

Skagit Flood Risk Management Working Group Draft Meeting Notes

May 22, 2001

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Attachment 1. Agenda

Attachment 2. Attendance List

The sixth meeting of the Skagit Flood Risk Management Working Group was held on Thursday, May 22nd, 2001 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Burlington Chamber of Commerce building. A copy of the agenda is included as Attachment 1 and an attendance list is included as Attachment 2. The meeting began around 9:15 AM after the attendees had an opportunity to sign in, acknowledge others and take their seats.

I. Approval of Minutes from April 26th

Valerie Lee, the **facilitator**, welcomed the group and stated that the goals for the meeting were to learn about events since the last Working Group meeting on April 26th and to discuss the alternatives in light of the new developments. She asked the group if anyone had any changes to the notes from April 26th.

Ed Capasso mentioned that he had been credited with a statement that **Will Roozen** or **Chuck Bennett** had made, and the minutes were corrected.

Leonard Halverson mentioned an e-mail that **Larry Kunzler** had sent. In it, **Larry** referenced a letter from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the Colonel at the Corps of Engineers (Corps) that had been sent as part of the informational packet for the meeting on May 22nd. That letter stated that in the April 26th Working Group meeting, FWS had learned that Skagit County was considering removing language in the Skagit River Flood Feasibility Planning Aid letter that included fish and wildlife habitat improvement in the project purpose. FWS urged that the Corps retain that language. Neither **Larry** nor **Leonard** had heard a discussion regarding the removal of that language in during the April 26th meeting, nor was it recorded in the minutes, and they wished to know more about it. The **facilitator** confirmed that she had heard some discussion to that effect and also asked if anyone else could add information.

Dave Brookings offered that he believed the letter was in response to his comment to agencies in the April 26th meeting reminding them that the primary reason for this project is flood control and mitigating the impacts of floods. He had stated that, although partnerships with agencies and others who care about fish and wildlife habitat were important, lower Skagit River restoration was not the primary purpose of the project. He trusted that partnerships could be found that would not delay or add expenses to the project. **Leonard** said the letter had sounded like the County was going to drop all focus on environmental improvements.

The **facilitator** suggested that the group forbear discussing the nuances of the project purpose. She believed the area of overlap was greater than the differences between the various positions. **Dave** agreed, cautioning that he simply felt that many different goals were being expected of the project, and although he believed in forming partnerships, the County might not have the financial resources to do everything.

The **facilitator** asked if **Leonard** or anyone in the group believed that the minutes from April 26th should be changed to reflect **Dave**'s comment. **Leonard** did not think that they needed to be changed. The notes from April 26th were approved.

II. Next Steps in the Planning Process

Stephen Pierce explained that the Corps was concluding the first stage of the planning process. Because of limited funds, the Corps can only study one or two alternatives further before deciding on a course of action.

Mike Scuderi said that his role is putting together the environmental impact statement (EIS). For an EIS, he said he would need to study a broad spectrum of alternatives in order to give the County enough information to choose between alternatives. The 10% design for seven action alternatives has already been done, but he still needs to do environmental analysis for them. Once the preferred alternative has been identified, it will be taken to 35% design. The only reason that **Mike** could potentially eliminate an alternative from the environmental analysis would be if it were not technically, economically or legally feasible.

In other words, **Stephen** is doing the feasibility study that proves that the projects could be done and would be cost-effective. **Mike** needs to draft the EIS. For that he must look at a reasonable range of alternatives that are feasible in terms of laws, engineering and cost. All alternatives are taken to a 10% design option, while one alternative that has been designated the preferred alternative is taken to a 35% design option. **Mike** explained that they were basically betting that the preferred alternative would be chosen.

Corey Schmidt asked whether one alternative was to do nothing. **Mike** affirmed that there must be a no-action alternative considered.

