

Meeting #11 – December 7, 2009
Port of Tacoma Business Center, Fabulich Building

Task Force Members

Organization	Representatives in Attendance	Unable to Attend
Pierce County Executive Office	Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive Randy Harrison, Pierce County Executive's Office	
Pierce County Council	Joyce McDonald, Councilmember	
Pierce County Chamber of Commerce	David Graybill, CEO	
Puyallup Tribe of Indians	Bill Sullivan, Director of Natural Resources Rory LaDucer, Director of Public Safety	Sylvia Miller, Councilmember Lisa Brautigam, Attorney
City of Tacoma	Mike Lonergan, Councilmember	
City of Fife	Steve Worthington, City Manager	Barry Johnson, Mayor
City of Puyallup		Don Malloy, Mayor Gary McLean, City Manager
City of Orting	Ken Wolfe, Building Official	
City of Buckley	Pat Johnson, Mayor	
City of Sumner	Dave Enslow, Mayor Bill Pugh, Director of Public Works	
Port of Tacoma	Ted Bottiger, Port Commissioner	
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	JoAnn Schueler, Project Development Engineer	
Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)	Dan Sokol, Floodplain Manager	
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WSDNR)		Derrick Toba, South Puget Sound Shoreline District
US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)		Amy Gibbons, Project Manager Kristen Kerns, Project Manager

Other Attendees:

Brian Ziegler, Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
Steve Bailey, Pierce County Emergency Management
Harold Smelt, Pierce County Surface Water Management
Lorin Reinelt, Pierce County Surface Water Management
Chris Schutz, Pierce County Government Affairs
George Walk, Pierce County Government Affairs
Debby Hyde, Pierce County Public Works and Utilities

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Robert Brenner, Port of Tacoma
Sean Eagan, Port of Tacoma
Mark Palmer, City of Puyallup
Tom Young, Office of Congressman Dave Reichert
Matt Perry, Office of Congressman Adam Smith
Gil Hulsmann, Abbey Road Group
Karen Peasy, community member
Penny Mabie, facilitator
Rachel Patterson, note taker

Meeting Purpose and Overview

Pierce County convened the tenth meeting of the Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) in Tacoma, Washington on Dec. 7, 2009. This meeting included an update on current flood control activities and the Pierce County budget approval process, a review of finance workgroup findings and the surface water management budget proviso, and an update on the political process.

Meeting Summary

Welcome

The meeting started at 9:08 a.m. with Penny Mabie, meeting facilitator, welcoming the group.

Brief introductions

Penny Mabie asked Executive Task Force members to introduce themselves. She reminded participants that there would be a period for public comment at the conclusion of the meeting.

Review meeting agenda and ground rules

Penny Mabie reviewed agenda items and the ETF ground rules established at the first meeting, which are as follows:

- Start / end on time
- Silence cell phones
- Come prepared
- Listen respectfully
- Speak from interests, not positions
- Participate in the process

Review Sept. 18, 2009 meeting notes

Penny asked the group if they had an opportunity to review the draft notes from the previous meeting, and the notes were approved.

Local Updates

Updates on current flood control activities

Penny Mabie referred participants to the local actions table, and asked for updates from participants on current local actions. The following updates were provided:

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City of Orting

- Received \$50,000 grant from the Department of Ecology to replace a 42-foot outfall for drainage during flooding events.
- Work force grant recipients worked 2,300 hours on repairs related to January 2009 floods, enabling the Public Works Department to work on priority projects.
- Funding requested for design and permitting of the Calistoga Setback Levee from Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Applied for a \$6.5 million Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) grant toward the Calistoga Setback Levee project.
 - Tom Young noted that congress authorizes WRDA grant funds every two to three years for projects of interest to the Corps. Grant recipients must go through an appropriations process. About eleven WRDA grant applications, including the Calistoga Setback Levee project, were submitted through Congressman Reichert's office.
- City of Puyallup submitted an application for a Watershed Management Grant through EPA to install 120 rain gardens in the watershed over the next four years.

