

Thurston County Flood Planning Committee Meeting Notes



Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Thurston Regional Planning Council – 2424 Heritage Court SW, Olympia, WA

Conference Room A

Present: Pat Allen, Paul Brewster, Tris Carlson, Howard Glastetter, Tim Rubert, Robert Scott, Trevin Taylor, Alan Vanell, and George Walter, and Cal Bray (for Glenn Connelly)

Absent: Scott Boetcher, Glen Connelly, Andrew Kinney, Mark Maurer, Allison Osterberg, and Meghan Porter



1. Introductions

Paul Brewster, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council, facilitated the meeting. The committee members introduced themselves. Paul provided a brief overview of the project website located at www.trpc.org/floodplan. The flood plan community survey and a link to the May 25 public meeting are prominently displayed on TRPC's homepage as well as the project page. The website includes a page for the Flood Plan Committee. The dates of upcoming committee meetings and the meeting materials are available on this page.

2. Thurston County Flood Hazards Mitigation Plan Goals and Objectives Review

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Paul Brewster presented an overview of the plan's mitigation strategy. It consists of the goals, objectives, and the specific flood mitigation activities or initiatives. The mitigation strategy should be measurable. How do the plan's mitigation initiatives fulfill the objectives and how well are the objectives serving to meet the plan's goals?

The plan's goals should:

1. Address all flood related problems within the planning area
2. Be consistent with other county planning goals and CRS goals
3. Reflect the values of the greater community

A general description of flood threats and disruptions was presented. Members shared the following additional flood threats not identified on the presentation:

- Future floods may be so severe that some neighborhoods may lack the ability to fully recover
- Concerns about the accumulation of debris and sediment in the county's floodways reducing its capacity and ability to safely convey floodwaters
- Concerns about illegal fill on private property
- Development in neighboring counties impacts floodwaters downstream in Thurston County
- Black River and Chehalis River flooding problems are compounded by high ocean tides in Grays Harbor
- Inadvertent public works project to correct road problems over Medicine Creek, resulted in damage to culvert.
- Concerns about Tacoma Power's Hydroelectric Project reservoir management affecting flooding downstream in Nisqually Valley.

The flood plan goals should have a relationship to Thurston County's Comprehensive Plan, particularly Chapter 9, Natural Environment. Paul presented an abbreviated description of the seven policies in this chapter and provided a succinct sample goal statement for each.

The current flood plan goals were derived from the 2009 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region and adapted to specifically address flooding. Paul explained that the 2017 version Hazards Mitigation Plan goals and objectives were substantially revised to simplify the goal statements and make them more relevant to mitigation than preparedness and response. The flood plan goals and objectives for King and Pierce Counties were also presented.

Paul identified some issues with the current flood plan goals:

- The 11 objectives are independent of the 8 goals; No clear relationship between them
- The mitigation initiatives reference objectives, but not goals
- Goals and objectives are silent on ongoing participation in CRS or NFIP
- No goals or objectives on strengthening or supporting flood insurance aspects of NFIP

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- No goals or objectives on incorporating flood mitigation activities into other county plans, policies, and programs

The flood planning committee members discussed the format of the plan goals and objectives and provided the following direction to staff:

1. The current plan goals should be revised so they are more succinct and easy to understand.
2. The objectives should be nested under appropriate goals.
3. The goals and objectives can be augmented using the Hazard Mitigation Plan goals and objectives where appropriate
4. Staff will send out draft goals and objectives to the committee members prior to the June 7 meeting.
5. The planning committee will review the draft goals on June 7

3. May 25 Public Meeting Overview

Paul shared copies of the post card that were mailed to 8,000 plus households, property owners, and businesses in and out of Thurston County that are on the county's Flood Bulletin distribution list. The post card includes details about the public meeting, a link to the online flood survey, and a link to the project website. A copy of the public meeting flyer was also shared. Paul presented an overview and provided a copy of the draft May 25 Public Meeting Presenters' Agenda to the committee members. A description of the meeting format, information stations, presentations, and group facilitated discussion was provided.

Committee Members are encouraged to attend the public meeting.

4. Public Comments.

No additional participants attended the meeting. No public comments were received.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.