



Community Technical Group Meeting 8 Summary

4/4/16

OVERVIEW

On March 16, 2016, Pierce County Storm Water Management hosted the eighth Community Technical Group (CTG) meeting for the System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) planning process.

Topics for the March 16 meeting included:

- Overview of the Puyallup River system baseline
- Update on the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and how the SWIF goals and objectives relate to the HCP
- Overview of funding for levee work and the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Comprehensive Plan of Development (CPOD)
- Overview of levee maintenance, betterments and improvements
- Discussion of risk assessment and prioritization protocols
- Discussion of the SWIF Action Plan Draft Outline

All presentations can be found at:

<https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4487>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting facilitator Penny Mabie welcomed everyone and led a round of introductions. She conducted an overview of the agenda, meeting handouts and ground rules.

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL GROUP BUSINESS

Penny asked if the CTG had any objections to finalizing the Meeting 6 and 7 summaries. The summaries were previously emailed to the group for review. There were no emailed responses. No objections were raised and the summary drafts were accepted as final. The summaries are available on the SWIF webpage.

PUYALLUP RIVER SYSTEM BASELINE

Erick Thompson, Pierce County Environmental Biologist, and Todd Essman, Pierce County Project Technical Lead, provided an overview of the Puyallup River system baseline. The baseline is the current state of the environment and is used to evaluate the effects to listed species of actions along the river. The baseline will be used to document and show improvements over a 30 year period for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). See slides 4-24 of the [Presentation](#) for details.

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) UPDATE

Angela Angove, Pierce County Public Works, provided an update on the HCP and its relationship to the SWIF goals and objectives. The HCP is a required part of an application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP). The ITP is necessary under the US Endangered Species Act for the undertaking of projects that might result in the destruction of an endangered or threatened species.

The HCP will describe measures designed to minimize and mitigate the effects of activities along the river. Those activities include:

- Levee and revetment maintenance
- Culvert maintenance
- Flood fighting and emergency work

- Imminent threat
- Levee vegetation management

Four large projects are proposed in the HCP as mitigation for these effects on listed species and habitat: Neadham Road Flooding/Channel Migration Protection, Orville Road Channel Migration Project, Clear Creek Acquisition/Levee Project and Alward Road Floodplain Acquisition and Setback Levee Project. These projects were proposed as part of the Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP) and will be implemented through the HCP.

The County has begun drafting portions of the HCP and seeks to publish a draft in fall 2016 and receive the ITP in spring 2017. See slides 25-36 of the [Presentation](#) for details.

CTG members and Pierce County staff shared the following questions or comments and Pierce County provided answers where appropriate:

- A CTG member asked what time frame would be covered in the HCP.
 - Angela said that the HCP covers a 30 year period.
- A CTG member noted that it is difficult to capture the baseline of fish species.
 - Erick indicated that the HCP will focus on habitat rather than a species recovery plan, since any species could utilize and benefit from the habitat.
- Rob asked how the mitigation project sites were selected.
 - Erick said that the team conducted an analysis of levee repairs and activity impacts for the past 15 years and extrapolated that to project the next 30 years. He explained that the team selected projects that were already included in the FHMP.
- A CTG member asked how the team would assess the quality of the mitigation.
 - Erick said that the quality of mitigation will be assessed through the monitoring component to the HCP. The team will monitor levee repairs and activity impacts along the river so that they can be compared to the 30 year projections. In addition, the team will monitor the mitigation components to determine their effects on habitat lift.
 - Angela noted that the team is working to develop more details on the effects and mitigation. Once that is established, the team will reach out to Tribes and interested stakeholders.

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT (FCZD) & PIERCE COUNTY SWM PRIORTIZATION FOR FUNDING

Teresa Lewis, Pierce County SWM, provided an overview of the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Comprehensive Plan of Development (CPOD), and funding for the levee work. The FCZD is funded by County property owners and provides funds for large flood risk reduction projects, maintenance projects and an Opportunity Fund. Capital improvement projects from the FHMP are ranked to help the FCZD decide which to fund; projects are funded at different levels. See slides 37-55 of the [Presentation](#) for details.