Pierce County

- Received a Work Force Program grant to provide unemployed and underemployed people with work opportunities to prepare for flood season in the cities of Sumner, Orting, and Pacific. Workers are currently finalizing placement of 20,000 sand bags for the City of Pacific. Steve Bailey commented that jurisdictions with needs that the Work Force program could help address may contact him for more information.
- Developing a Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan for the Puyallup, Carbon, White, Nisqually, Greenwater and Mashel rivers, and South Prairie Creek. The plan will focus on capital projects, programs, and policies to address flooding and channel migration issues.
- Received a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant for 100 percent design of the South Fork levee setback project and 30 percent design for the Fennel Creek levee setback project on the Puyallup River.
- Acquired flood prone structures. Through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA) and the Flood Control Assistance Program (WSDOE), and using local funds for match, Pierce County has provided \$5.2 million toward acquisition of flood plain properties.
- Initiating permitting for 2010 gravel removal at three gravel bars on the Puyallup River. Other sites near Sumner are also being evaluated.
- South Silver Springs restoration project, in summer 2010 will expand the flood capacity of South Prairie Creek by removing fill and reestablishing a fish-friendly meandering channel.
- Completed the silt bench bank stabilization project on the Puyallup River.

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- Ongoing levee repairs and minor debris removal to protect communities at risk due to channel migration or levees weakened during previous floods.
- Restoration of the mouth of Woodland Creek at Clark's Creek, including removal of 100 feet of culvert, excavation of a broad channel and junction with Clark's Creek, which increases flood carrying capacity of Clark's Creek and Woodland Creek.
- Working with King County on the implementation of the County Line levee setback project on the White River.
- Pierce County is one of 22 Washington communities participating in the drafting and review of updates to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s floodplain development regulations.
- Preparing for an upcoming Community Rating System re-certification meeting. Pierce County expects to advance from a Class 3 to a Class 2 community.
- Working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) through a joint agreement to evaluate flood-carrying capacity and sedimentation trends on the Puyallup, White, and Carbon river systems.

Puyallup Tribe

- Held monthly meetings with the emergency management committee.
- Held emergency fair with the Emerald Queen Casino.
- Seeking contact information updates from residents to keep emergency contact lists current.

City of Sumner

- Pierce County Emergency Management provided support with sandbagging efforts at Sumner wastewater treatment plant.

City of Tacoma

- Seeking opportunities to help protect the city's wastewater treatment plant with dikes.

Department of Ecology

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants are supporting projects in the City of Orting and the Town of Wilkesen.
- Initiated a statewide inventory of levee systems and level of service.

Mike Lonergan asked about Pierce County's level two rating in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System and how this would benefit the county. Harold Smelt responded that the community rating indicates the preparedness in terms of flood control actions. The only other number two rated county in the country is King County. A higher rating reduces the cost of flood insurance.

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Harold Smelt commented that Pierce County has an active flood emergency upstream of Orting, and is doing work to protect the affected community.

Debby Hyde commented that Pierce County Council staff and Executive staff have started background paperwork to explore options for potential flood control zone districts. Pierce County will be requesting a list of flood projects for each jurisdiction in order to move forward with this work.

Pat McCarthy noted that at least a few people had mentioned the vulnerability of wastewater treatment facilities. She asked whether there is a plan in place to help mitigate flooding at treatment plants, or whether flooding issues tend to be site specific. Harold noted that it might be worth looking into a funding source specifically to support wastewater treatment facilities. Steve Bailey commented that the county had worked in a coordinated fashion with the City of Fife to protect their facility, but that county-wide mitigation in advance of emergency events would certainly be preferred in the future.

Pierce County budget approval process

Harold Smelt noted that, as part of the Pierce County budget approval process, the Pierce County Council has set aside funds in support of efforts to form a county-wide flood control zone district.

Near-term cost sharing

Review finance workgroup findings

Harold Smelt updated the group on the recommendations of a finance working group, which met Oct. 22, 2009 in the City of Puyallup to develop a local near-term cost sharing model. The working group's proposal weighs three factors to determine overall community contributions:

- Floodplain taxable value and major public assets (initial suggestion: 20 percent)
- Annual general fund budget amounts (initial suggestion: 20 percent)
 - Budget amounts were provided by local jurisdictions
- Population - based on the 2008 census (initial suggestion: 60 percent)
 - Larger populations were considered to have a larger share of the community contribution

Determine relative weighting of cost sharing factors

Task force members had the following questions and comments on the working group's recommendations:

Mike Lonergan commented that if 60 percent of the decision is based on population, and the assumption is made that the Port of Tacoma has zero population, there would need to be an exception made for the Port of Tacoma. He noted that under the proposed model, the Port of Tacoma would be responsible for seven percent of the weighted share while the City of Tacoma would cover 27 percent of the local share. Joyce McDonald reiterated Mike Lonergan's remarks about Port of Tacoma cost sharing.

