

WHATCOM COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Civic Center – Garden Level Conference Room

March 14, 2019

Attendance: Dale Blok, Tom Brewster, Ron Bronsema, Dale Buys, Jeff DeJong, Al deBoer, Scott Hulse, Holly O'Neil, John Perry

Members Excused: Scott Bedlington, Mike Schoneveld
Rud Browne (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Kyle Christensen, Kent Roorda, Rud Browne

Staff: Paula Harris, Lonni Cummings

Visitors: Alan Chapman, Whatcom Conservation District

I. ROLL CALL

Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. OPEN SESSION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Ron Bronsema moved to approve the December 13, 2019 minutes as submitted.
Seconded by Scott Hulse. **MOTION PASSED, All in favor**

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Member Introduction

Each member introduced him/herself and gave a brief history of their background.

B. Chair/Vice-Chair

Scott Hulse nominated Jeff DeJong for Chair. Seconded by Al deBoer. Ron Bronsema moved to close nominations. There was no discussion. A yay or nay vote was taken.

All in favor. Jeff DeJong will serve as Chair of the committee.

Dale Buys nominated Ron Bronsema for Vice-chair. Seconded by Scott Hulse. John Perry moved to close nominations. There was no discussion. A yay or nay vote was taken.

All in favor. Ron Bronsema will serve as Vice-chair of the committee.

C. Subcommittee and Assignments

Paula stated that at last month's meeting Ron voiced an idea of establishing a subcommittee to talk about the possibility of combining the special district's into a subzone. Paula advised the committee there were a few different subcommittees in the past, but over the years they were no longer useful. She suggested that if the committee is interested in forming any new subcommittees that in addition to a special district subcommittee, it would be beneficial to form a land acquisition subcommittee.

Ron gave the committee a brief background on his knowledge of creation of subzones and diking districts since he has been on the FCZD for the past 20+ years. He stated that it was hard for landowners to do a 70/30 cost-share when the FCZD was first created, so subzones and diking districts were formed in order for them to set their own assessments. He stated that currently all of the special districts don't have enough funding to take care of their projects and feels that if the special districts are reformed as subzones they will generate more funds and would not have to rely on the FCZD for so much help. He stated that last summer the projects that needed to be done were costing too much money and the

subzone funds are going down which is making it more difficult for the special districts to keep up with general maintenance and projects.

He feels if the special districts are reformed as subzones the tax base will be broader and there will be more funding available to put toward project costs.

There was a short discussion which led to the idea of establishing a small group of advisory committee members to meet and come up with a baseline of the needs and structure of what a subzone subcommittee could look like and report back to the full committee with their findings. The eventual goal of the subcommittee is to establish goals and/or a mission statement for a special district subcommittee.

MOTION: Dale Buys moved for Paula, Ron, and Scott (Hulse) to meet and develop a mission/purpose and idea for makeup of a special district ad-hoc committee. Seconded by Holly O'Neil. A yea or nay vote was taken. **MOTION PASSED, All in favor.**

Paula stated an acquisition subcommittee would be beneficial in order to keep land purchases transparent to immediate members of a subcommittee who in turn would report their back to the regular Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Ron moved to establish a Land Acquisition Subcommittee. Seconded by Holly O'Neil. A yea or nay vote was taken. **MOTION PASSED, All infavor**

There was short discussion about the number of volunteers needed. Ron suggested that five would be good, but if more are interested they could also volunteer.

Tom Brewster, Ron Bronsema, Al deBoer, Jeff DeJong, and Dale Buys volunteered for the Land Acquisition Subcommittee.

D. Floodplains by Design Legislative Outreach

Paula distributed a handout (copy on file) to the committee that included a narrative of Floodplains by Design and a map that showed the project component sites. The handout is something that was created to facilitate outreach to legislators. Whatcom County is currently ranked #1 in the state and as long as the FpD program is funded there is a good chance that we will get the money. Paula gave a brief description of each of the projects and the importance of a community driven approach to floodplain management, the project benefits, the reduced risk of loss of life and property, and the project partners. She asked the committee members to reach out to the State Legislators of the 42nd District in support of the Floodplains by Design Program. A list of phone numbers was provided and Lonni will email committee members the email addresses for the legislators.

