

**Handout #2**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Advisory Committee Meeting #17  
Flood Control Zone District  
November 16, 2009 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. Discuss CFHMP draft update status
2. Start discussion about funding options
3. Discuss non-structural measures; evacuation, emergency services
4. To determine next steps and Technical Committee assignments (if any).

**Introduction**

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to AC meeting #17.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Acceptance of October 19, 2009 AC Meeting Summary**

It was moved by Mike Anderson, and seconded by Larry Kunzler to accept the October 19, 2009 AC meeting summary as presented by staff. Motion carried 13/0/1. Bud Norris abstained, because he did not attend the October meeting.

**Regular Report Outs**

**County Engineer:** Dan Berentson spoke on behalf of the County Engineer. The County is in the process of finding a director for Public Works. Tom Ballard remains the interim Director.

Berentson attended the Nearshore Scoping meeting, which was put on by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is an \$18 million General Investigation (GI) that covers 2,500 miles of Puget Sound shoreline. He also attended a conference hosted by USACE and The Nature Conservancy.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** Lorna Ellestad attended the NAFSMA conference. She gave an update on the Skagit GI and mentioned that the USACE will no longer be participating in these meetings.

**CFHMP Drafting Subcommittee:** Meghan MacMullen presented chapters 5 and 7 of the Draft CFHMP, and reiterated a request for input from the AC. Kunzler stated the historical chapter is complete.

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

**Environmental Technical Committee (ETC):** The ETC did not meet; no report.

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

**Flood Historian:** Kunzler talked about an article comparing the 1990 and 1951 floods on Fir Island. He also addressed the discrepancy as to whether or not the water rose or fell when the levees broke on Fir Island in 1990. While the water rose when the second levee broke, the water initially fell when the first levee gave way.

### **Funding Options**

If a project is chosen to reduce flood risk in Skagit County, how would it be funded? Boudinot opened the discussion by handing out three documents: a presentation given by David Brookings in 2007, a table compiled from the Assessor's database (by Emma Whitfield, Skagit County Public Works), showing the Dike and Drainage Districts' monies received every year, and a report on Levy rates by Kunzler.

The presentation revealed the River Improvement fund has been used in the past when there was a match from other entities. The Drainage Utility fund cannot be used towards flood funding. While, the Flood Control Zone District can impose taxes, but would duplicate taxes on the Dike and Drainage Districts.

Kunzler feels a sales tax would be a suitable funding source, while Norris felt it might be viewed as a deterrent to those who shop in the area. Daryl Hamburg pointed out that a sales tax reaches a larger group of people, but taxes those who do not experience the direct impact of flooding.

Other sources of money include funding for restoration projects. Bob Carey said funding might be available, if there are recreational opportunities included in a project as well. There are many grant-funding sources that can reduce local cost-share requirements.

### **Non-Structural Measures**

Mark Watkinson, Skagit County Emergency Management, was invited to speak about evacuation plans in Skagit County. He explained there is no multi-jurisdictional evacuation plan at this time; Burlington is the only city that has one. Liability is a concern when a plan becomes formal. However, a possible evacuation route could send people in the eastern portion of the County from Highway 20 to Highway 9, (should either highway still be open to traffic), then to Interstate 5 South. It is a subject to be discussed further in a future meeting.

### **Suggested Next Steps and Meeting**

1. There were no assignments for the Technical Committees.
2. FEMA Flood Maps Discussion with a FEMA Representative
3. Non-Structural Measures

The next AC meeting will be on January 19, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON November 16, 2009:**

<b>ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Proxy</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>
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 Gary Jones	
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			
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light	X			
Wasserman, Larry	ETC	Swinomish Indian Tribe			X Stan Walsh	

**OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON November 16, 2009:**

<b>STAFF</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Ellestad, Lorna	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works

<b>OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Borman, Neil	Marine Resources Committee
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
Fischer, Polly	Marine Resources Committee
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Lagerlund, Nels	Agricultural Advisory Board
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
Miller, Curt	Miller Construction
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner Council
Shelby, Mike	Western WA Agricultural Association
Shultz, John	Dike Districts #1 and #12
Watkinson, Mark	Skagit County Emergency Management
Wilson, Elliot	Skagit Valley Herald