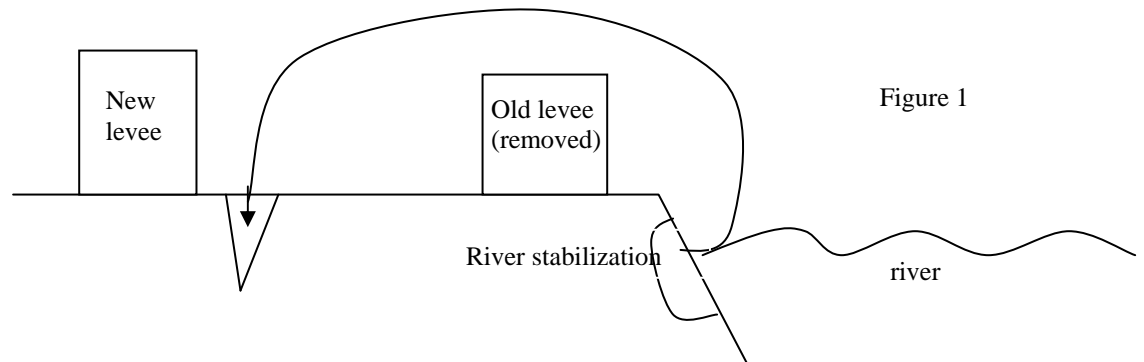
Mike offered an example of the differences between a 10% and a 35% project design. For the 10% design the Corps will take a map of the wetlands drawn by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and compare it to the Corps tentative plans to determine the wetlands affected. For the 35% design, wetland delineations will be performed for the area affected. For cultural resources at 10% design, the Corps would do "windshield surveys," driving through the area and assessing the likelihood of the cultural resources sites. For 35% surveys, workers would be doing field work and digging holes to determine with more accuracy what cultural resources would be impacted. However, field work would not need to be done for all aspects of a 35% design. For example, the fisheries data on the Skagit are very extensive. It is likely that much of that data could be used in the EIS.

Mike explained that an EIS simply presents the impacts and benefits of the available alternatives and solicits public comment on the project. The County will choose the final alternative from the list.

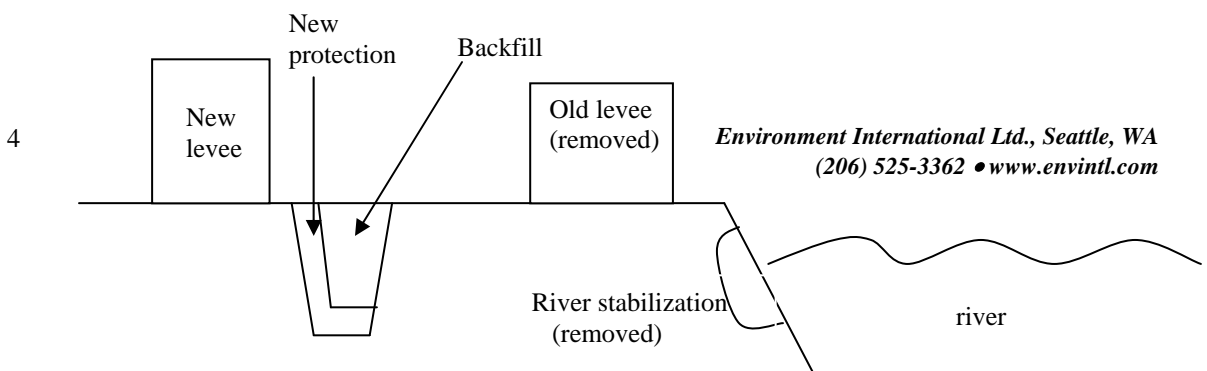
The **facilitator** asked about mitigation. **Mike** explained that an EIS is done for a project that will have significant environmental impacts. The law specifies that the federal agency planning such a project must first avoid environmental impacts, then, if avoidance is not possible, reduce the impacts and compensate for them. The compensation is also called mitigation. For example, if a project impacts 20 acres of riparian forest, the developer might need to restore more than 20 acres of riparian forest elsewhere. The Working Group's role is to help the County identify the range of alternatives and specify a preferred alternative.

Leonard asked whether a 35% study of one alternative might also be applicable for other alternatives. **Mike** confirmed that there would definitely be overlap. The **facilitator** also agreed, mentioning that **Stephen** had broken down the alternatives into 3 families: diversion (Swinomish or Samish), setbacks or overtopping. Additionally, for the EIS, there must be a no action alternative. The no action alternative can be used as a measuring stick for the other alternatives.

Stephen explained that many of the issues people were raising were based on the uncertainty of the 10% drawings. For example, he mentioned the removal of rock on the riverbank. Although no formal drawings were ready, he reminded the group of the drawing he had made of levee setbacks without bank excavation during the April 26th meeting.



