



Approved Advisory Committee Meeting Summary: February 5, 2021

### **Attendance**

Present: Mike Dahlem, City of Sumner, Chair; Commissioner Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma; Councilmember Spencer Abersold, WRIA 15; Paul Green, Advisory Committee Member; Todd McKellips, Unincorporated Pierce County; Jason Jordan, Port of Tacoma; Chris Cooley, representing Pierce County Executive (alternate); Hans Hunger, City of Puyallup (alternate); Councilmember Jeni Woock, City of Gig Harbor (alternate); Councilmember Lou Walfrom, City of Fife; Kim Quesnel, Senior Scientist, BlueForest Conservation; Mary Krauszer, Pierce Conservation District; Al Zehni, Pierce County Planning & Public Works; Dennis Dixon, Pierce County Planning and Public Works; Nick Wobbrock, BlueForest Conservation; Rebecca Lee, Grant Coordinator for Pierce County SWIM; Bruce Wagner, Pierce County Public Works Roads Operations Manager; Ross Blount, Public Works Director, Fife; Greg Reed, City of Orting

Staff: Kjristine Lund, Executive Director; Melissa McFadden, District Administrator; Brynne Walker, Floodplain Management Planner, Pierce County Planning and Public Works Department (PPW); Anne-Marie Marshall-Dody, Program and Partnerships Manager, Pierce County PPW; Harold Smelt, Engineering Services Manager, Pierce County PPW; Helmut Schmidt, Pierce County Floodplain Services

**The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of Meeting Summary**

The approval of the minutes for the meeting on November 6, 2020 was deferred to the next meeting.

### **Operating Rules Review and Open Public Meetings Act Check-in**

Ms. Lund reviewed the operating rules on the website which were revised in 2018.

Rules to be confirmed:

- Quorum requirement
- Vote by consensus
- Leadership vote for Chair and Vice-chair
- Staff Support from Flood Control Administrator
- Facilitation provided by the Executive Director
- General rules regarding external communication
- Open public meetings act; opportunity for public comment is provided

There were no suggested amendments or changes to these rules.

### **Election of Officers**

Chair Dahlem requested nominations for Chair of the Advisory Committee. Mr. Hunger proposed that Mr. Dalhem continue as Chair. Mr. Reed nominated Mr. Dalhem as Chair. Mr. Walfrom seconded the nomination. Mr. Dalhem was unanimously elected for another year as Chair. Mr. Wolfram nominated Mr. Abersold as Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Green. Mr. Abersold was unanimously elected for another year as Vice-Chair.

### **Designation of Alternates**

Ms. Lund reminded regular members to designate alternates. Alternates needed for the following roles:

- City of Tacoma

Vacancies on the Committee:

- Puyallup Tribe
- Nisqually Basin
- Unincorporated Pierce County

### **River 101 Training**

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Dixon presented an Introduction to Rivers, a manual called “Rivers 101”. Mr. Dixon reviewed the situations surrounding the flood in January 2009. He discussed the difference between natural phenomenon vs. natural disaster. Flooding can be a benefit for fisheries and farmers, but a problem for homes being built in the flood plains. He explained how the river flows were changed. These changes caused numerous floods and destruction. Mr. Schmidt went on to discuss alternatives for changes starting in the 1990’s. He explained how a natural system of flow is being emulated in the rivers. Mr. Schmidt then explained “Rivers 101”, and the terminology used in the manual.

### **BlueForest, Snoquera Project**

Ms. Quesnel and Mr. Wobbrock gave a presentation on the Snoquera Project called “Introduction to the Resilience Bond”. Blue Forest Conservation is a NPO involved in bringing resources and developing new finance solutions from private investors and foundations to fund important projects, such as watershed resilience. They connect investor capital to use for ecosystem services.

The Snoquera Project:

- Restore stream and flood-plain complexity
- Remove infrastructure from flood plains
- Increase off-channel habitat and protect refugia in side channels

Co-Benefit: Fish

- Increase habitat connectivity and diversity of habitat types

Snoquera is a 191k acre project, with 120k acres in the Mr. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in the Upper Green and White River Watersheds. It is a landscape-scale restoration project supported by multiple local groups. It has been identified as one of 16 Western WA priority landscapes by WA DNR Forest Action Plan. A main goal of Snoquera is restoring floodplains and reducing flood risk.

## **Operations & Maintenance**

Mr. Wagner spoke about the Maintenance and Operations 2021 Plan Overview--Levees. He maintains an inventory of assets. This gives the ability to respond when needed and get the most out of the resources available. He outlined the seven repair projects planned for 2021. He also spoke about new projects on the docket for 2022 and 2023.

## **Capital Projects Updates**

Projects in CIP that may require carryover funding from 2020 to 2021:

- Chair Dahlem regarding Sumner projects--there were enough funds in 2020 to cover all expenses for the year.
- Ms. Krauszer regarding Pierce Conservation District--request to rollover the Puget Sound shoreline project funds into the 2021 budget.
- Mr. Zehni regarding Pierce County--Mid Puyallup 128th St. comp study; Neadham Rd. acquisition; Orville 2C acquisition; Alward Rd. acquisition and setback; Upper Nisqually migration protection.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.**