

WHATCOM COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Civic Center – Garden Level Conference Room

June 13, 2019

Attendance: Tom Brewster, Ron Bronsema, Dale Buys, Jeff DeJong, Scott Hulse, Holly O'Neil, Mike Schoneveld

Members Excused: Scott Bedlington, Dale Blok, Albert deBoer, John Perry

Members Absent: Kyle Christensen, Kent Roorda, Rud Browne (ex-officio)

Staff: Paula Harris, Lonni Cummings

Visitors: Alan Chapman, Whatcom Conservation District

I. ROLL CALL

Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. OPEN SESSION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Ron Bronsema moved to approve the March 14, 2019 minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mike Schoneveld. **MOTION PASSED, All in favor**

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Project Updates

- a. Red River Levee Repair
- b. Rayhorst Levee Improvement
- c. Glacier-Gallup Alluvial Fan Restoration
- d. South Fork Fish Camp Project
- e. South Fork Homesteader Project

Paula distributed the Capital Projects for FCZD Flood Projects handout and presented a slide show that included the project location for each of the projects and gave a brief summary of each project. The projects were categorized as Non-SWIF, SWIF, New Projects.

Paula noted that although the Glacier/Gallup came from SWIF, it was not yet a capital project as it needs to be integrated with the long-term hazard mitigation planning and community involvement. Diking District #1 (DD#1) has two projects, the Red River and Rayhorst projects; a local contribution from DD#1 has not been established as the district has limited funding.

Red River Levee - The Red River Levee repair project is in DD#1 district but is on land owned by the Lummi Tribe. The district sets assessments each year, but is unable to collect almost half of it that is assessed on tribal properties. Paula asked Lummi Nation if they will contribute to the project because they have not been paying the assessments. The Tribe agreed to take the lead in putting the project out to bid and overseeing construction and will contribute 15% of the cost-share. The County will develop the design drawings and technical specifications and fill out the permit applications for the tribe to submit. The project cost currently estimated at \$125,000 - \$150,000. Paula has been trying to meet with the District to discuss how much they have available to contribute to both projects.

Rayhorst Levee – The Rayhorst Levee improvement came out of the SWIF program and was programmed for 2018 construction, but was delayed until this year. The project includes widening and backsloping 210 feet of levee. Flood staff is currently working on the bid package. The current cost estimate for construction is \$75,000.

Glacier/Gallup – Paula stated this project was identified in SWIF as a project to be integrated with long-term flood hazard reduction strategies. WSDOT will be replacing the bridge in 2026, so it makes sense for the FCZD to develop a project to address the levees at the same time. A consultant has been retained (BGC Engineering from Canada) to do a hazard assessment and develop alternatives to support selection of a project. BGC conducted field work last month to gather data and look for signs of past events. The County reached out to key property owners that will be affected by the concept. There is a broader community meeting on June 27th, see flyer handout (copy on file).

SF Homesteader Project – This project was brought to the AC by Ian Smith in September 2018. The Nooksack Tribe (Tribe) is interested in helping a farmer who is losing land to reduce flood risk and build habitat but they didn't have funding. Ian proposed the idea of helping fund the design of the project to the AC. Jeff asked Ian to come back with hard numbers of the cost. In the meantime, the Nooksack Tribe received SRFB grant funding. County staff has been working with the Tribe to select a consultant and get the project kicked off.

SF Fishcamp Project – This project is focused in the Acme area which is a repetitive flood loss area. The Nooksack Tribe is the lead for the project which will integrate fish and flood interests and engage the community and landowners. The Tribe is holding a community workshop on June 27th to discuss this project.

B. Supplemental Budget Request

Paula provide a handout of the Supplemental Budget Request (copy on file). The FCZD is being awarded a Floodplains by Design grant that includes funding for land acquisition for flood hazard reduction projects along the Lower Nooksack River and Jones Creek. The supplemental budget request provides budget authority to cover the expenditures associated with land acquisition anticipated through the end of the year. Both projects on Jones Creek and the Lower Nooksack entail levee construction or reconfiguration to reduce flood hazards associated with debris flows on Jones Creek and overbank flooding on the Nooksack. Work on these projects was initiated years ago and land acquisition is the next step to keep the projects progressing. There was short discussion on this subject.

MOTION: Ron Bronsema moved to support the Supplemental Budget Request for the Lower Nooksack River and Jones Creek projects. Seconded by Mike Schoneveld
MOTION PASSED, All in favor

VI. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.