The Corps was examining a slightly different option. **Stephen** drew a new picture.



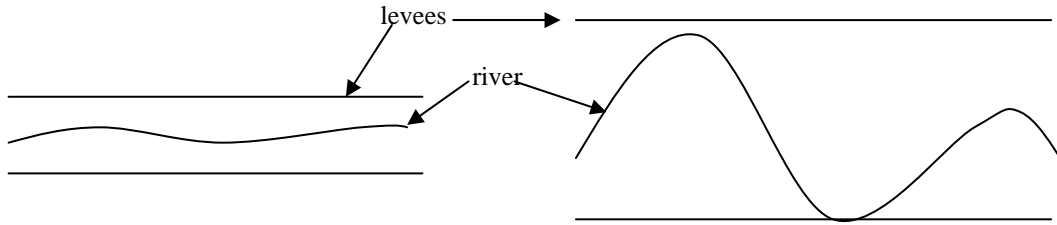
The new protection including toe rock for the new levee would be placed at its base and the hole would be filled. **Stephen** did not know if the backfill would be clay. He also was not sure the depth of the new protection and toe rock. **Ed Capasso** asked how many miles of levees would be set back. **Stephen** responded that for Alternatives 2 and 5, it would be on the north and the south fork, downstream from Mt. Vernon. The cost would be approximately 30 million dollars.

Chuck Bennett asked why the riprap would need to be removed. **Mike** responded that the potential benefits for fish would be much greater with riprap removed. Studies have shown that Chinook prefer a channel that is not lined with rock. If the rock is removed and replaced with natural cover such as trees and shrubs, the river becomes more mobile and habitat diversity increases. Cut banks are very good for fish, for example. **Ed** asked whether the riprap-lined banks currently provide habitat for the fish. **Mike** agreed that the riprap provides some habitat, but the quality is very low. Data from a Skagit Systems Coop study demonstrated that even banks with riprap that is silted over are not used nearly as much by fish as natural banks. **Larry Wasserman** concurred, pointing out that between 5 and 8 times as many fish can be found by natural banks as found in areas with riprap. **Larry** stated that the total fish production of the river is directly related to the amount of riprap in the river. **Mike** reminded the group that the County is trying to make major changes to the habitat of several federally listed species. Given the Endangered Species Act (ESA) constraints, the best way to accomplish the flood risk management goals is to improve the habitat for the endangered species.

Will Roozen asked if there was any data disputing the claims against riprap. **Mike** said he remembered one study done in BC, but also cited several more studies concluding that the riprap was detrimental to fish, including one in the Cedar River and another in five different western Washington rivers. **Will** also asked if the lower numbers of fish would be due to the faster current where riprap was found. **Mike** responded that fish do tend to spend more time in slower waters, but if there is woody debris in the river, fish can be even in places where the river might be flowing faster.

The **facilitator** asked **Will** why the issue of riprap was important to him. He said that he cannot see the reason to move the riprap since the river will simply move until it hits the new protection. **Mike** agreed with **Will** that at some points the river will move until it hits the new riprap. However, at other points, it will not. He said it will meander within

the levees and drew a diagrams of a river before and after setbacks to describe the process.



Mike cited a project in Puyallup where they had removed the riprap and the river had begun to meander as expected.

Chuck asked about sedimentation and erosion problems, especially since the sediments downstream from the railroad bridge are light sand. **Mike** said the hydrogeomorphology of the project was still being analyzed, but the river will deposit the eroded sediment somewhere else.

Ed asked why side channel projects were not being considered. **Larry** pointed out they benefit only some fish such as coho but not Chinook and that most unmaintained side channel projects do not last long, because they are filled in by sediments. The advantage of setbacks is that the river makes the side channels itself and when they fill in, the river will have made a new one. It is a self-maintaining system.

Ed asked about whether Gages Slough could be opened up again. **Larry** pointed out that the historic channel is lined with houses and lawns, which do not create an ideal salmon stream. Fish production is related to both the quality and the quantity of the habitat. Gages Slough might increase the quantity but not offer high quality. **Mike** said that he would worry about creating side channels without removing the riprap, because that could lead to undercutting the new levees, and in a flood situation, the flood fighters might need to save an unreinforced levee.