CTG members and Pierce County staff shared the following questions or comments and Pierce County provided answers where appropriate:

- A CTG member asked if cities outside of the flood zone were eligible for funds and if those funds had to be used for construction projects.
 - Teresa said that cities outside of the flood zone can get funds through the Opportunity Fund. These cities pay into the district and are eligible for water related projects, such as water quality issues and localized flooding. Projects do not have to

be related to construction; they can be related to watershed planning and other studies.

- A CTG member asked if cities not affected by flooding pay in more money than they receive back through the Opportunity Fund.
 - Teresa explained that property owners are charged \$0.10 for every \$100,000 in property value. This results in those cities paying in more than they get back through the opportunity fund.
 - Tony said that the justification for taxing cities outside of the floodplain is that they are still affected by flooding (e.g., road protection).
- A CTG member asked if the FCZD supplied funds for the Sediment Management as a Risk Reduction Tool (SMRRT) project.
 - Teresa said that funds have only been spent on planning for SMRRT.
- Rob asked if the FCZD used a projected growth rate to estimate revenue.
 - Teresa said that the FCZD has used a conservative one percent growth rate in their estimates.
- Tony explained that SWM has requested a level of service increase from the Pierce County Council in order to increase SWM funding for projects. SWM did not receive the increase, but the Council has agreed to hear SWM again later this year. An increased level of service in conjunction with FCZD funds will aid SWM in completing large projects.

MAINTENANCE, BETTERMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Todd Essman, Pierce County Project Technical Lead, shared information about levee maintenance, betterments and improvements. Pierce County seeks to make repairs within the existing levee footprint. For the SWIF, the County will focus on maintenance and refinements, but not betterments. Betterments will occur through capital projects. Todd defined the following types of work:

- **Maintenance:** Actions taken to preserve flood risk reduction infrastructure (e.g., replacing toe rock, cleaning culverts)
- **Betterments:** Actions taken that increase the area protected, provide features that did not exist prior to the flood event or increase the level of protection (e.g., increasing levee height, adding a culvert)
- **Refinements:** Actions taken to provide added resiliency without changing the basic character of the structure (e.g., laying back slopes)
- **Capital Maintenance:** Projects that are beyond the scope of typical maintenance (e.g., setback levee)
- **Capital Improvements:** Projects, programs and policies that implement long-term strategies to reduce flood risk (e.g., dolo jam)

See slides 56-83 of the [Presentation](#) for details.

SWIF ACTION PLAN DRAFT OUTLINE

Rob Wenman, Pierce County Project Manager, presented a draft outline of the SWIF Action Plan. The Action Plan will outline Pierce County's plan for addressing deficiencies identified by US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Action Plan will include the following elements:

- Deficiency action plan
- Maintenance program
- Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) plan
- Capital maintenance program
- Capital improvement plan
- Funding and implementation

See slides 86-103 of the [Presentation](#) for details.

NEXT STEPS

Penny reviewed outstanding action items with the group, including sharing an updated IRRM factor prioritization matrix and discussing comments on the vegetation management strategy.

Penny told the group that the meeting on Wednesday, March 23 would be cancelled. At the next meeting on April 20, the group will discuss a more detailed Action Plan describing the path toward SWIF implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ATTENDANCE

Community Technical Group Members

Chrissy Cooley	Agricultural Round Table
Steve Carstens	City of Puyallup
Martin Fox	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Jessica Stone	Pierce County Parks and Recreation
Jill Bushnell	Pierce County Emergency Management
Russ Ladley	Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Charles Ifft	US Army Corps of Engineers
Jonathan Moen	US Army Corps of Engineers
Jeffree Stewart	Washington Department of Ecology
Doug Wiedemeier	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Pierce County

Tony Fantello	Project Sponsor
Rob Wenman	Project Manager
Todd Essman	Project Technical Lead
Erick Thompson	Environmental Biologist
Teresa Lewis	Education and Outreach Coordinator
Angela Angove	HCP Project Manager
Sarah Motsenbocker	Civil Engineer

Envirolssues

Penny Mabie	Facilitator
Chelsea Ongaro	Notetaker

Hackney Interests

Clint Hackney	Tribal Liaison
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