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MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #5
Skagit County Flood Control Zone District
October 20, 2008 from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Location

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

Meeting Purpose

For the Advisory Committee members to conduct normal business and:

1. Begin with a presentation about flood preparedness and flood response from the Army Corp in a work session hosted by Skagit County Board of Commissioners.
2. Complete efforts on developing a mission statement, goals, objectives, and measurement criteria for the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP).
3. Discuss Advisory Committee member perspectives on the Skagit GI.
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any

Summary of Action Items

1. Provide time to discuss perspectives on the Skagit GI at the next AC meeting.
2. Complete work on the draft Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria element of the CFHMP
3. Begin work to refine project screening criteria submitted from FCZD Technical Committees.
4. Final approval of amendments to Advisory Committee Operating Procedures.

Welcome

The AC meeting began as a joint work session hosted by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners as part of Flood Awareness Week. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) representatives (Eric Winters and Cathy DesJardin) presented information about the Corps roll in local flood preparedness and emergency flood response.

After the joint session the AC reconvened to conduct normal business. Chairman Bob Boudinot opened the AC meeting by welcoming AC members, USACE representatives, and public attendees. Bob noted that Molly Doran was filling in as proxy for Bob Carey and that Esco Bell had been asked to sit with the AC as a non-voting member for the City of Mount Vernon. Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of LaConner had notified staff that neither he nor his proxy would be able to attend this evenings meeting.

USACE Flood Response (continued from joint session)

Doug Webber (USACE) continued to explain the Corp's roll in flood response under PL 84-99The USACE. Questions and discussion followed Doug's PowerPoint presentation.

Chairman Boudinot handed out copies of the PL84-99 handbook "Levee Owner's Manual". The USACE was thanked for its presentation.

Public Comment

- Carol Ehlers requested that the public be given a chance to comment on the FCZD's Public Involvement Plan.
- Gary Jones expressed concern that the permitting requirements, as described by the USACE for post disaster responses (especially within 1 year of the flood event) were inaccurate.

Regular Reports

- Larry Kunzler, Flood Historian, presented information about the Sterling Dam, a "sixth" dam on the Skagit River located on the north side of State Highway 20 near the Holtkamp Road intersection, east of the City of Burlington. It was built to route the Skagit River away from Gages Slough and Padilla Bay.
- James Voetberg, P.E./County Public Works Director, advised that the AC and member organizations will need to pay attention to a recent Biological Opinion (B.O.) issued by the federal NOAA Fisheries Agency regarding the Federal Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Pursuant to the B.O. FEMA is required to revise the Federal Flood Insurance Program and to work with local jurisdictions to put in place a "reasonable and prudent alternative" to better protect salmon, steelhead and orca whales under the Endangered Species Act. Skagit County and local cities will need to respond to changes required by FEMA to remain eligible for continued federal flood insurance. A FEMA or NOAA Fisheries representative will be invited to an upcoming AC meeting to explain impact of the B.O. from a federal perspective. Jim noted that this was Flood Awareness Week, an annual event designed to alert the community to flood hazards and to plan for flood response. Jim updated the AC on the status of the 3-Bridge Corridor project and that it was going through the early stages of a National Environmental Policy Act review. Jim concluded by reading an email communication from Linda Smith, USACE, regarding the status of the Skagit General Investigation (Linda was unable to attend this evenings AC meeting).
- Technical Committee Report Outs
 - Daryl Hamburg, representing the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee (DDTC), advised that the DDTC was still working on its project screening criteria recommendations (as requested from the AC) and that additional time was needed to complete the task. The DDTC hopes to be able to submit its recommendations at the 11/20/08 AC meeting.
 - Esco Bell, representing the Land Use Technical Committee, reported that the LUTC had met to develop draft project screening criteria as requested by the AC. He presented the AC with the draft criteria and suggested that the LUTC may meet one more time in order to refine the recommendations in time for the 11/20 AC meeting.
 - Larry Wasserman, reporting for the Environmental Technical Committee (ETC) advised that the ETC was not ready to forward screening criteria

recommendations to the AC at this time, but that the ETC (or ETC subcommittee) would continue to meet to develop criteria that could be forwarded to the AC.

Previous Meeting Summary

After discussion the 9/15/08 meeting summary was approved (Larry Kunzler voting against approval) with the following corrections:

- Next AC meeting should have been noted as 10/20/08.
- Summary should have noted that the major theme or take-away from Chal Martin's presentation on the City of Burlington's levee improvement plans was the critical need to reconcile the City, County, FEMA and USACE hydrology estimates for the Skagit River.
- Correct Todd (not Bob) Carlson's name on sign-in sheet.
- Future FCZD district documents, including meeting summaries, should not have County Public Works logo or letterhead.

Work Session on Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives, and Measurement Criteria element of the draft CFHMP

Bob Wheeler and Cynthia Carlstad (consultants) facilitated this portion of the meeting. Consultants will revise the draft element as directed during the work session and will send out the revised document to AC members for consideration and additional comment prior to the next AC meeting. The next AC meeting work session will focus on completing the Objectives and Measurement Criteria.

Old Business

- Draft amendment to AC operating procedures. After discussion it was moved and approved by consensus, to direct staff to revise the draft amendment proposal to show only the "two meeting rule" earlier agreed to by the AC and to allow for the Dike and Drainage Technical Committee to select member representatives to the AC other than Dike and Drainage Commissioners. Final draft to be sent out for review prior to next meeting.
- Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Dan Berentson, County Communications Director, handed out a draft PIP for AC consideration. Brief discussion followed. Dan was asked to bring back PIP budget estimates when the AC takes this matter up at a future AC meeting.

Advisory Committee Perspectives on the Skagit GI

Due to time constraints this item was postponed to next month's AC meeting.

Next Steps

1. AC members to provide perspectives on Skagit GI

2. Complete work on draft mission statement, goals, objectives, measurement criteria element of the CFHMP
3. Begin work on project screening criteria developed by FCZD Technical Committees
4. Determine TC assignments (if any)

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

See meeting attendance sign-in sheet following page

PRESENT AT MEETING 10/20/2008 FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE						
Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy	Position Vacant
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley		X		
Boudinot, Bob	Env. TC	Skagit Land Trust	X			
Doran, Molly	Env. TC	The Nature Conservancy			X (for Bob Carey)	
Carlson, Todd	Land Use TC	WA Dept. of Transportation	X			
Easton, Jason	Land Use TC	Washington Realtors	X			
Flaig, Dean	D&D TC	Drainage District #21	X			
Halverson, Leonard	At-Large	Sterling Area		X		
Hamburg, Daryl	D&D TC	Dike District #17			X (for David Olson)	
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner		X		
Hughes, Robert	Land Use TC	Ag. Adv. Committee	X			
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian	X			
Nelson, Stanley	D&D TC	Dike District #22	X			
Norris, Bud	Cities and Towns	Mayor, City of Mount Vernon		X		
Pflug, Dave	Env. TC	Seattle City Light		X		
Wasserman, Larry	Env. TC	Swinomish Indian Tribe	X			