E. Army Corps of Engineers Rehabilitation Projects Update

Paula gave a presentation (handout on file) and update on the ACOE Rehabilitation Projects. She explained the PL84-99 program for the newest members on the committee.

The following sites from 2017-2018 are currently on the list for requests for assistance, with the year the project will be implemented:

- Hannegan Levee (2019)
- Lynden Levee – 2 sites (2020)
- Abbott Levee – Heystek
- City of Ferndale – Ferndale Levee (2019)
- DD#2 – Sande Williams Levee (2019)
- Twin View – Jag's point (2019)
- Glacier Creek

The ACOE has repeatedly denied the request for repairs at Abbot Levee due to the erosion being too far away from the road. They have also denied the request for repair at Glacier Creek because the cost benefits wouldn't work, but the County has hired an engineering firm and are working on a concept to build a setback levee with funding from Floodplains by Design.

Paula briefed the committee on each project and showed the cost comparisons.

Levee Name	Construction Cost	Repair Length (ft)	Cost/Foot (\$/ft)
SW original design	\$ 294,000	680	432
SW revised design	\$ 425,000	1080	394
Hannegan	\$ 453,100	300	1510
Lynden – will change	\$ 482,000	650	742
Twin View – will change	\$ 357,500	300	1191

Paula stated the Diking District #2 (DD#2) Commissioners came to the AC meeting in July and asked for an 80/20 cost-share for the Sande/Williams repair of \$100,000 with the FCZD. The ACOE requires upfront costs and DD#2 does not have the funding since they only bring in \$12,000 annually. The committee agreed for the FCZD to contribute the funds and bill the Diking District for the 20% (\$20,000) at the end of the project.

After the July meeting the ACOE came out with their report of the preliminary investigation which had a \$294,000 construction cost which was higher than anticipated, and since then there was flooding in November and the DD#2 called the ACOE for flood fight. The ACOE came out and dumped some rock, but the result of the rock dumping is that they added additional site work so the costs have gone up to almost \$500,000. The DD#2 commissioners would like to know that the FCZD/AC will still support them with a higher cost-share. The total is now \$85,000 and DD#2 would like the FCZD to contribute \$68,000 toward the project with DD#2 covering the difference.

F. Floodplain Integrated Planning Process (FLIP) Update

Paula handed out a flow chart (copy on file) and gave an update on the FLIP process. The last FLIP meeting was almost one year ago. Since then the steering committee met once per month last year up until November when they started meeting every two weeks. The steering committee is comprised of County, Ag, Lummi, and Nooksack Tribe representatives. The geomorphology assessment is complete and available on the county website.

The habitat assessment was delayed because of low cfs, the hope is that snowmelt will increase the cfs so the assessment can be done. The goal was to get an overview of the habitat in the river to see what is needed in the different reaches. Paula would then give the recommendation of the reaches from the old plan and what was done with the FpD visioning process from four years ago to use as comparison. Once the habitat assessment is done the Reach Teams will be included in discussions. Paula stated that the habitat assessment will be hit hard in the spring and the steering committee will have the information ready for the Reach Teams in late summer.

Paula stated the hydraulic modelers have updated R3 and R4 from the 2015 USGS survey. As this moves forward with climate change, ongoing sedimentation, and increased flows, they will look at a range of conditions for the river.

Mark Ewbank, is the selected consultant for the land use characterization. He and Paula met with the small cities to make sure they understand the process and to review their issues from an infrastructure standpoint, how past floods affected them, and understand development plans for the future. Paula and Mark have also met with the Watershed Improvement District, the Lummi Tribe and are working on meeting with the Nooksack Tribe. Once all of the information is gathered Mark will write it up into an integrated needs assessment.

The steering committee met yesterday and looked at the second gyration. There are some issues with avulsion mapping that is trumping everything else. The committee worked on prioritization and once they are comfortable with it they will bring it to the larger audience. They will be doing quarterly updates this year to keep the FLIP team and all agencies updated.

G. Open Public Meetings Act Training

There were only three members in attendance that needed the training. Lonni provided them the link to the Attorney General's website so they could take the training online and report to her when they have completed the training. She will issue them a certificate and will report completion to the County HR department for compliance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

MOTION: Ron Bronsema moved to adjourn. Seconded by Dale Buys.
MOTION PASSED, All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

DRAFT