

E-Alert from the Puyallup River Executive Task Force October 1, 2010

The Puyallup River Executive Task Force (ETF) met at the Fife Community Center on Oct. 1, 2010. Topics discussed included an update from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an update on the Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP) process, an update from the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District, and a discussion about non-structural risk reduction strategies.

CJ Klocow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an overview of in-kind contributions for the General Investigation (GI) study of the Puyallup River. A guidance document with how to plan for in-kind contributions will be posted on the Puyallup River ETF's website.

The Corps and Pierce County have signed a formal cost sharing agreement for the feasibility phase of the GI study in September 2010, with a price tag of \$500,000 per year. Nearly all local jurisdictions on the ETF, as well as the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Port of Tacoma and the Washington State Department of Transportation have already agreed to support the GI with funding provided through inter-local agreements. That process is expected to be completed by the County in the next month.

Harold Smelt, Pierce County Surface Water Manager, and Brian Zeigler, Pierce County Flood Control Zone District Administrator, updated participants on Pierce County's flood control zone district (FCZD). Currently, the FCZD is working with a consultant to develop funding alternatives and operating guidelines. Twelve cities within the FCZD are challenging the boundaries of the district while several other jurisdictions have come out in support of the FCZD.

Lorin Reinelt, Pierce County Surface Water Management, briefed ETF participants on FHMP progress to date on problem identification and prioritizations, as well as the proposed river management strategies, and advisory committee meetings and public input. A workshop for elected officials was held on Sept. 30, 2010 and interested parties are encouraged to check the [FHMP website](#) for more details.

Harold Smelt, Pierce County, led a presentation and discussion regarding non-structural risk reduction strategies. Dennis Dixon added to the discussion with a presentation on floodplain regulations. Dennis provided a detailed matrix of all current regulations by jurisdiction. The ETF agreed that non-structural risk reduction strategies, particularly management of land uses, river channel management, and flood hazard education, flood preparedness, flood warning and emergency response, will be the topic of future meetings.

Participants provided updates on current local flood management activities, which are being tracked continuously through a list of near-term local actions.

Copies of all presentations are available on the ETF website. The next ETF meeting will focus on non-structural flood control solutions. The meeting date and location, and a detailed summary of this meeting will also be posted on the ETF website at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/etf> as it becomes available.