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MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee Meeting #12
Flood Control Zone District
June 15, 2009 from 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Location

Skagit County Commissioner's Hearing Room
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. To understand the process for and discuss producing a draft Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)
2. To consider AC efforts to-date and consider any recommendations on the process/logistics to the FCZD Board of Supervisors (Skagit County Board of Commissioners, aka BCC).
3. To consider and prepare for a presentation on AC progress to the BCC).
4. Determine next steps and schedule, including Technical Committee assignments, if any.
5. Continue the process of a local screening of Skagit General Investigation (Skagit GI) measures, and any local projects using screening and fatal flaw criteria, in order to provide input for the CFHMP and to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their consideration as they screen the measures.
6. Consideration and initial decision making recommendations to the BCC and USACE.
7. Consideration of what measures/projects will be necessary and what package/s make sense to consider

Summary of Action Items

1. Next AC meeting scheduled for Monday, 6/20/2009, 2:30-5:30 pm, in County Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA.
2. 4/20/2009 AC meeting summary accepted.
3. Preliminary (1st vote) approval of "short project list" (see attachment #A-1).

Introduction/Welcome

Chairman Bob Boudinot opened meeting by welcoming members and guests (see attached meeting attendance sheet). Stan Walsh was participating as proxy for Larry Wasserman and Dave Pflug; John Doyle was there as proxy for Ramon Hayes. Bob noted that the regular consultants (Cynthia Carlstad, Bob Wheeler) were not present for this meeting. He also summarized the seven meeting purpose points (above) as a time for reflection and for looking forward.

Public Comment

Dan O'Donnell submitted copy of Resolution No. 439 of the Town of LaConner (see attachment B) regarding a decision by the Town to pursue the construction of a dike (gap filler dike) in the northeast quadrant of Town.

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Consideration and Acceptance of AC Meeting Summary from April 20, 2009

It was moved by Jason Easton and seconded by John Doyle to accept the April 20, 2009 meeting summary. Approved 11/1 (Larry Kunzler opposing).

Regular Report Outs

- Flood Historian: Larry Kunzler advised that there was no report out for this meeting and requested that this time be added to next month's regular report outs.
- County Engineer: Dan Berentson, Natural Resource Administrator, representing the County Engineer, addressed the following:
 - There will be a Skagit basin hydrology technical meeting on 6/17/09 to discuss the historical flood flows produced by the "Stewart Report". Lorna Ellestad, will provide additional information (below).
 - Advised that due to budgetary constraints the contract with Tetra Tech for facilitation services and for assistance in drafting the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan has been curtailed until further notice. This has, in part, been brought about by the State and local government budget shortfalls. In particular, the State Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP), which was in part paying for a portion of the County's flood planning efforts, and was also being used as the local match for the Skagit GI, appears not be available for this purpose in the next State biennium. This raises some interesting challenges for the County and its partners for continuing to fund flood planning and future projects.
 - Dan asked Lorna Ellestad, Skagit County Public Works, to update the AC on the upcoming Skagit basin hydrology meeting and the Skagit GI:
 - Lorna announced that there will be technical conference on Skagit hydrology convened at the Seattle District USACE on June 17, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to review information that Skagit County and the City of Burlington, and their consultants, have developed on the peak discharges for the four historic (1897, 1909, 1917 and 1921) floods on the Skagit River in hopes of resolving or at least narrowing differences between USACE, USGS and local estimates of the 100 year event flood flow. No immediate decisions are expected.
 - Lorna also advised that Skagit County is working with the USACE to update the Skagit GI project management plan (a work plan and timeline the next 18 months). It should be available in August 2009 and will provide a better sense of when the Skagit GI can be expected to be completed.

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- Lorna gave a brief update on the Skagit GI Feasibility Scoping Meeting-Read Ahead document (required as part of a USACE GI) which is expected to be completed this summer. It will summarize the Skagit GI progress to-date and provide useful information for the Skagit CFHMP.
- Lorna indicated that the USACE will be providing written response to the public comments solicited on the 8/18/08 presentation of the Skagit GI measures. Response should be available by next AC meeting and will be posted on the County and USACE websites. (See Attachment #A-2).
- Next Thursday (6/18/09) County Commissioner Sharon Dillon and staff will be travelling to Olympia to meet with the Public Works Board and other State agencies for the purpose of discussing the availability of public resource funds to relocate the Town of Hamilton out of the floodway.
- Dan read a statement from the Board of County Commissioners (see Attachment #A-3) apologizing for any miscommunication between the AC and the BCC over the Baker River flood storage interlocal agreement and expressing a desire to improve communication between themselves and all stakeholders interested in Skagit River flood control. The BCC will be asked to attend a future AC meeting to further this dialogue.
- Dike and Drainage Technical Committee: Daryl Hamburg noted that the DDTC met on 6/2/09 to consider its assignment from the AC which was to comment on "emergency overflow spillways" as proposed by Larry Kunzler. Daryl summarized the draft DDTC comments (see Attachment #A-4) and noted the comments were preliminary in that the DDTC had not met again to consider final approval (and those highlighted in yellow were his alone).
- Environmental Technical Committee: Stan Walsh advised that the ETC met on 4/27/09 and had not met again to consider final approval of its minutes including comments on "emergency spillways". Stan summarized the draft comments (see Attachment #A-5) by noting that the ETC sees the potential for habitat restoration if the spillways were properly located and designed. He believes the proposal could be "yellow" (meriting more study by the Skagit GI) if there was more information, but lacking that, the project as proposed should be "red" (no further study). On the question of whether the ETC has any specific upriver tributary projects ready for consideration, the answer was "not at this time".
- Land Use Technical Committee: Jason Easton noted that the LUTC met on 5/7/09 and felt that there was not enough information provided with the "emergency spillways" proposal for the committee to consider potential land use impacts. The LUTC had not met to consider final approval of its comments but Jason highlighted some of them as shown in Attachment #A-6. Jason wanted the AC to understand that all future flood projects must be eventually

