

MEETING SUMMARY

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Flood Control Zone District
April 16, 2012 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

Location

Board of County Commissioners' Hearing 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. Acceptance of Meeting Summary
2. Second Vote: Consideration and Acceptance of Revised Meeting Schedule
3. Second Vote: Consideration and Acceptance of Attendance Rule
4. Skagit River General Investigation (Skagit GI) Update / Feasibility Scoping Meeting Read-Ahead Report
5. Preliminary Alternatives from Project Delivery Team Workshop
6. To determine next steps and assignments, if any, for Technical Committees

Acceptance of March 19, 2012 AC Meeting Summary

Jason Easton made the motion to accept the meeting summaries. Shirley Solomon seconded. Motion passed (13/0/0).

Second Vote: Consideration and Acceptance of Revised Meeting Schedule

The AC held a second vote to accept the revised meeting schedule – the group is to meet every other month; no less than six meetings per year. Stanley Nelson made the motion to accept the revised meeting schedule. Jason Easton seconded. Motion passed (13/0/0).

Second Vote: Consideration and Acceptance of Attendance Rule

The AC held a second vote to accept the new attendance rule – if a member misses more than three consecutive meetings, he/she may be asked to step down from the AC. Jason Easton made the motion to accept the attendance rule. Todd Carlson seconded. Motion passed (13/0/0). This rule will be written into a resolution for consideration by the Board of Skagit County Commissioners.

Skagit GI Update / Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) Read-Ahead Report

As was mentioned at previous meetings, the FSM entailed reviewing existing conditions and what would happen if nothing was put in place to reduce the risk of flood damages.

Preliminary Alternatives from Project Delivery Team (PDT) Workshops

Dan Johnson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), gave a presentation regarding the six preliminary alternatives (groupings of measures) the PDT recently selected to formulate. Formulation includes the analysis of hydraulics, economics, environmental impacts, laws, public input, and agency input. Alternatives can and may change as more information is gathered. Ultimately, each alternative will be considered for its completeness, effectiveness, efficiency, and acceptability.

- Alternative 1 – No Action: This alternative does not reduce flood and life safety risk. Therefore, it will not be considered in the recommended plan.
- Alternative 2 – Non-Structural and Dam Storage: This alternative focuses on flood storage and imminent flood drawdown in the Upper and Lower Baker River Dam system. In addition to this, non-structural components would be implemented in the areas ranging from the Nookachamps to Cape Horn to Concrete. Public outreach, evacuation routes, land acquisition, and flood proofing are some non-structural mechanisms. Bridge debris would also be managed under this alternative.
- Alternative 3 – Joe Leary Slough Bypass/Floodway: This alternative primarily removes water downstream of the Three-Bridge Corridor via bypass or floodway. This includes storage and imminent flood drawdown in the Upper and Lower Baker River Dam system, as well as a levee at Sterling, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and LaConner. The Mount Vernon Flood Wall would be completed, and bridge debris management and non-structural components would be incorporated.
- Alternative 4 – Swinomish Bypass/Floodway: This alternative primarily removes water downstream of the Three-Bridge Corridor via bypass or floodway. This includes storage and imminent flood drawdown in the Upper and Lower Baker River Dam system, as well. Modifications may be made to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Division Street bridges, levees would be built or set-back in the Sterling and Sedro-Woolley areas, as well as LaConner. The Mount Vernon Flood Wall would be completed, and bridge debris management and non-structural components would be incorporated.
- Alternative 5 – Urban Area Protection: This alternative focuses on urban protection in Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley by placing levees or ring dikes around critical infrastructure like the water treatment plants. As in the other alternatives, this one provides storage and imminent flood drawdown in the Upper and Lower Baker River Dam system, completion of the Mount Vernon Flood Wall, bridge debris management, and non-structural components.
- Alternative 6 – System-Wide Levee Setbacks: This alternative sets back the entire levee system along the Skagit River by modifying bridges and creating a West Mount Vernon Bypass. This would also include storage and imminent flood drawdown in the Upper and Lower Baker River Dam system, sterling levee, levees in Sedro-Woolley, completion of the Mount Vernon Flood Wall, a Fir Island bypass, bridge debris management, and non-structural components

Questions & Answers

Q: Are the floodways/bypasses wet or dry?

A: The floodways/bypasses would be used infrequently; most likely they would be dry.

Q: How is levee placement determined?

A: Levee placement hinges on hydraulic modeling. As the County and USACE move into design, levee placement will be better defined.

Q: Once an alternative is selected, will it be reviewed further for environmental analysis?

A: As a project is analyzed, it is reviewed more in depth for environmental impact, as well, as other things like economic impact and efficiency.

Q: How much will each alternative cost?

A: Benefit to cost ratio is determined during the design phase. The USACE currently estimates a budget of \$250 million, for the project, to get a desirable benefit to cost ratio.

Q: Is interior drainage addressed by sheetflows/floodways?

A: Floodways would drain water from the interior basin, and would be analyzed in the floodway proposal.

Q: Would the choke-point at the North Fork bridge be addressed?

A: This has been discussed somewhat. Building a new bridge or creating a bypass (upstream of the bridge) might be beneficial, but this needs to be evaluated further.

Q: Will FEMA be addressing the inaccuracy of its flood maps?

A: The USACE has spoken to FEMA.

Suggested Next Steps and Meeting

1. Set-up joint (AC and TCs) workshop with USACE to discuss alternatives
2. Update membership
3. Understandable agenda for AC and TCs

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

PRESENT AT FCZD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Name	Representing	Affiliation	Present	Absent	Proxy
Anderson, Mayor Mike	Cities and Towns	City of Sedro-Woolley		X	
Boudinot, Bob	ETC	Skagit Land Trust	X		
Boudreau, Mayor Jill	Cities and Towns	City of Mount Vernon			X Esco Bell
Carey, Bob	ETC	The Nature Conservancy	X		
Carlson, Todd	LUTC	WA Dept. of Transportation	X		
Easton, Jason	LUTC	LUTC	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		
Kunzler, Larry	At-Large	Skagit River Flood Historian			X Leonard Halverson
Nelson, Stanley	DDTC	Dike District 22	X		
Pflug, Dave	ETC	Seattle City Light		X	
Sexton, Mayor Steve	Cities and Towns	City of Burlington			X Garnor Bensen
Solomon, Shirley	ETC	Skagit Watershed Council	X		

STAFF	
Name	Affiliation
Berentson, Dan	Skagit County Public Works
Flagan, Jan	Skagit County Public Works
Hash, Henry	Skagit County Public Works
MacMullen, Meghan	Skagit County Public Works
See, Mike	Skagit County Public Works
Symonds, Kara	Skagit County Public Works

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES	
Name	Affiliation
Borman, Neil	Environmental Technical Committee
Buckenmeyer, Fred	City of Anacortes
Chang, Margaret	USACE
Chesterfield, Blaine	City of Mount Vernon
DeVries, Tim	Skagit County Planning & Dev. Services
Ehlers, Carol	Citizen
Eriksen, Karl	USACE
Ertel, Cory	Puget Sound Energy
Freet, Bruce	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Freiberger, Mark	City of Sedro-Woolley
Goss, Travis	USACE
Hadley, Hannah	USACE
Johnson, Dan	USACE
Jones, Gary	Attorney for Dike Districts 3, 17, and 22
Martin, Chal	City of Burlington
O'Donnell, Dan	Citizen
Radabaugh, David	WA State Dept. of Ecology