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Approved Flood Control District Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 6-19-20

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, chair; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; Mayor Rob McFarland, North Bend; Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie; Mayor Alan Ekberg, Tukwila; Mayor Michelle Hogg, Duvall; Mayor Karen Moran, Sammamish; Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish; Councilmember Linda Johnson, Maple Valley; Councilmember Kevin Schilling, Burien; Councilmember Chris Stearns, Auburn; Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue; Dwight Dively, representing the King County Executive; Ken Hearing, representative of the Rural/Unincorporated Area.

Staff: Michelle Clark, Executive Director; Kimberly Matej, Deputy Executive Director; Megan Smith, Deputy Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD); Brian Murray, River and Floodplain Management Section, WLRD, Steve Bleifuhs, River and Floodplain Management Section, WLRD; Kjristine Lund, Facilitator; and Anne Noris, Clerk.

Welcome and Opening Comments: Supervisor/Board Chair Upthegrove introduced himself and made comments about the history and outlook for the King County Flood Control District. His goals for the District for this year are: (1). Be a better environmental partner and align with the county's environmental values; (2). Ensure that all parts of the county receive a fair return on investment, including three new grant programs for urban streams, culvert replacement, and coastal erosion; (3). Improve the transparency of the budget process (all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee will be televised and recorded, all votes will be recorded, the Board will take up more issues that in the past would have been considered by the Executive Committee, the budget will be presented to the Advisory Committee that will then make its recommendation to the Board, and proposed amendments to the budget will be publicly shared before the vote. He also hopes to meet with all members of the Advisory Committee individually.

Councilmember Barksdale asked about the allocation of funds to get projects done. Chair Upthegrove replied that project delivery is the focus of the District and last year King County met 97% of its expected project delivery goals. Staffing, not money, is the limiting factor for the District and the mid-year budget includes funds for another strike team. The long-term funding need is significant, but in the short term there is a big reserve. The District might consider reducing the levy rate in planning for next year.

Councilmember Stearns asked about fish culverts. The Chair indicated that the new grant program will help but it is a drop in the bucket relative to need. The Chair plans to share the program proposal for the grant program with the Advisory Committee for its thoughts.

Mr. Hearing asked whether the Board was taking the 1% property tax increase each year. The Chair indicated that the Board does not anticipate taking the 1% (and has not taken it in last three years). There are other funding options, including bonding projects if there is a need for immediate construction funding.

Mayor Larson: suggested increasing funding to complete more projects. This is a good time to do capital projects. The Chair agreed that delivering projects is key, but there is not consensus among the Board. Strike teams are one way to get projects done.

Mayor Ralph: thanked the Chair for his thoughtfulness about the District's goals.

Mayor Moran: thanked the Chair for meeting with her in Sammamish.

M. Clark reported on the February budget reopener, which included increased funding for the WRIA, the Lones Levee project, and the Shake Mill Left Bank project?

Executive Director Report: Ms. Clark reported on the Sammamish transition zone/Willowmoor RFP that has been reissued and responses are due June 29. A capital investment strategy for the Sammamish River was funded in last year's budget. There are 10 projects under construction this year, including two that were a result of flooding this year. The Phase 1 Russell Road project is on track to be completed this year.

Ms. Clark offered to meet with members individually to provide an overview of District projects.

Public Comment: The sign-in sheet is in the meeting record.

Martin Nizlek made comments about the water levels on Lake Sammamish.

Reid Brockway made comments about the water levels on Lake Sammamish.

Jamie Bracken made comments about the water levels on Lake Sammamish.

Review of Operating Rules: Ms. Lund briefed the Committee on the purpose of the Advisory Committee and the Committee's operating rules. She reminded members that there is required training on the Open Public Meetings Act and she will provide links.

Election of Chair: Mayor Ralph nominated Mayor Guier as chair. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Guier nominated Mayor Ralph as vice-chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Flood District Orientation: Ms. Clark made a PowerPoint orientation to the District. She outlined the guiding plans and policies for the District (2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan; acquisition policy; fund balance policy; levee accreditation and certification; SEPA policy; 2019 final system-wide improvement framework (SWIF) for the Lower Green River; capital investment strategies). She reported that the levy rate is 9 cents, raising approximately \$59M in 2020 and explained how projects are added to the capital improvement program. The District's partners are the 39 city jurisdictions, the tribes, King County, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. She reported on the 2020 District budget, including administration (1%); maintenance and operations (12%) and construction and improvements (87%). She reported on the mid-year budget, which is primarily technical amendments. She indicated that the District's website is being updated. She explained the grant programs of the District: Flood Reduction (\$3.35M); Sub-regional Opportunity (\$6.09M); Cooperative Watershed (WRIA/CWM) (\$9.6M). The 2021 new grant funds are: Flood Reduction (\$3M); Urban Streams (\$3M), Coastal Erosion/Coastal Flooding (\$3M); Culvert Replacement (\$3M).

Brian Murray answered questions of the Committee.

Discussion: Mayor Larson and Councilmember Barksdale asked questions about the website.

2021 Budget Development Schedule and Next Steps: Ms. Clark reported on the schedule for 2021 budget discussions with the Advisory Committee. Scheduled meeting dates are: July 13; August 6, August 20, August 28. The Advisory Committee's budget recommendation is due to the District by August 31. The budget is passed by the District Board of Supervisors in late October.

Mr. Hearing asked for a briefing on the three forks of the Snoqualmie at a future meeting. Mayor Larson asked for Mr. Dively's comments on capital spending.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.