

MEETING NOTES
Channel Migration Zone Citizen Advisory Committee
Wednesday, November 5th, 2008
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Pierce County Central Maintenance Facility
4812 196th St. E., Spanaway

CAC Members Present

Thomas Magnan
Hal Michael
Jeff Barney
Don Hawkins
Kathy Hatcher
Jerry Harnish
Valerie Wilson
Ted Hill
Betty Zenkner
Mike Fenimore

Staff and Speakers

Harold Smelt, PC SWM
Hans Hunger, PC SWM
Melissa Paulson, PC SWM
Dennis Dixon, PC SWM
Randy Brake, PC SWM

Excused:

Shelly Butterfield
Karen Willard

Introductions and Announcements

1) No comments were received on the workplan after last meeting; a revised copy was distributed with the other materials for this meeting via email. 2) In addition, Melissa passed out copies of the flowchart and table relating CMZ planning to other planning efforts and a CD with contact information for those parcels which intersect the mapped CMZs in Pierce County (see assignments from last meeting). Similar parcel information was not available for King County or Lewis County, although it was determined that 257 parcels intersect the Upper Nisqually CMZ on the Lewis County side. 3) It is currently unknown to what extent the NFMS biological opinion will impact PC management of CMZs. Harold will keep the group posted as we know more.

CMZ Mapping “101” – Dennis Dixon and Randy Brake, PC SWM

Dennis Dixon and Randy Brake overviewed Pierce County’s purpose for and process of mapping channel migration zones. Dennis began his presentation by defining some common technical terminology not contained in our current glossary. He also described the river system classifications common in Pierce County as well as common channel behaviors, both of which are central to delineation of channel migration zones. Data used to map Pierce County CMZs include Government Land Office and other agency maps, aerial photos, USGS reports, LIDAR and other GIS data layers, as well as field data collected as part of the Brown and Caldwell study. In general, CMZs are mapped by the following four-step process: 1) Definition of the Historical Channel Occupation Tract (HCOT) through aerial photographic record; 2)



Determination of migration rates over time; 3) Application of rates to the HCOT to determine the base width; 4) Reassessment of the base width based on local geological features such as bed rock that may restrict channel migration.

Dennis also dispelled a number of myths about CMZ hazards and described how Pierce County's mapping process compares to the mapping being done by other agencies (particularly King County). He and Randy then wrapped up their presentation with a brief overview of the characteristics of both the river systems and CMZs in the Upper Nisqually, Puyallup, White, Carbon and South Prairie studies.

Both presentations are available online or via email. Handouts were distributed at the meeting.

Election of CAC Chair

Mike Fenimore, Don Hawkins and Thomas Magnan had expressed interest in serving as Chair of the CMZ CAC prior to this meeting. During pre-voting discussion, Mike asked to be struck from the ballot because of other commitments and lack of available time. He offered to assist the elected Chair as appropriate. The CAC voted by way of written ballot, electing Don to the position. PC staff will coordinate with him on building the agenda for the next meeting.

Assignments

All Members: Continue to review materials and ask questions as needed

Don: Work with PC staff on development of next month's meeting agenda

PC Staff: Work with Chair on development of next month's meeting agenda

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 3rd, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the CMF (*Objective: Develop recommendations on CMZ Mapping*)

