

Meeting Summary
Advisory Committee
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District
June 9, 2008, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Skagit County Continental Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA

Meeting Purpose:

1. Begin efforts to update the Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) in coordination with the Skagit River General Investigation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2. Hear about participant interviews and consider input and impact on the course forward for this planning process
3. Organize and elect a Chair and Vice Chair
4. Determine next steps and schedule

Welcome and Introductions:

- Tom Karsh, Skagit County Public Works, welcomed everyone to the inaugural Advisory Committee (AC) meeting. Notebooks and handouts were identified. Committee members, County staff and County consultants introduced themselves.
- It was noted that committee member Todd Carlson was being represented by his proxy, Kerri Woehler from the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Jim Voetberg, P.E., Director, Skagit County Department of Public Works, welcomed the new AC members and challenged them to “be heroes” by recognizing the devastating impact severe floods have on everyday activities, and to work collaboratively on flood management plans most likely to result in meaningful flood damage reduction measures benefiting all County stakeholders.

Public Comment

- Bob Wheeler, County consultant with Triangle Associates, asked for comment from the public and noted that this would be a fixture at future AC meetings.
- No comments were received.

Presentations

- Cynthia Carlstad (Tetra Tech Consultant Team) provided a PowerPoint overview of the preliminary results of a recent local stakeholder survey regarding the challenges and possible solutions for flood management in Skagit County. Interviews were designed to provide an early opportunity for participants and persons interested in the update of the CFHMP and other activities of the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) to share their perspectives on how best to reduce flood risk and recover salmon in Skagit County. The purpose for these interviews is to assist in designing the CFHMP development process such that consensus agreement can be achieved among participants. Confidential interviews were held with approximately 50 stakeholders with expertise and experience in local

flood management and salmon recovery efforts. A memorandum summarizing key themes and important messages will soon be completed and made available to the public.

Other Agenda Topics

- Questions and comments were solicited from the AC members regarding the preliminary survey take-a-ways as presented by the consultants. This evolved into a general discussion regarding the structure of the FCZD, the role and composition of the AC, and how decisions will be made by the AC.
- The AC engaged in discussion about Technical Committee assignments. Specific suggestions about possible assignments for the Land Use committee were discussed briefly, and the group discussed the balance between a “bottom-up” approach from the Technical Committees and the need to carefully think through and prioritize assignments for the sake of efficiency and productive efforts. It was suggested to review the list of solutions raised from the interviews as a group, identifying “pros and cons” and information needs. This exercise may result in Technical Committee assignments.
- Ric Boge, Surface Water Manager, Skagit County Public Works, directed the AC to “Guiding Principles” from the Skagit County Board of Supervisors and other organizational directives that were provided in the handout materials in the AC member notebooks.
- Bob Wheeler facilitated the next phase of the meeting, which focused on AC organizational matters.
 - The following were elected AC Chair and Vice Chair by consensus:
 - Chair: Bob Boudinot, P.E., representing Skagit Land Trust
 - Vice Chair: Ramon Hayes, Mayor, Town of LaConner
 - Starting August 18 all future AC meetings will be on the 3rd Monday of each month from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Skagit County Continental Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA. The next meeting will be on Monday, July 14.
 - AC meeting agendas will routinely provide an opportunity for
 - Public Comment
 - Review and approval of previous meeting summary
 - Technical Committee Reports
 - County/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Update
- Next AC meeting agenda to include the following topics:
 - Committee report-outs (including Skagit GI)
 - Update on Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
 - Structure and composition of FCZD and AC
 - AC groundrules – discuss/decide on two-meeting rule for some decisions
 - Initial consideration of solutions, alternatives, approaches and their pros and cons
 - Technical Committee assignments
 - Update on status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Measures Report

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Present at Meeting:

Advisory Committee

Name

Anderson, Mayor Mike
Boudinot, Bob
Carey, Bob
Easton, Jason
Flaig, Dean

Representing

City of Sedro-Woolley
Skagit Land Trust
The Nature Conservancy
Washington Realtors
Drainage District 21

Halverson, Leonard
Hayes, Mayor Ramon
Hughes, Robert
Kunzler, Larry
Nelson, Stanley
Olson, David
Pflug, Dave
Norris, Mayor Bud
Wasserman, Larry

Sterling Area
Town of LaConner
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Skagit River Flood Historian
Dike District 22
Dike District 3
Seattle City Light
City of Mount Vernon
Swinomish Indian Tribe

Consultants

Name

Carlstad, Cynthia
Wheeler, Bob

Representing

Tetra Tech
Triangle Associates

County Staff

Name

Boge, Ric
Ellestad, Lorna
Karsh, Tom
MacMullen, Meghan
Miller, Jeff
See, Mike
Voetberg, Jim
Berentson, Dan

Representing

Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit County Public Works

Also In Attendance

Name

Decker, Miriam
DenHerder, Rod
Ehlers, Carol

Representing

Puget Sound Energy
URS
Citizen

Also In Attendance cont.

Name

Francois, Charyl
Hamburg, Daryl
Honea, Will
Middleton, Jack
O'Donnell, Dan
Schroeder, James
Schwartz, Ralph
Smith, Linda
Vanderkooy, Jason

Representing

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dike District 17
Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney
Bay View Area
LaConner Town Council
The Nature Conservancy
Skagit Valley Herald
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dike District 1