

SKAGIT RIVER IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

FEMA Process and Technical Workshop

Minutes from October 10, 2006

Present: Bud Norris, Charles Bennett, Jana Hanson, Neil Hamburg, Kevin Rogerson, Scott Thomas, John Schultz, Bob Jungquist, Sharon Dillon, Gene Samply, Chal Martin, Darrin Morrison, Dave Olson, Larry Kunzler, Albert Liou, Harry Hosey, John Doyle, Dan O'Donnell, Ric Boge, Bob Helton, Jason Easton, Dan Berentson, Bob Boudinot, Rick Prosser, Jon Aarstad, Margaret Fleek, Wayne Crider, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

Call to order:

Mayor Bud Norris called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

1.0 Kevin Rogerson discussed the progress on the FEMA process. **Bud Norris** questioned whether anyone had seen the new FEMA maps. There was general discussion regarding the preliminary maps. Apparently county staff has seen the preliminary maps. **Albert Liou** asked the group if anyone from the community has formally accepted FEMA's methodology, scope and hydrology. The individuals present at the meeting indicated that no one had accepted FEMA's position. **Liou** explained the differences between the FEMA process 25 years ago and what is followed today. Today's process, under the FEMA guidelines, stresses the importance of community input and early consultation with the community stakeholders. **Rogerson** further explained the process, and repeated FEMA's claim that they had initiated the public process back in 2001, however there is little if any documentation to prove this assertion.

Harry Hosey discussed PIE's role as FEMA's consultant in other regions. The process has always been highly inclusive of the local impacted communities and their consultants. Both **Neil Hamburg** and **John Schultz** questioned whether meetings with the County and their meeting in Lynwood with FEMA constituted a meeting to satisfy FEMA's requirements to meet with the local agencies. **Liou** stated that if the FEMA has a meeting that satisfies the requirements for public input into the remapping process then there should be a written record of that meeting sent to all attendees.

1.2 Hosey reviewed the communities' strategic plan to change the 100 year flood hydrograph. Hosey made a PowerPoint presentation designed to question the Corps use of the Stewart estimates of peak flows based on comparison of coincident flows at Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. Hosey suggested that the SRIP prepare a document of this presentation and a cover letter to FEMA requesting explanation of how they can use data that is so blatantly inconsistent on its face.

Larry Kunzler stated that PIE's report and request to FEMA needs to include justification of the 1923 flood based on discrepancies in high water mark observations. Larry referred to his White Paper and the documentation on Hamilton flows.

1.3 There was general discussion regarding the response to FEMA February 2006 Thomas Report. The City of Burlington and Dike District 12 agreed to participate in the cost of the study. Dike District 17 indicated that they would get back to the committee on their commitment.

1.4 Chuck Bennett introduced the upcoming meeting with Col. McCormick. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss flood fight efforts and permitting issues. **Norris** indicated that he would attend and represent the SRIP and request a future meeting between the members of the SRIP and the COE.

2.0 Hosey discussed the status on the WSDOT funded study of flood protection measures that will protect state transportation infrastructure. The final report will be submitted later this year. **Hosey** updated the group on the focus of the flood control measures spending most of the time on two Nookachamps alternatives including the storage levees and an in channel flow restriction structure.

Ric Boge stated that while the County Commissioners support the SRIP, the County is still committed to the GI process. Ric also expressed concern over the meetings held with county property owners on flood projects without county participation.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 pm.