

MEETING SUMMARY

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Flood Control Zone District
July 25, 2011 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Location

Commissioners' Hearing 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. To received updates on the Biological Opinion, NEPA Meeting, Feasibility Scoping Meeting Report, Narrative and Flood Sequence, Skagit GI/CFHMP Funding, Dike District 17 Levees, and FERC Relicensing Article 107 (c).
2. To determine next steps and Technical Committees assignments (if any)

Introduction

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

Carol Ehlers reported on a resource that shows all the pipelines in the county. This information can be located at www.wutc.wa.gov. She pointed out the infrastructure at the Berentson Bridge, and suggested the Environmental Technical Committee use SEPA guidelines to review the effects of what the Avon Bypass would do to the area.

Acceptance of November 15, 2010 AC Meeting Summary

Jason Easton made the motion to accept the meeting summary. Daryl Hamburg seconded. Motion passed (8/0/0).

Commissioners' Comment:

Commissioner Ron Wesen thanked the group for its efforts to work on flood issues in the county. Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt pointed out all the work being accomplished on the levees. He stressed funding will continue to be a challenge, but that the county must move forward, because flooding is a real threat to the area. Therefore, it is important to review fiscally sound options.

Biological Opinion:

Tim Devries, Skagit County Planning and Development Services, reported on the Biological Opinion, which is designed to protect endangered species. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires the county adopts certain regulations and procedures in order to protect Chinook and Orcas. The county has chosen to provide protection through critical areas, flood damage prevention, and shoreline ordinances. The county must be approved and compliant by September 22, 2011. The changes made to the ordinances will be felt by most landowners in the floodplain, unless they never consider a project.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Skagit River General Investigation (GI):

Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works, reported on a public meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 10. The

USACE is posting a notice in the National Register stating its intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement for the Skagit River GI. Interested parties, such as the public, government agencies, dike districts, and tribes are welcome to comment on the scoping process during a 30-day period. The purpose of this meeting is to identify concerns, locate information resources, and determine what is acceptable amongst the measures. Areas to be analyzed in depth include flooding, habitats, and impacts to resources and surrounding communities.

Feasibility Scoping Meeting Read Ahead Report:

Dan Berentson, Skagit County Public Works, reported on the USACE Headquarters' request to meet in Washington D.C. regarding the reset of the Skagit GI. Those in attendance included Berentson, Lorna Ellestad, Commissioner Dahlstedt, Mayor Ed Brunz, Mayor Ramon Hayes, John Doyle, Daryl Hamburg, Esco Bell, and Mayor Mike Anderson. It was determined work would continue on the Skagit GI with the intent to finish the Feasibility Scoping Meeting Read Ahead Report, which is to be completed by October 1, 2011.

Ellestad, Skagit County Public Works, added the community support was positive, and the USACE appreciated hearing how flooding affects the community. The county was tasked with how it will formulate alternatives due to the complexity of the basin's system. A method is needed for evaluating the measures that are put into the alternatives.

Narrative and Flood Sequence:

Berentson spoke to the narrative and flood sequence that will preface the Feasibility Scoping Meeting Read Ahead Report. This was compiled by county staff, Chal Martin, Eron Berg, Hamburg, and John Shultz. The introduction lays out the basin's characteristics and provides a sequence of events during a flood.

Skagit River GI/Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) Funding:

Berentson stated funding for the Skagit GI and CFHMP is minimal. Ellestad reported the USACE does not have a process for funding any of its GI's. The USACE will develop a budget and will most likely work under continuing resolutions. USACE Headquarters has told USACE District to find money to finish the Skagit GI. Flood Control Assistance Account Program funding ended in 2009. The Washington State Department of Ecology will be unable to fund the Skagit GI under the flood projects budget as well.

Berentson added, that in 2010, it was anticipated the Skagit GI can be completed within three years for about \$3.2 million. In light of the state of the economy, however, the county's been told to instead position itself to finish the study when funding is available.

Regarding the CFHMP, county staff is planning to gather pieces of the plan and identify gaps before giving it to a consultant. Bob Carey suggested the county meet with King and Pierce counties to find out what they have done to move forward with their plans.

Dike District 17 Levees:

Hamburg, Dike District 17 (DD17), spoke to the work on his district's levees. After the flood in 2006, DD17 began repairs the next year. A 5-year process has been implemented in order for DD17 to finish its work on the levees. A series of fish habitat measures will be constructed including lifts, weirs, logs with rootwads, and rock. Though there have been a few contracting issues, the project is moving along well. The cost to date is \$8.75 million. Pictures will be posted on Larry Kunzler's website at <http://www.skagitriverhistory.com/>.

Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) Relicensing Article 107 (c):

Martin, City of Burlington, reported on Article 107 (c) as being an opportunity to provide additional flood storage, as needed. It is beneficial to drawdown more water than has been agreed upon, before a flood takes place, because it reduces the risk of flooding and severe damages to fish habitat. Currently, 74,000 acre feet of flood storage is authorized, but the county, towns and cities feel this is inadequate for a 100-year flood event. Instead, 140,000 acre feet should be authorized. Puget Sound Energy does not want to study this issue nor does it want to amend the articles or settlement agreement.

Berentson added staff will have a work session with the Board of County Commissioners on August 2 regarding this matter. Ellestad also added there will be a Baker River Aquatic Resource Group meeting on August 9, and reminded everyone of the NEPA meeting with the USACE on August 10.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting:

1. Boudinot's Resignation – elect new Chair
2. Betsy Stevenson to possibly speak about the Shoreline Master Program Update

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy
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	LUTC	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			Gary Jones X
Norris, Mayor Bud	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon		X	
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light		X	
Solomon, Shirley	ETC	Skagit Watershed Council	X		

*** DRAFT ***

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

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Dahlstedt, Commissioner Ken	Skagit County
Devries, Tim	Skagit County Planning & Dev. Services
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Ertel, Cory	Puget Sound Energy
Fisher, Polly	Skagit Marine Resources Committee
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
Martin, Katie	Skagit Valley Herald
Shultz, John	Attorney for Dike Districts 1 and 12
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Powell, Bob	Skagit County Public Utility District #1
Wesen, Commissioner Ron	Skagit County