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- Skagit GI: Representative of USACE not present, no additional comments other than those already mentioned.

CFHMP - Plan Outline, Schedule, and Approach

Documents (work plans, timelines, and plan requirement) previously sent out to committee members were reviewed. They highlight the fact that the planning process is behind schedule and over budget. Discussion ensued about how best to go about completing the plan. It was acknowledged that staff turn over, lack of participation by the City of Mount Vernon and the City of Burlington, and attention diverted to the Skagit GI measures have all contributed to lack of progress to complete the CFHMP. Generally it was felt that there was enough information to already available to complete the "existing conditions" required elements of a CFHMP. What is lacking is the technical assessment of any of the possible suite of proposed measures.

There was no specific proposal or plan agreed to as to how to move forward. There seemed to general agreement that a short range plan (6 months more or less) was needed. The plan would need to have specific deliverables and the commitment from all stakeholders to complete and fund. A key goal would be to end up with a technically defensible plan that listed and prioritized project and non-project flood reduction measures that garnered support of the local community.

Communication with Skagit County Commissioners

Concern was expressed that improved communication was needed between the AC and BCC. There needs to be better, two-way communication, between the AC and BCC in order to build trust and a successful collaborative process. Staff was asked to invite the BCC to the next AC meeting to further explore this topic.

Lack of participation by City of Mount Vernon and City of Burlington

After a short discussion, the Chair (Bob Boudinot) directed staff and legal counsel to look for ways to bring both Mount Vernon and Burlington to the table as full voting AC members and to report back to the AC at the next meeting.

"Short List" Support Measures (A-1)

The AC reviewed a short list of nine flood control measures being advocated by Daryl Hamburg. Daryl had preliminarily reviewed the list with the DDTC and received concurrence to ask the AC

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to acknowledge that these projects, at a minimum, are going to be required for any meaningful flood control effort on the Skagit River. Todd Carlson moved and John Doyle seconded a motion to adopt this short list as the first cut of a future CFHMP list of projects and so as to inform the USACE. Discussion ensued. Motion was amended to remove measure #1 (Additional Baker River Storage) from list at this time due to lack of information but to approve the remaining eight measures. There was no consensus, motion passed 9/0/3 [Walsh (2 votes), Kunzler abstaining]. Motion will be brought back to next AC meeting for second vote.

Next Steps

1. Invite BCC to next AC meeting to discuss improving flood planning participation and communication.
2. Invite Puget Sound Energy to next meeting to present Baker River flood storage update.
3. Second vote on Short List Support Measures (Attachment #A-2 minus Additional Baker River Storage).
4. Old Business:
 - a. Complete Document E-4, "Initial Advisory Committee Input on Corps Measures and Consideration of Locally Identified Projects".
 - b. Complete Document C-3, "*Fatal Flaw and Project Screening Criteria*" including final vote on motion to adopt the 3 E's (Engineeringly possible, Economically achievable, and Environmentally friendly) as fatal flaw criteria.

Assignments

No technical committee assignments at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 06/15/09:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE						
Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy	Position Vacant
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley		X		
Boudinot, Bob	ETC	Skagit Land Trust	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			
Hayes, Mayor Ramon	Cities and Towns	Town of LaConner			X John Doyle	
Hughes, Robert	LUTC	Ag. Adv. Committee		X		
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 Stan Walsh	
Wasserman, Larry	ETC	Swinomish Indian Tribe			X Stan Walsh	

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OTHERS PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 6/15/09:

STAFF & CONSULTANTS	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works (SCPW)
Carlstad, Cynthia	TetraTech
Ellestad, Lorna	SCPW
Flagan, Jan	SCPW
Karsh, Tom	SCPW
MacMullen, Meghan	SCPW
Raicho, Carly	SC Planning and Development Services
Sheridan, Dave	SCPW

OTHERS	
Name	Affiliation
Bell, Esco	City of Mount Vernon
Borman, Neil	Environmental Technical Committee
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
DenHerder, Rod	URS Corporation
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Ertel, Cory	SICBA
Gibbons, Amy	USACE
Helton, Bob	Citizen
Jones, Gary	DD #3, #17, and #22
Killgore, Mark	Puget Sound Energy
Loop, Teresa	Puget Sound Energy
Miller, Curt	Miller Consulting
O'Donnell, Dan	Town of LaConner Council
Schwartz, Ralph	Skagit Valley Herald
Shultz, John	DD #1 and #12