Chuck thought that the Corps would need a few more studies before the individuals in his dike district would agree to removing the riprap. He also asked about the difference between the current drawing and the one from the April 26th meeting. **Stephen** clarified that the current price estimates are from the later design (Figure 2)

Bob Boudinot asked if the impact listed for setbacks on agricultural lands was correct, since he had thought that it would be bigger. **Stephen** explained that much of the land along the river is not farmed.

Ed asked who the permitting authority would be for this project. **Mike** said that although the Corps issues some permits, it must consult with many other entities. For example, to issue a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), ESA mandates he must examine the impacts to federally listed species through a Section 7 consultation. For a Section 7 Consultation, the Corps must prepare a biological assessment (BA), which outlines the project plans and potential impacts. There are three potential rulings in a BA: no effect, not likely to have an adverse effect or likely to have an adverse effect. Any activities in the water are currently being interpreted by the Services as likely to have an adverse effect. If there is no effect, the permit may go forward. If there is a likely adverse effect or a probable “take” of the species, the Corps must consult with the Services (FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) in a formal Section 7 consultation. The federally listed species that the Skagit Flood Planning process would potentially impact are Chinook, bull trout and bald eagles. Based on the BA, the Services then prepare a biological opinion (BO), ruling whether the proposed work would or would not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species. If a jeopardy call is given, the project would not move forward. If a no jeopardy call is given, the Services will issue an incidental take permit and recommend very specific action about how to ameliorate and mitigate for impacts.

The **facilitator** thanked **Mike** for the clear explanation of a very complex process, and **Mike** said he would bring a matrix with all the permits he would need for the project to the next meeting. The **facilitator** added that the issue of take is critical. Take includes harming, harassing or killing a species. She stressed the potential benefits of going through the entire process, mitigating for impacts and receiving an incidental take permit. She concluded that the riprap has more than biological importance.

Since the April 26th meeting, **Stephen** has also been working on the issue of salt intrusion. Based on his work, he sees four methods to investigate or alleviate the potential for intrusion:

1. Setback the sea dikes
2. Clay cutoff trench
3. Water table level
4. Buffer.

By the time the 35% plans are done in 2004, the final plan will be clearer, and the Corps will have worked out what is needed, **Stephen** said. He also commented that over 100 acres of land outside the sea dike would be bought as part of parcels that need to be acquired already. He drew a rough diagram of what the maps look like now. **Stephen** expressed hope that the buffer would also allay concerns about saltwater intrusion.

BREAK

Stephen Pierce resumed his presentation with a discussion of the project’s economics. He reported that the draft economic report was nearly complete and that the numbers will

not change much from what they are presently. All of the alternatives offer benefits high enough to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the project. **Stephen** responded to concerns that had been expressed in the resource agency meeting on May 11th regarding repairs if a dike were breached in a flood. **Stephen** said ESA concerns do affect the ability to repair a dike, but that the Corps can replace it in kind. **Mike** pointed out that the Corps can repair the dikes, but it must still consult with the agencies, even though replacing in kind is covered under a CWA nationwide permit. In an emergency situation, the Corps would attempt to contact someone from the Services, but would not delay the necessary action. After the emergency, they would consult with the Services before any further repairs occur. However, if the dike districts were doing the repairs themselves, they would still need to go through the same permitting process. **Dave Brookings** asked if **Mike** or **Stephen** were aware of any discussions attempting to change the way public law 499 was implemented in light of ESA. **Mike** responded that he had heard numerous discussions, and that the Corps had done a biological assessment but the discussions had not resulted in any change. **Leonard** asked if all of the dikes on the Skagit would become part of the federal project, and if they are, whether they are protected from further changes in perpetuity. **Mike** was not sure, but he did add that the levees are covered under public law 499 and are maintained to the specifications set by the Corps. If damaged, they are eligible for federal rehabilitation.

Stephen continued with his economic report by turning to the question of moving the landfill that would be required under Alternative 5. The tentative figures for the landfill would be a quarter million dollars for the characterization of the site, and another \$10 million for the whole project. This cost would be borne by the sponsor, Skagit County, bringing the County's cost for Alternative 5 to almost \$110 million. **Leonard** asked how accurate **Stephen** thought the cost estimate was, and whether the cost could potentially run to \$30 million. **Stephen** could not answer definitively; it was as accurate as possible at the current time.

