bell	
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light		X		
Solomon, Shirley	ETC	Skagit Watershed Council	X			

OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 19, 2010:

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
Symonds, Kara	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Ertel, Cory	Skagit and Island Counties Building Assoc.
Gibbons, Amy	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Johnson, Dan	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Loop, Teresa	Puget Sound Energy
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Shultz, John R.	Dike Districts #1 and #12