

ACME/VANZANDT SUBZONE

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2019

**Van Zandt Community Hall
Potter Road and State Route 9, Deming, WA**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting convened at 7:07 pm.

Present: Steve Powers (member), Cindy Fabbri (member), Holly O'Neil (vice chair), Gail Galbraith-Everett (citizen), Randy Luke (citizen), Erin Suda (note-taker),

Absent: Galen Smith (chair), John Stephens (member)

2. OPEN SESSION

Gail received a postcard from DNR asking local people to help with salmon restoration by correcting fish passage barriers. Randy shared that there is a real problem at Hutchison Creek where there used to be salmon runs that are absent now. At some point in the 60's or early 70's, Fisheries came in and straightened out the creek and destroyed the pools, and since then the salmon have not returned. Fisheries said that it was a restoration problem and that the salmon could not pass the natural barriers, so they used dynamite and machinery to change the channel. The committee encourages Gail and Randy to call the number on the postcard and find out more about the program and report back. Holly also suggests that Subzone send out minutes to the Nooksack Tribe and other agencies so they can see the comments from citizens. Randy is also concerned that the Tribe may want to breach dykes to open the river at the Overbee property, but he would like to see improvements made to Hutchinson Creek before anything else is done. He was contacted again a few years ago about the Overbee project and if workers could pass through Randy and Gail's property to do the work. They are not open to participating in this new project until they see better action on past projects, and they are also concerned about the affect on their property. Holly believes this project has been cancelled, but she will check and let Randy and Gail know by phone. Gail will report back after talking to DNR about the removal of passage barriers.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Approval of the Minutes, January 23, 2019 – Correction will be made to seconding of meeting since Holly was absent. **Steve motioned to approve, Cindy seconded, approved 2-0, with Holly abstaining.**

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- Armstrong//Strachila Update – Cindy reports that the families did mark the property and the Tribe did do GPS to show property loss. She sent photos that show the loss so that it is now documented.

The request for a short-term fix by this fall was made, but it may not work for the standard process for these types of projects. They are still gathering data and doing analysis, so they may not be able to come up with a plan in time to stop further erosion this winter. The Strachilas may be able to do some protective work with wood on their property, but of course, cannot work in the river without a permit. Next step is to stay in touch with the Tribe and work with funding – will they have enough in their budget to include the short-term piece? If not, can the Subzone come forward with some funding? There are two main parts of the process: planning and funding. Holly suggests that we follow up with Paula for more guidance because something needs to be done to avert a major disaster for the families. Cindy agrees that we should talk to Paula and bring the pictures. She also suggests a site visit to see the situation now and be able to report on that. Steve agrees that if the river breaches at Armstrong/Strachila location, than his house and many others will also be affected. Cindy will call the Strachilas to find out about the current situation and ask for more pictures and Holly will initiate a conversation with Paula to see what can be done. They will consider putting this issue on the agenda for the county-wide flood control district.

- Preemptive Projects – Committee reviewed the project list and Cindy remarked that there may be some larger scale projects that could be added to the list. She recommends that Ian be consulted for these projects. They could be added as a secondary list. Subzone could then take them to Paula for discussion. The FLIP project may include a chapter on the forks, and our list could be a resource for that, so it would be good to get all the important projects on the list. Other Subzone groups have had a lot of success pushing many projects through, so maybe it would be worthwhile to talk to them to find out how they have accomplished that. When meeting with Paula, committee members need to keep the Strachila issue prioritized. Gail asked about the FLIP – it stands for Floodplain Integration Plan and a group is working to organize projects for the main stem. Erin will send the project list out again to the members. Holly will reach out to Ian and Galen about what other projects should be added.

- Corrected Schedule – members verified that they all have the correct dates for the meetings. New schedules were distributed to members to be posted. Erin will check with John about the signs that he has already posted and make sure they are correct.

- Tabled Items – Dozer Hole and Jones Creek reports are tabled until the next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Conflict of Interest – Holly suggests that the committee take on a process in which once a year, all members declare what conflicts of interest they have with any work of the committee. It is best that conflicts are declared once a year, but members should also be careful to state their conflict of interest when a discussion of a specific project comes up. Having a conflict does not mean that the member cannot vote or give input. Gail comments that having interest in these issues is what motivates many people to be involved. Cindy asks that we put this issue back on the agenda when the other two members are present.

6. ADJOURN

Holly moves to adjourn, Cindy seconds, and the meeting closes at 8:06 pm.