

**LAKE SAMISH COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER PLAN
PUBLIC MEETING NO. 5 – SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: June 27, 2012; (7:00 to 9:00 PM)

West Lake Station Fire Hall, 705 W. Lake Samish Drive, Bellingham, Washington

Kraig Olason welcomed attendees at 7:05 p.m. He gave a brief summary of past history leading up to the draft Lake Samish Comprehensive Stormwater plan. Liz Sterling from Wilson Engineering outlined the evening's agenda

Agenda

- Review of public process to date
- Planning progress since the last public meeting
- Final plan content and recommendations
- Next steps in the process

REVIEW OF PUBLIC PROCESS TO DATE

- The process included public participation in the plan.
- 4 public meetings have been held—with two in April 2010, and one each in November 2010 and March 2011.
- The website has been updated throughout the process for public access.
- Newsletters and project updates have been sent out over the course of the project.

PLANNING PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST PUBLIC MEETING

- Comments from public meeting #4 were incorporated into technical memoranda
- The draft plan is based on the technical memoranda.
- Updates to Final Draft Plan were based on County's review and comments

FINAL PLAN CONTENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The plan has a chapter-based organization that relate back to the technical memoranda.
- Programmatic and capital project recommendations were included by grouping and ranking. They address impacts that are basic/now as well as those that are special/later. Liz provided handouts.
- Handout #1 gave an overview of capital improvement projects (CIPs).
- Handout #2 has recommendations from the plan (Tables 6-1 to 6-6).
- Ranking rated by priority (public health and safety, flooding prevention, and acute water quality issues, etc.).
- Handout #3 showed relative ranking of programmatic activities (Table 6-7; scoring process).
- Governance including alternatives (e.g. Samish Water District, cooperative watershed management, Countywide Stormwater Utility, Lake Management District #1, Samish Watershed Subzone).
 - Current governance recommendation is to seek governance through the Samish Watershed Subzone
 - Structure for the subzone is already in place and could be expanded.
- Handout #4 provided funding examples (Table 7-1) and were discussed on how much can be done with a certain amount of money within a specific timeframe (user fee; uniform tax assessment vs. user fee [strategy by calculation of impervious surface]).
 - The plan DOES NOT dictate a funding mechanism. Final Funding of the program is yet to be determined. Adoption of plan doesn't mean adoption of the uniform tax-base funding strategy

NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

Final draft plan helps with prioritizing and funding of capital improvement projects. Next step is to move this beyond the planning stage and formalize it. Any final comments to be considered should be sent to Kraig Olason by July 6, 2012. The following schedule outlines important dates leading to adoption of the plan.

Future Schedule:

- July 10, 2012, 9:30 a.m.: County Staff will present the plan to the Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee.
- July 24, 2012, 7 p.m.: A public hearing will be scheduled before the County Council (this is the most formal opportunity to have thoughts expressed). The plan may be adopted at this meeting based on the information the Council receives and if they concur.

Basic/now plan implementation is set to begin in 2013. Implementation of the special/later portions of the plan will depend on development of the funding program. Community support following adoption of the plan is recommended to strategize funding of the program.

QUESTION & ANSWER/COMMENT SESSION:

Numerous questions and comments were posed to staff and the consultant such as:

- We feel this is being forced on us by Public Works. Not many requested this action, and we're already being taxed too much.
- Does Council impose the fees/tax? I would like to hear things go out to the people to vote on. We're paying for the water quality, but visitors don't have to pay. Once it's adopted, we basically have lost of control.
- How long will the assessment go on for? Forever?
- If we're dealing with the County's water, shouldn't they be responsible for the of culverts and roads.
- Propose funding of plan based on appraised value. We have some very significant state and county involvement that are excluded. Why? And why is there no boat launch fee or a fee to go into Whatcom County Park? What about stormwater that comes off I-5?
- We would like to see the "exempted" groups to pay as a source of revenue.
- Why not have the flood zone pay for it?
- We feel the County and State are shirking their responsibility of pollution into lakes.
- Summerland Road flows into Skagit—shouldn't they be excluded.
- If this is for water quality, why doesn't Lake Management use the money they have to take care of the Creek.
- We supported the plan because we thought it was to address water quality of the lake. But this plan talks about projects that don't necessarily show water quality improvements.
- How are impervious surfaces calculated? Do they include driveways and roofs?
- Were Canadian property owners notified? They won't be present at meetings. Have they considered who takes water from the lake and who has water from wells?
- What about individuals who treat their own stormwater?
- Stormwater treatment vaults on I-5 are supposed to be cleaned periodically, but nobody has. Annually, trees fall on road, ruin the road, and go into lake—but no one looked at how to deal with the trees to avoid that.
- Who would coordinate the plan? Would the coordinator get paid annually (KO: unless you get a volunteer, issue—how do we have a point of contact somewhere)
- What's the status on moving forward on the inspection of vaults on I-5? Seems counterproductive that so much effort was put into putting it in, but no one is following up.

- A street sweeper comes through the lake every couple of months. Money should be spent more on cleaning culverts.
- How many people draw water from the lake?
- Does water from Squires Lake come into Lake Samish?
- Where specifically is the issue of water coming off the creek into 4 catch basins?
- Is the list of dates and upcoming meetings with Council on the website?
- Will you meet up with the community after the plan is adopted? By August, we should have an idea whether it floats or sinks.
- Who's in charge of this after the plan is adopted?
- Are there potential resolutions for fixing culvert on N. Lake Samish Drive?
- When there was damage, does the County repair according to current standards?
- Why does the County do chip seal?
- Is the population taken off of the tax roll? Does it include the two parks?
- After adoption, there's no one means to represent the community as a whole. There's no one to follow-up this plan to represent our interests. Nothing happens unless we do anything? Does Council decide what to do next?
- Do we really have a major issue to move this forward?
- Does water in the lake mix/move?
- Back in late 1800s and early 1900s, people filed petition to get roads built here. If we get petitions done, will that have any impacts?
- Recommendations in the plan were for governance by the Samish watershed subzone (existing entity). Would the subzone itself advance some of the projects?
- We have concern that anyone can come on the property without a search warrant to look for violations.

For much of the funding questions, Kraig provided examples of how things were being done by BBWARM (Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management) District under the Birch Bay Comprehensive Stormwater Plan. With other questions, Liz referred to specific points in the draft plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.