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Harold Smelt commented that the working group recommended weighing population at 60 percent so that Pierce County would provide a larger share. He suggested another way to configure the model would be to deduct Pierce County's \$250,000 share and distribute the remaining \$200,000.

Sean Eagan asked whether the City of Auburn's population listed in the table represents the entire population or just the portion in Pierce County. Harold Smelt confirmed that this number represents only Pierce County residents. Sean asked whether the taxable value for the Port represents only the portion in the flood plain, and Harold affirmed that it does. Harold confirmed that port-owned assets within Tacoma city limits were credited against the Port of Tacoma rather than the City of Tacoma.

Dave Enslow asked about smaller jurisdictions such as Key Center that were not included on the table and thus incorporated into the Pierce County share of the cost. Harold suggested including other jurisdictions in the long-term cost sharing model, as discussed at previous ETF meetings.

Mike Lonergan suggested taking the populations from other county jurisdictions, for example Lakewood, and adding those population numbers to the Port of Tacoma's population to get a more fair distribution.

Joyce reaffirmed that the group had agreed near-term costs would be borne only by affected communities. She noted the county would seek funds from other communities later in the process. Penny noted the "road map to long-term flood protection program funding" graphic could help distinguish the first funding step from future funding steps.

Harold proposed removing Pierce County from the model and redistributing the remaining \$200,000 among communities. He suggested weighting 30 percent for floodplain taxable value, 30 percent for general fund, and 40 percent for population. The revised projected cost shares were as followed:

- Auburn \$10,086
- Buckley \$1,875
- Fife \$21,415
- Orting \$5,758
- Pacific \$511
- Puyallup \$23,513
- Sumner \$10,708
- Tacoma \$96,657
- Port of Tacoma \$26,236
- Puyallup Tribe \$3,241

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Penny asked the group for feedback on the model, including the validity of the three factors, the weighting of the three factors, and the jurisdictions included under Port of Tacoma's floodplain taxable value. She asked whether the group thought the proposed model was acceptable.

Steve Worthington noted the proposed model is as good as any model previously seen and that the City of Fife would support it.

Pat McCarthy asked whether King County had created any sort of precursory funding mechanism prior to developing their flood control zone district. Harold noted that King County did not have a Corps General Investigation study to fund. Pat McCarthy recommended looking into best practices by neighboring counties looking at similar funding models.

Randy Harrison commented on WSDOT participation, suggesting that other groups could contribute as well, such as the railroads and private entities. Mike Lonergan reiterated the importance of having the railroads at the table. Randy suggested re-inviting the railroads. Brian Ziegler noted he has a good relation with representatives of the railroads on the freight mobility board, and will contact them about participation in the local process.

- **Action Item:** Randy Harrison and Brian Ziegler will follow-up on the process for re-inviting the railroads to the table.

Harold asked for clarification about whether other jurisdictions should be added to the taxable value figure for the Port of Tacoma. He asked whether this could be justified to the other Port Commissioners. Commissioner Bottiger noted a projected figure would be needed in order to investigate further.

Steve Worthington suggested asking the Port of Tacoma to propose a figure to contribute toward near-term funding, and not include the Port in the weighting. Having a set figure would also make the process more transparent and understandable for the public.

Randy Harrison noted that the population component throws off annual shares for others including the Puyallup Tribe. He suggested leaving non-municipal partners out of the model and initiating a conversation with those partners about their ability to contribute.

- **Action Item:** Pierce County will interface with the Port of Tacoma and Puyallup Tribe about their annual ability to contribute toward near-term cost sharing.

Debby Hyde asked whether Randy Harrison was referring to other private parties and noted that private infrastructure is already taxed and recommended not double-counting private entities.

Penny Mabie asked whether the group agreed that non-municipal partners be removed from the model and assigned figures worked out on some other basis. The group agreed that this approach seemed favorable.

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Pat McCarthy asked about the timeline for the Corps GI study. Harold confirmed that the letter of intent had been sent in to the Corps, but no response had yet been received. Pierce County anticipates receiving appropriation in second quarter 2010 or later.

