

## Thurston County Flood Planning Committee Meeting Notes



**Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

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

**Conference Room A**

**Present:** Pat Allen, Scott Boetcher, Cal Bray, Paul Brewster, Tris Carlson, Howard Glastetter, Andrew Kinney, Allison Osterberg, Meghan Porter, Tim Rubert, Trevin Taylor, Alan Vanell, and George Walter,  
**Absent:** Glen Connelly, Mark Maurer, Robert Scott

### **1. Introductions**

Paul Brewster, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council, facilitated the meeting. The committee members introduced themselves.

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

Planner Paul Brewster provided a recap of the last committee meeting: The planning committee directed TRPC to revise the goals and objectives to be more succinct and easy to understand, objectives should be nested under appropriate goals, and the goals and objectives could be augmented using the Hazard Mitigation Plan goals and objectives and other county planning sources as appropriate. TRPC sent out a draft of the revised goals and objectives to the committee members on June 1.

Planner Brewster explained that he rewrote the existing flood plan goals and reduced them from eight to six. The objectives were also substantially revised and related to the goals. Two versions of the revised goals were provided to the committee, a redlined copy, and an annotated copy that noted the source of the revisions.

Committee member Alan Vanell asked a question about the goals and objectives and who is responsible for the flood plan and who it affects. Paul Brewster explained that it is Thurston County's Plan and it will be adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners, but the goals and objectives should reflect the greater community values. Pat Allen further elaborated that the flood plan addresses unincorporated Thurston County. While the Board of County Commissioner's adopt the plan, it will be staff from various departments who will be responsible for implementing the plan's recommendations.

A conversation ensued among the committee members about the range of goals in the plan and how the plan's actions/recommendations would address the goals. More specifically, if the plan includes a goal and objectives for environmental enhancements such as preserving and enhancing habitat for aquatic species within the planning area, what is the plan's role or responsibility to achieve such objectives? Planner Brewster explained that the plan's mitigation strategy should relate to the goals and objectives in the plan. However, the primary role of the plan is to identify a mitigation strategy that will reduce the county's vulnerability to flooding and minimize the impacts of flood hazards. While the flood plan can include objectives that speak to environmental protection and enhancement objectives, Thurston County has other plans, ordinances, and development regulations that offer more specific guidance and requirements

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for protecting and restoring ecological functions than would be appropriate for the flood plan to offer. Several committee members indicated the importance of the flood plan serving principally as a hazard mitigation plan, but believe it is important for the plan to identify objectives that speak to the importance of preserving and enhancing the ecological services of channel migration zones, floodways, and floodplains wherever possible. In summary, several committee members expressed that flood hazard mitigation and enhancement of ecological services should go hand in hand.

The committee members spent approximately 90 minutes reviewing the 6 goals and 31 objectives and offering Planner Brewster feedback. There were multiple suggestions for minor word choice changes. Committee members requested the following feedback to revise the draft goals and objectives:

- Language about reducing the county's flood vulnerability should be more apparent in a goal or objectives
- It is important that the goals and objectives address making the best use of limited funding to implement cost-effective mitigation measures
- Monitoring, data collection, and accounting for climate change effects in flood mitigation planning should be included
- There needs to be a greater emphasis on preserving and enhancing the ecological services and benefits within floodways and floodplains such as habitat provisions for aquatic species

At 3:45, Planner Brewster concluded the revision process and offered to revise the goals and objectives and incorporate the committee's feedback. Subsequent revisions will be shared with the committee members by email and additional feedback can be sent to Planner Brewster.

### **3. Flood Risk Assessment**

Due to the extended discussion on the goals and objectives, this agenda item was postponed until June 21.

### **4. May 25 Public Meeting Recap**

Planner Brewster shared that 24 community members attended the May 25 meeting. Meeting participants appeared engaged with the group discussions. The feedback is being summarized by TRPC. A total of 230 people have participated in the online flood survey. The survey will remain open until June 30.

### **5. Public Comments**

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

### **6. Adjourn**

The next meeting is on June 21 from 2-4 p.m. at TRPC. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.