Stephen also reported that NMFS had said that Alternative 6 might result in a possible jeopardy call under the ESA due to the mixing of fish stocks from the Skagit and the Samish. **Chuck** asked how much problem that was likely to pose, since the fish are mixing in the ocean as adults. **Larry Wasserman** explained that the fish imprint on the natal streams fairly late in leaving the freshwater, and so Alternative 6 could result in a much lower return of fish, a mixing of fish stocks and also a mixing of hatchery and wild fish. **Leonard** asked if the possible jeopardy call eliminated Alternative 6. **Mike** said that it was not eliminated yet, but he thought it was close.

III. Updates from the Local Sponsor

Dave Brookings gave the Working Group an update about what he had been working on since the last Working Group meeting. First, he had been investigating the issue of in-stream flows for a diversion and for the Skagit. He had met with Rod Sakrison from the

Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Rod thought that taking water out of the mainstem would come in conflict with the in-stream flow regulations. Rod's recommendation was to meet with the Director of Ecology to discuss classifying the diversion as a "non-consumptive use" of the water since the water would stay in the floodplain and still benefits fish. Currently, Ecology would like a sense of public opinion on the matter before they are willing to rule that a diversion is a consumptive or non-consumptive use. **Dave** requested the opinions of people in the Working Group, acknowledging that no one would be held to a current preference.

The second item that **Dave Brookings** brought up was a meeting about the possible cooperation between the Highway 20 project and the Alternative 7 diversion. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is concerned about keeping its project on track but sees the advantages of a flood management project to protect Highway 20. They are still meeting and considering the opportunities for partnership.

Third, **Dave Brookings** has been working with the Flood Control Council. He said that the agricultural community in Skagit is not as educated about the project as he would like it to be. He would like to bring the issue up at the FCC meetings and at dike district meetings.

The fourth issue **Dave Brookings** raised was that the engineers and other employees in the Public Works Department were starting to learn about fish. **Dave** met with Steve Gates, who had studied the Swinomish Channel and concluded that there would be benefits to Chinook if more freshwater would be brought into the channel. **Dave** is continuing to learn about the impacts of different alternatives to the fish.

The fifth item that **Dave Brookings** wished to mention was that Skagit County Commission Ken Dahlstedt and the **Chief Administrator** Roy Atwood were making some progress in an attempt to meet with President George W. Bush to get support for the project.

Lastly, **Dave Brookings** reported that Burlington Northern was considering rebuilding its bridge over the Skagit.

IV. Report from the Agencies' Meetings

Mike Scuderi confirmed that everyone had received the notes from the agencies' meetings on May 5th and 11th. In the first meeting, the group formulated a series of questions, concerns and suggestions about a Swinomish diversion. In the second meeting, they covered the other three families of alternatives: Samish diversion, setbacks and overtopping. As mentioned earlier, there would be a possible jeopardy call for the Samish diversion project from NMFS. Currently, **Mike** is working on organizing the questions into those that do and do not need immediate answers. The agency

representatives generally agreed that they did not like the riprap staying in the river, and that they were concerned about the tidegate structure allowing appropriate fish passage and mixing of salt and fresh water. **Dave Brookings** asked if the agencies thought that they could not support a setbacks project unless it includes removing the riprap. **Larry Wasserman** said that until a project is clearly defined and described, it could not be rejected, but that riprap greatly reduced the potential benefits of the project to fish.

Ed asked if the issue of minimum flow in the diversion could eliminate a diversion option. Potentially, the WDFW might mandate that a diversion channel must have a certain cfs, and that amount would not be able to sustain fish. **Larry** clarified that the main issue with minimum flow in the diversion is the width of the channel: with less water available, the channel would be narrower. Studies would have to be performed that model impacts and benefits for different flow levels. **Ed** also asked about the impact of the diversion on water rights, and **Larry** assured him that the gauge determining river flow and water rights was upstream of the diversion inlet.

The next steps for **Mike** are continuing to scope the alternatives with the agencies and determining what studies are needed to be accomplished and continuing to analyze the impact to Padilla Bay. The Marine Reserve in Padilla Bay mandates that the project cannot significantly alter the marine quality, yet the Reserve managers are willing to cooperate with a project that helps the fish in the long run.