Steve Bailey noted it would be important to engage other jurisdictions that are not currently at the table (e.g. City of Auburn) before they were included in the model.

Mike Lonergan suggested producing a “worst case scenario” set of numbers for municipalities to consider and determine whether they would approve the present allocations. Once conversations have been had with the Puyallup Tribe, the Port of Tacoma, and others, these figures could be updated. Penny suggested removing the Port of Tacoma and Puyallup Tribe from the cost sharing model.

Mike Lonergan asked for clarification about how WSDOT’s contributions fit into the model. Harold noted that WSDOT’s annual contribution of \$50,000 was subtracted from the initial \$500,000 target amount. He recommended dividing the table into two parts: municipalities and direct contributions.

Dan Sokol noted if the Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) continues to receive funding from the state, it could potentially be a direct contributor of up to 50 percent of the local match.

Pat McCarthy suggested naming other county municipalities and mentioning they are not participating now, but will be participating in the future. Joyce McDonald expressed concern that other jurisdictions be educated about the need for a flood control zone district.

Ken Wolfe noted that Orting had budgeted funding to support the local cost share effort over the next few years. He suggested the Executive Task Force send out a letter to other jurisdictions to notify them of the local cost sharing agreement.

Penny suggested adding a note at the bottom of the spreadsheet stating that long-term funding will use a different model, and the group agreed this was a good idea.

Penny reviewed the following updates to be made to the local near-term cost sharing model:

- Remove non-municipalities from the model, including Pierce County, the Puyallup Tribe, and the Port of Tacoma, and list them as direct contributors.
- Weigh municipalities’ contributions as follows:
 - 30 percent for floodplain taxable value
 - 30 percent for general fund
 - 40 percent for population
- Note that long-term funding will use a different model

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Mike Lonergan suggested putting together a boilerplate of the Task Force's recommendation and an inter-local agreement, if needed, to move forward with the approval process.

Brian Ziegler affirmed that an inter-local agreement would be needed to move forward with the process, and would need to happen quickly. Bill Sullivan reiterated the need for a draft agreement to move the process forward.

Ted Bottiger recommended an action item to present to a joint Port of Tacoma, City of Tacoma, and Pierce County reception in January to start the lobbying process on mid- and long-term funding issues. George Walk noted the Pierce County Executive Council will meet with legislators this Thursday and is looking for a commitment from elected officials to support this process. Pat McCarthy reiterated the importance of the state viewing Pierce County as a partner in this program. Randy Harrison suggested identifying a point person to apply for FCAAP grants for the following year. Harold Smelt commented that Pierce County Surface Water Management often applies for these grants, and although there is not a great deal of funding available presently, it might be worth working with legislators to increase FCAAP funds.

Surface water management budget proviso

Harold Smelt noted that the Pierce County Council encouraged the Corps GI process to move forward. A budget proviso states that only \$250,000 can be put forward to the Corps General Investigation process until money is received from local partners. Mike Lonergan commented that the sooner this process moves forward, the better. Joyce McDonald noted the Corps was not involved with flood issues in other counties, largely because local communities could not agree on a solution. She reiterated that moving this process forward is important for the Corps and for the future of Pierce County.

Political process updates

Harold noted that Pierce County would be meeting with the full legislative delegation on Thursday about County needs, and would be covering flood control as one of the items on the list of needs. He recommended putting together a letter to the delegation by Thursday.

- **Action Item:** Pierce County will develop a statement from the Executive Task Force to the Washington delegation supporting the work of the ETF, for presentation at a Dec. 10 meeting with the delegation.

Randy Harrison referenced a conversation with the Corps about crediting local setback levee projects toward local match and noted that projects could not be credited until a preferred alternative is selected. WRDA funds could provide up to \$5 million per setback levee project, but must be recommended by a congressional delegation. Cost sharing for WRDA grants is 75 percent federal and 25 percent local. Pat McCarthy wrote a letter to the Puyallup Tribe suggesting the county and the Tribe mutually identify a project for WRDA funding. The letter also asked the Tribe to participate in a near-term study of a gravel removal project that Pierce County Surface Water Management plans to permit. Randy suggested the Executive Task Force play a stronger political role with the local congressional delegation. Steve Worthington asked whether the county was considering putting in an application for the WRDA funds. Randy noted

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there are two setback levee projects under consideration (Calistoga and South Fork), but the county would prefer a collaborative process with the Tribe.

