

SKAGIT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2007

Flood Control Committee Members:

Charles Bennett – Present	Dave Olson – Present
William LaRue – Present	Daryl Hamburg – Present
Jack Billman, Jr. – Not Present	Fred DeVries – Not Present
Ed Lipsey – Present	Herb Hanson – Present
Dan O'Donnell – Present	Ken Johnson – Present
Eileen Warchow – Not Present	Leonard Halverson – Present
Esco Bell – Not Present	Don Moe – Present
Richard Smith – Present	Konrad Kurp – Not Present
Mark Freiberger for Erin Berg – Present	Chal Martin for Gus Tjeerdsma – Present
Gary T. Jones – Present	

Others in attendance: Carol Ehlers, Bob Helton, Ardyth Scalf, Harvey Scalf, Chuck Steele, Konrad Kurp, Ric Boge, Lorna Ellestad, Mark Watkinson, Dan Cain, and Delores McLeod.

Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll was called.

Flood Control Zone District

Lorna Ellestad, Skagit River Feasibility Study Project Manager, presented the information to be given to the Skagit County Commissioners tomorrow in the form of a resolution and alternatives to establish the Flood Control Zone District. Handouts were provided. Discussion ensued regarding structure of the proposed district committees and the areas of representation.

Skagit River Feasibility Study / GI / Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

Lorna Ellestad updated the Flood Control Committee regarding the Skagit River Feasibility Study project. She reviewed the Army Corps of Engineers' Project Management Plan (PMP) and advised that the Statement of Qualifications for consultants for the design and planning portion of the project is currently being prepared. Handouts were provided. The Corp will provide a "redline" version of the PMP incorporating the Tribe's comments. Consultants for the design and planning portion of the project will be selected with input from the Flood Control Zone District committee members similar to the process used to select Anchor Environmental as the Levee set-back project environmental consultant.

Skagit River Bridge Modification & Interstate Highway Protection Project Update

Ric Boge, Skagit County Surface Water Manager, advised that Tuesday, November 13th is the scheduled Open House from 4:30 to 7:30 to discuss potential environmental impacts of this project. Anchor Environmental is under contract for necessary environmental studies on the project and will be leading the Open House meeting. Funding for this project came from a 2005 Federal money earmark by Congressman Rick Larsen. Considerable discussion took place regarding levee set-backs, purchase of properties, the phasing of the project, areas to be included and funds distribution and appropriation.

Preparations for Possible FEMA Flood Insurance Study Appeal

Ric Boge updated the audience regarding the process for appeal and stressed the importance of the local jurisdictions working together. He advised the audience that the County has entered into an agreement with Bart Freedman and Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, Preston, Gates & Ellis, LLP, to provide legal counsel, representation and negotiation services for dealing with FEMA on matters relating to the new 100-year base flood elevation maps under development. Early 2008 is the latest target date given for the flood maps release.

Skagit River Gauging Stations – Who pays/benefits?

Ric Boge announced that Skagit County has again received the annual bill from USGS in the amount of \$32,050 for maintenance of the several gauges located in Skagit County. He explained that the County seeks a partnership with the local cities/towns and dike/drainage districts to share the costs of ensuring the efficient gauge operation. Vandalism at the Sauk gauge recently caused several thousand dollars in damages. USGS has asked the County to help with the cost just to replace the cableway at the Sauk station, expected to be about \$27,000. Ric said the County has committed to USGS to help with this cost and he has been in discussions with Chuck Bennett regarding a cost share with DD 12 on this. Lorna Ellestad added that over 150 USGS gauges have been closed throughout the U.S. in recent years due to lack of funding.

Skagit County Incident Command/Flood Structure

Mark Watkinson, Skagit County Department of Emergency Management Coordinator, and Dan Cain, Skagit County Interim Director of Emergency Management and Fire Marshall explained the process the County has updated utilizing the nationally required Incident Command System (ICS) structure. The structure will be utilized during emergency events including any future flood events. Better documentation and allocation of resources are improvements that will be made in emergency events with the new system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.