V. Discussion of Alternatives: Dike District Impacts

The **facilitator** asked **Chuck** about the impact this project might have on this and other dike districts in Skagit County. **Chuck** replied that since the 1800s the dike districts have been working to protect people from floods, and that they welcomed this solution. However, the better they protect people in their districts, the more development occurs and the more people they need to protect.

Dave Brookings commented that this was a federal project, but once the project would be completed, the County would be responsible for the upkeep. He believed that the county would be glad to partner with the dike districts for the project's operations and maintenance (O & M). **Chuck** said that the districts own the dikes now and are not interested in selling, but they might work out an easement agreement. **Ed** suggested that since it was a regional project, the O & M costs might be shared between the district and the counties. **Dave** pointed out that the system of diking districts in Skagit County has been very successful; it has been used as a model for other areas, and he would not want to disrupt a successful system.

The **facilitator** asked about the O & M costs. **Stephen** responded, saying that the only costs calculated so far are capital costs. The County would pay for the O & M, and the Corps would supply the County with a manual. There would be low operational costs for

a diversion, but some maintenance for the low flow channel in the diversion. For the setbacks, there would be less cost, just mowing the levees and dealing with areas of settling.

Dave Hedlin volunteered that he was a dike commissioner for one of the smallest districts. His district maintains about 300 yards of levees, most of which are dry on both sides. He agreed that the channel will have to be maintained since ditches anywhere in the area tend to disappear fairly quickly without regular maintenance. He was also concerned about maintaining the rest of the Skagit river for fish when water is being removed for a diversion. He said he has been learning about salmon habitat because he lives on Sullivan Slough and has seen it go from 30 feet deep to almost nothing at low flow times. He would not like to see the diversion take vital water for the rest of the river.

A short discussion followed about the costs of O & M to the dike districts. Although **Chuck** pointed out that the districts currently bear the cost for creating safety for a larger area than they represent, most people felt that the districts would not want to bear the brunt of increased costs after the project. The **facilitator** summarized the key questions: who pays, and how is the control shared.

Larry cautioned that some of the maintenance costs of a diversion might involve dredging the Swinomish, because the Tribes are planning to build a marina close to the diversion would empty into the Swinomish. **Stephen** believed that sedimentation would only be a problem during flood events, but **Larry** believed more modeling would be necessary.

VI. Instream Flow Discussion

The **facilitator** suggested that the group answer the question **Dave Brookings** brought from Ecology about instream flows. She asked **Dave** to summarize the pros and cons of classifying a diversion channel a non-consumptive use of Skagit water.

On the con side, **Dave Brookings** mentioned that there would be a loss of water in the main stem, which would affect the inundation of the tidal areas where fish feed, reducing the forage time available for them. The instream flow minimums were set to avoid loss of habitat. The current regulations allow 800 cfs to be diverted. Currently 600 cfs is already diverted for irrigation and drinking water, leaving 200 cfs available. However, if Ecology classifies a possible 200 cfs for the diversion low flow channel as a consumptive use, none will be left for more claims from farmers or communities.

On the pro side, the diversion could offer year-round habitat for salmonids and other wildlife. It would also allow the extra 200 cfs of water to be consumed by surrounding communities as the area continues to grow. Instream flows would be difficult to change, because the current limits are a compromise that took 14 years to work out. Another

option would be to state that the diversion channel is an overriding public interest. **Larry Wasserman** pointed out that the Tribes were not likely to support that since historically their interests were not considered in the designation of the public interest.

Corey Schmidt did not believe that the County needed another low flow stream. There are several other sloughs, and he was concerned about the effects on development by making it more difficult to drill wells. **Larry** did not believe that the instream flow requirements and the new diversion would affect people's ability to drill new wells.

Mike asked if there was any possibility to acquire more water rights. **Larry** did not think that would be very easy. Puget Sound Energy is holding on to the water for Seattle and trying to manage the dams for fish and energy production in accordance with a \$60 million compromise settlement.

The **facilitator** asked that, to help **Dave Brookings** in his meetings with Ecology, the group go around the circle and state their positions on the consumptive or non-consumptive use designation for the water entering a diversion channel. Almost all members of the Working Group said that they did not have enough information or that they had serious concerns about it. **Brendan Brokes** and **Ed** tentatively favored the idea.