Pat McCarthy reiterated the critical issue is that the county be a solidified voice, with collaboration between the county, Puyallup Tribe, and affected municipalities. This is a theme that has been heard from the Washington delegation and the Corps. There are also many parties interested in near-term solutions. The ETF's efforts need to focus on long- and near-term solutions with a collective voice. Pierce County Council's work on the flood control zone district is critical. Steve Worthington commented the delegation from Pierce County appears to be up to speed with countywide plans. Penny Mabie noted the central question for the group seems to be determining an appropriate role for the ETF moving forward with local collaborations.

Steve Bailey suggested highlighting key milestones and collaborations in the media, for example the Tacoma News Tribune or Pierce County TV.

Joyce McDonald asked Dan Sokol about the statewide inventory of systems. She asked when the Department of Ecology would be ready to share information with the delegation and target funding. Dan noted the study should be completed prior to the deadline of June 30, 2010.

Ken Wolfe commented that including letters of support from the Executive Task Force and other local jurisdictions for setback levee projects would be helpful in applying for funding. Penny Mabie noted the local actions list could be a useful tool to share with members of the public to demonstrate that near-term progress is being made.

- **Action Item:** Update local actions list prior to meeting with Washington delegation on Dec. 10.

Harold Smelt asked whether the group would be comfortable supporting one or two specific projects. Bill Sullivan suggested piggybacking the gravel bar study with one of the setback levee projects in order to receive funding and move projects along faster. Pat McCarthy acknowledged Orting was the hardest hit by flooding. Steve Worthington suggested that as long as a project is within the scope of what the group has been considering, it would be worthwhile for the group to lend support for near-term projects. Dave Enslow suggested the group be supporting each others' projects within reason. The group agreed that priority local projects could be supported by the ETF.

Steve Worthington asked to change language referencing "short-term" projects to "near-term."

- **Action Item:** All references to "short-term" will be changed to "near-term."

Dave Enslow suggested that any kind of public information about gravel removal would improve public perception in the City of Sumner. Pat McCarthy commented there is a need to make the case publicly that gravel removal is not a viable solution. Bill Sullivan commented there is a need to gather sufficient information to make the case that gravel removal is not effective. Dave Enslow noted the residents living along the river perceive that gravel removal might be helpful.

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Joyce McDonald and Pat McCarthy noted there is a public perception that gravel is building up, and the county could be doing something to remove it. Randy Harrison noted ESA regulatory restrictions and permitting requirements that would prevent dredging as a permanent solution.

Ken Wolfe acknowledged that annual dredging would not be able to keep up with the amount of sediment building up. He commented the main goal of the dredging study would be determining effects of gravel removal on endangered species and migratory salmon. The study would need to address effects such as bar formation and levee failures.

Mike Lonergan revisited the initial question about letters of support and suggested the county affirm existence of the ETF, acknowledge that Orting is part of the group, and state that the setback levee effort is part of a long-term plan to address flooding issues in the county. Harold Smelt suggested his staff compose a letter of support for the Calistoga Setback Levee project in Orting and distribute it for comment by the group.

- **Action Item:** The Pierce County Executive's Office will draft a letter of support of the Calistoga Setback Levee project.

Pat McCarthy noted some similarities between the county's collaborative work on flood protection and work done with Puget Sound Regional Council on transportation issues – both groups had members vying for competitive grants. She suggested the ETF determine which projects are the farthest ahead on design and support those efforts.

Lorin Reinelt referenced a current Pierce County study in collaboration with USGS on the carrying capacity and sedimentation trends of the river. The study looks at scenarios in several locations, including the Calistoga Setback Levee area. Preliminary information will be available in draft form around March 2010.

- **Action Item:** Lorin Reinelt will brief the ETF on the USGS study once preliminary results are available.

