

MEETING NOTES
Channel Migration Zone Citizen Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Pierce County Central Maintenance Facility
4812 196th St. E., Spanaway

CAC Members Present

Don Hawkins, Chair
Thomas Magnan
Hal Michael
Kathy Hatcher
Karen Willard
Betty Zenkner
Ted Hill

Jeff Barney
Valerie Wilson
Jerry Harnish
Shelly Butterfield

Absent
Mike Fenimore

PC Staff and Speakers

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

Also Present

Approximately 25 members of the general public

Introductions and Announcements

Handouts distributed included the notes from the May meeting, a compilation of the public comments received since the last meeting and additional copies of the draft report with executive summary.

Review First Draft of Final Report to Council

The first draft of the CAC's final report was sent out to the group for review two weeks in advance of this meeting. The report is organized according to the original Council resolution which created the CMZ CAC (R2008-55) and contains an introduction plus a section on each of the four topic areas: 1) mapping of CMZ hazards; 2) development standards; 3) notification; and 4) other related issues. The report also includes a two-page Executive Summary that overviews the CAC's recommendations.

The first three sections of the report were discussed and revised, with notes and edits captured via laptop. Please look to the second draft of the report (coming mid-June) for more detail about the comments that were made. Those edits will be made in time for a second round of review at the July meeting. The final section ("Other Related Issues") will be revised at the July meeting. Any comments or suggestions in the interim are welcome and should be sent to Melissa for inclusion.

Public Comment

Five people took the opportunity to speak to the CMZ CAC at this meeting. Comments included suggestions about how to make the final report a more effective tool for conveying ideas to Council (both in terms of language that could be use and the types of recommendations that should be made) and statements in favor of more notification of property owners about actions that could impact their ability to use their property. People also emphasized that property rights and protection of real property are very important messages to send to the Pierce County Council. Please see page 3 of these notes for a more detailed account of the comments that were made.



Next Steps: Final Product and Process

Melissa will use today's discussion to revise the first few sections of the draft report and will send out the second draft two weeks in advance of the next meeting. At the July meeting, we'll finish revising the "Other Related Issues" section of the report. This section may take more time to get through, as it includes some new/placeholder recommendations (e.g., regarding recommendation to adopt/not adopt the Nisqually and South Prairie CMZ studies). There are also some unfinished "parking lot" issues that may need to be included in this section, which may require additional discussion. Any suggestions for language that should be included in this section are welcome by email between now and June 17th when the draft is sent out.

There will be one additional opportunity to revise the draft report between the July and August meetings. The CMZ CAC's final meeting in August will include public release of the group's final report, celebration and reflection on our accomplishments over the last year, and discussion of the next steps.

Assignments

All Members: Read and provide written feedback on the draft report in advance of the next meeting; Come to next meeting prepared to discuss the "Other Related Issues" section of the report; Continue to review materials and ask questions as needed

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

PC Staff: 1) Distribute meeting materials (agendas, notes, revised recommendations, etc.) prior to the next meeting date; 2) Work with Chair to develop agenda for July; 3) Revise first draft of CMZ CAC final report per today's discussion and distribute approximately two weeks before the July meeting.

Parking Lot for Future Meetings

No parking lot items were added at this time.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 1st, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Central Maintenance Facility (*Objectives: Complete review of first draft of CMZ CAC final report; review first round of edits*)



Public Comment & Discussion
CMZ CAC – 6/3/09

- **Paul Nerge:** It's important to notify the public at first consideration of a CMZ study, then again when action is taken, and whenever there's a chance for public input. More notification is better than less. Email would be an okay communication tool.
- **Bill Berry:** I wonder if any of you really understand the magnitude of the environmental impact of these CMZ regulations. The loss of real property due to lack of river maintenance is very significant. All of the development in Pierce County will never equal the amount of loss due to channel migration. The potential destruction is amazing. You need to save the farm and protect the value of class 4 soils. What gives Pierce County the idea they can give up on this protection?
- **Earl Johnson:** I encourage you to think about using the word "shall" as opposed to "should" in your report. They have very different connotations and "should" is much stronger. For a lot of people, property is the biggest investment of their life – we have right to know about changes that impact how we can use it. It's frustrating if my property is treated as if it's worthless. My land and house are my retirement plan. Notification of property owners is essential. The three-minute limit to speak at Pierce County Council meetings is inadequate. Perhaps this process would benefit from inviting a council member to one of these meetings.
- **Gil Mendoza:** Keep in mind the name of your committee. The CMZ CAC is an "advisory" group, not an "authority" group, so it's appropriate to use "should" rather than "shall" when delivering your message to Council. Make clear, concise recommendations and include some recommendations that are budget neutral so that the Pierce County Council can adopt something that comes from this group. Also make recommendations that are in property owners' best interest and which give them rights. You may also consider including some revenue-generating tools or recommendations. Find ways to partner with private enterprise. Be strategic you're your recommendations and remember that property rights are first and foremost (use phrases like "impact in an adverse way"). I'm a big fan of using technology for notification.