The **facilitator** asked the group about overtopping. There had been no discussion of that alternative, and she asked if anyone had overtopping as their top option. **Bob Boudinot** asked about the federal regulations about development in the flood plain. **Stephen** explained that Executive Order 11988 directed federal agencies to consider impacts to the floodplain of any federal action, and demonstrate that they have chosen the option with the least development in the floodplain. **Bob** asked whether this project would have an effect on these regulations, and **Mike** said that he was not entirely sure, but that they must first talk with the County.

VII. Listing Interesting Alternatives

The **facilitator** handed out index cards and asked the Working Group participants to write down the two alternatives that they considered the most interesting, and the concerns that they still had about those alternatives.

There was a break as the participants wrote their alternatives and the **facilitators** tallied them. The results by family of alternative are shown below.

Alternative	Top Choice	Second Choice	Unranked	Total
# 1 Large Swinomish		3		3

Diversion				
# 2 Small Swinomish Diversion		1		1
# 3 Overtopping				0
# 4 Selective Overtopping				0
# 5 Setbacks	5	2	1	8
# 6 Samish Diversion	1			1
# 7 North Swinomish Diversion	4	2	1	7
Any Swinomish Diversion		1		1
# 1 or # 7		1		1

Although **Stephen** suggested lumping Alternatives 1 and 7, it was not clear from cards if participants actually did. The concerns written on the cards are listed below by alternative.

1 Large Swinomish

- ❖ O&M costs/responsibilities
- ❖ Instream flow impacts
- ❖ Saltwater intrusion
- ❖ Major questions need to be answered: Instream flow
- ❖ Dike districts' role
- ❖ Can flows actually be maintained?
- ❖ How will that affect delta (Fir Island) habitat for juveniles?
- ❖ Will gains/benefits outweigh losses in mainstream flow reduction?

2 Small Swinomish

- ❖ With all the bridges/culverts/new dikes/structures, who is going to own/maintain/pay?
- ❖ Eel grass
- ❖ Dike districts' role

5 Setbacks

- ❖ How many buildings would have to be removed
- ❖ Is one of the goals of the project to remove the floodplain designation of the valley?
- ❖ What are the increases in downstream sedimentation? Are there any?
- ❖ How big will the diversion be?
- ❖ Affect on FEMA maps
- ❖ O & M costs seem to be low
- ❖ The Edgewater dump should be cleaned up anyway. Are there grants available and is getting the dump cleaned up a good thing from fish/ESA

perspective?

- ❖ Appears to have the greatest benefit to fish
- ❖ Need to remove riprap!

6 Samish Diversion

- ❖ Fish concerns

7 North Swinomish Diversion

- ❖ Would there be any fish habitat gains in the main channel of the Skagit under this alternative?
- ❖ O & M costs and responsibilities
- ❖ Instream flow impacts
- ❖ Saltwater intrusion
- ❖ Dike districts' role
- ❖ How would SR 20 be affected and if it needs to be rebuilt how would this be addressed?
- ❖ Is low stream flow a "showstopper?"
- ❖ Drainage concerns
- ❖ Impacts on SR 20
- ❖ Can flows actually be maintained?
- ❖ How will that affect delta (Fir Island) habitat for juveniles?
- ❖ Will gains/benefits outweigh losses in mainstream flow reduction?

Although the concerns and the ranking of the preferences were not available during the meeting, it was clear from the preliminary results that the group did not favor overtopping. **Mike** said he could not legally take it off the list, but it would definitely not be considered for a preferred alternative.

Chuck asked if the agencies would want riprap removed underneath the diversion inlet structure. **Larry** believed that small impacts, such as riprap underneath the inlet structure would be acceptable to the agencies in exchange for the large benefits offered by the alternatives. **Chuck** stressed the importance of continuing to protect people's lives and creating a very safe design. **Mike** assured him that the Corps agreed.

The **facilitator** asked **Dave Brookings** what he thought should happen next. He responded that he would like to hear from the participants about their preferred alternative(s) at a June meeting. The **facilitator** asked whether it would be possible for the group to identify more than one preferred alternative. The County and the Corps agreed to discuss whether one or two preferred alternatives should be selected for further study. **Todd Harrison** suggested that perhaps two could be taken to 15% or 20% design.

The group decided to meet again on June 25th and adjourned.