

*FINAL Meeting Minutes*  
Stillaguamish River Comprehensive Flood Study  
Planning Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 25, 2002, 2:00pm – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees

Bill Blake, City of Arlington  
Dave Eldridge, Stillaguamish Flood Control District  
Max Albert, Citizen Representative  
Duane Weston, Pilchuck Tree Farm  
Bill Beckman, City of Stanwood  
Paul Cooke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chuck Steele, Washington Department of Ecology  
James Yapp, Snohomish County, Parks Department  
Vaughn Collins, Snohomish County, Surface Water Management  
Toni Turner, Snohomish County, Surface Water Management

Chapter 7, Alternatives and Recommended Actions

After introductions, Toni indicated that she had received either written or verbal comments on the final chapter from Chris Toms, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chuck Hazleton, Stillaguamish Flood Control District, Max Albert, Stillaguamish Flood Control District, Bill Blake, City of Arlington, and Ralph Omlid, citizen representative. The following highlight some of those comments:

1. References to opening Irvine Slough should be labeled as “re-opening” instead;
2. Determine the feasibility of purchasing Trafton Farms (North Fork Stillaguamish);
3. Investigate restoration of wetland functions upstream of bridges being studied by the County to determine maintenance alternatives;
4. Must update the base flood model to establish and enforce existing and new regulations;

Toni then requested feedback from the committee on Chapter 7. Duane indicated that the changes incorporated into state law as a result of the Forest and Fish Report will provide benefits to the lowland area. He said that a study committee is a good idea to determine the impacts of forest practices on peak flows particularly in the rain-on-snow area. Duane was interested in how flow would be determined. Toni indicated that measuring flow from specific areas, hydrology model calibration methodology, and flow paths will be addressed during the development of the model, which would be completed collaboratively with forest interests and others.

James Yapp was concerned that the recommended actions focused on symptoms rather than causes of flooding. The committee members indicated that the basin-wide approach was intended to address the potential causes of flooding, but that it was important to address specific hazard areas if they are known such as Chatham Acres Homeowner’s Association.

Prioritization of Recommended Actions

Toni then distributed a spreadsheet with all 34 recommended actions prioritized (attached). The actions were prioritized in the following manner:

- 1 - Recommended Action will save lives (direct), must precede other actions, or will be initiated immediately;
- 2 - Initiate by 2005 FCAAP Cycle or follow completion of another recommended action; and,
- 3 - Initiate action when have the time and money or projects may benefit from completion of other recommended action(s).

She then reviewed the top priorities with the committee, which included the following:

Recommended Action 1	Update FEMA Flood Insurance Maps
Recommended Action 2	Relocate critical facilities
Recommended Action 4	Analyze all County-owned flood control structures
Recommended Action 7	Conduct a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of forest practice impacts on peak flows
Recommended Action 8	Establish a study committee to address forest practices
Recommended Action 12	Map high hazard areas
Recommended Action 14	Apply for the NFIP CRS Program
Recommended Action 19	Stabilize Swede Heaven bank to protect County road.
Recommended Action 20	Pursue voluntary acquisition of Chatham Acres Homeowner's Association
Recommended Action 30	Provide improved flood warning on the mainstem
Recommended Action 32	Implement Corps Section 205 Small Flood Study

The committee agreed with the prioritization of each action. Max indicated that the Flood Insurance Study must take into account the existing and future conditions, particularly in the Island Crossing area. He indicated that Interstate 5 was built too high and does not have enough culverts to allow adequate floodwater conveyance. Increased structures on the floodplain will lead to increased flood damages

#### Section 205 Update

Toni then advised the committee that the Section 205 Flood Study was on schedule to present a feasibility study to the Corps' headquarters by year-end. Two alternative actions have been agreed upon for the project. Elevating Big Ditch Road to the north of Stanwood would provide adequate protection to the city from the Skagit River. Reopening Irvine Slough would involve replacing the upstream "Larson Dam" with a sand plug, elevating the bridge, and relocating the pump station. The result would be a 2,500-foot channel that would be tidally influenced. Toni is meeting with Paul Cooke and his study team every other week to address outstanding issues and stay consistent with the agreed upon schedule.

A field trip/tour of the two preferred alternative sites is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 2, 2002. All interested parties will depart from the City of Stanwood City Hall.

#### Next Steps for the Stillaguamish River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan

Toni advised the committee that within the next several weeks all seven chapters would be compiled and distributed to the internal study team for their final review. The comments received by the committee on the previous six chapters have already been considered and the chapters have been revised.

The plan is scheduled for legal review at the end of August and a final, public review draft should then be available in October. Each committee will be provided a personal copy for their review. Other copies will be placed in local libraries and on the County's web page. Open houses are tentatively planned for that month and the committee members will be invited to staff a table once again to talk one-on-one with the community. The final plan will be presented to the Snohomish County Council for their consideration by November or December 2002.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.