Moving Forward

ETF members discussed the following potential future meeting topics:

- **Corps study scope** – Harold Smelt noted that scope for the Corps study would comprise the entire agenda of one Executive Task Force meeting.
- **Community outreach** – The group agreed to defer discussions on community outreach and education. Joyce McDonald suggested piggybacking educational efforts on a Pierce County bill authorizing the flood control zone district.
- **Non-structural solutions / land use** – Harold Smelt suggested framing the conversation in terms of “what will reduce flood losses in your community?” Penny asked the group to articulate information needs for the land use conversation. The following information needs were mentioned:

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- More information needed on what the new FEMA flood map looks like. Once the new FEMA flood map is approved, certain development policies will become mandatory.
 - **Action Item:** Invite John Graves of FEMA to provide information on the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.
- More information needed on development policies.
- More information needed on zoning policies.
- More information needed on how other jurisdictions are addressing land use issues.
 - **Action Item:** Pierce County will research land use policies in other flood-prone communities.

Lorin Reinelt noted the topic of land use is something being explored by the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan advisory committee. Pat McCarthy suggested postponing the land use conversation until after urgent Corps scope and funding and local cost sharing questions are resolved.

- **Action Item:** Pierce County will meet with non-municipal local partners about near-term funding commitments.
- **Action Item:** Pierce County will confer with the Corps about scope and funding for the GI Study.
- **Action Item:** Pierce County will draft an inter-local agreement to be reviewed at the January 2010 ETF meeting.
- **Action Item:** Pierce County will draft a letter to all local partners requesting a commitment to near-term funding, and indicating a timeframe for local partners to approve local cost sharing.
- **Action Item:** Pierce County will put together a local funding chart / timeline and develop milestones for the local funding process.
- **Action Item:** Rep. Adam Smith's office will provide the ETF with an update on federal actions.

Bill Sullivan noted the gravel removal project would take a long time due to a lengthy (approximately two-year) permitting process. Harold Smelt noted that Pierce County will meet with the Corps for an annual WRDA permitting conversation on Dec. 14. Pierce County has developed a list of potential project sites, which will be shared with the Tribe.

- **Action Item:** Pierce County will follow up with the Puyallup Tribe about potential sites and permitting for a gravel removal project.

Joyce McDonald reiterated a concern about communication between the ETF and the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan advisory committee. The group agreed to send out alerts on the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan to ETF members.

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- **Action Item:** Pierce County will add ETF members to the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan distribution list and cc them about advisory committee meetings.

Agenda topics for the near-term

- Review draft inter-local agreement and approve format
- Discuss cost sharing with non-jurisdictional local partners
- Review scope for the Corps GI study
- Land use discussion

Summary of action items

- Randy Harrison and Brian Ziegler will follow-up on the process for re-inviting the railroads to the table.
- Pierce County will interface with the Port of Tacoma and Puyallup Tribe about their ability to contribute annually toward near-term cost sharing.
- Pierce County will develop a statement from the Executive Task Force to the Washington delegation supporting the work of the group, for presentation at a Dec. 10 meeting with the delegation.
- Pierce County will update the local actions list prior to meeting with Washington delegation on Dec. 10.
- All references to “short-term” will be changed to “near-term.”
- The Pierce County Executive’s Office will draft a letter of support of the Calistoga Setback Levee project.
- Lorin Reinelt will brief the ETF on the USGS study once preliminary results are available.
- Pierce County will invite John Graves of FEMA to provide information on the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System.
- Pierce County will research land use policies in other flood-prone communities.
- Pierce County will meet with non-municipal local partners about near-term funding commitments.
- Pierce County will confer with the Corps about scope and funding for the GI Study.
- Pierce County will draft an inter-local agreement to be reviewed at the January 2010 ETF meeting.
- Pierce County will draft a letter to all local partners requesting a commitment to near-term funding, and indicating a timeframe for local partners to approve local cost sharing.
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Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 22, 2010 at the Port of Tacoma Fabulich Center.

Public comment

Members of the public were encouraged to share their comments with the Task Force and were asked to keep their comments to 2 – 3 minutes.

- Gil Hulsmann, Abbey Road Group – *I think that flood control zone districts are the way to go. Jurisdictions and agencies have collaborated in King County because of Howard Hanson Dam. They have focused on education and communications. The community does not see this group [the Puyallup River ETF]. There are hearings coming up and people are getting fined for putting down sandbags and building levees on their properties without permits. There is no standard about how you can protect your property on the river. Kent formed an agreement with Renton and Auburn about what actions someone can legally take to protect their property, and what actions require a permit. An unpermitted levee was built across from one of my clients, which makes his farmland more vulnerable to flooding. I would highly recommend coming up with a coordinated set of Pierce County guidelines.*

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.