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## DRAFT: Flood Control District Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 8-6-20

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, Chair; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent, Vice Chair; Mayor Rob McFarland, North Bend; Mayor Matt Larson, Snoqualmie; Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall; Mayor Karen Moran, Sammamish; Mayor Henry Sladek, Skykomish; Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue; Mayor Alan Ekberg, Tukwila; Councilmember Linda Johnson, Maple Valley (alternate); Councilmember Alex Pederson, Seattle (alternate); Councilmember Chris Stearns, Auburn (alternate); Councilmember Toni Troutner, Kent (alternate); Councilmember Kevin Schilling, Burien (alternate); 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; Josh Baldi, Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD); Mark Ruebel, River and Floodplain Management Section, WLRD, Brian Murray, River and Floodplain Management Section, WLRD; Kjristine Lund, Facilitator; and Anne Noris, Clerk.

**Approval of Meeting Summary:** Mayor Sladek moved approval of the meeting summary of July 13, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Executive Director Report:** Ms. Clark reported on the Executive Committee and a special Board meeting that approved an administrative manager/clerk job description. The District is also advertising for a chief engineer.

**Black River Pump Station:** Ms. Clark gave some context for the presentation. Mr. Ruebel made a presentation on the Black River Pump Station capital project. (The presentation is in the meeting packet.) This is a comprehensive overhaul of the Station, which was built in 1971. He described the geography of King County and how the river systems and Lake Washington relate to each other. He gave a history of flooding in the area. The pump station was built in 1971 to replace an earthen dam to prevent flooding on the Green River and tidal fluctuations. There are 8 flood pumps and a fish passage system at the dam. The pump station protects Renton, Tukwila, and Kent, including thousands of acres with high economic value. He outlined the capital needs for the station, including replacement of the pump engines, replacement of the control building, upgrade of the mechanical system, improvements to the fish passage and exclusion, and seismic and structural retrofits. The planning level estimates are about \$80M and the pumping capacity of the station will not change. In response to a question, Mr. Ruebel said there was consideration of building a new station rather than upgrade the current station; however, the estimated cost of a new station was \$400-500M, which was prohibitive.

Councilmember Stearns asked where fish go through the station. Mr. Ruebel indicated that fish no longer travel to Lake Washington but are limited to Springbrook Creek.

Mayor Larson commented on the regional importance of the Black River Pump Station.

Councilmember Sladek-asked about the risk of liquefaction and any damage from the 2001 earthquake. Mr. Ruebel indicated that there was no damage from the earthquake and the seismic retrofits are to upgrade to a more modern design.

**Draft Operating and Capital Budget:** Ms. Clark gave an overview of the capital and operating budgets. The 2021 budget uses the 2020 midyear budget as the baseline. She noted that 2021 is a status quo budget in that the Board/Council will be focusing on a COVID County supplemental budget as well as the County Bi-Annual budget. Ms. Clark indicated that \$1M will be included in the capital budget for Willowmoor on addition to anticipated carryover funds. In answer to a question, Ms. Clark reported that the third party review RFP did not result in any bidders. She also indicated that she will be working with Supervisors on next steps. Ms. Clark also noted that some changes are expected related to the Cedar River as the Capital Investment Strategies and flood event damage reports are reconciled.

Mr. Murray gave context for the budget, including the financial plan, fund balance, and capital project delivery. There are 8 construction projects in 2020.

Mr. Murray reviewed the draft operating budget, which has a net reduction of almost \$1 million from the 2020 budget. Reductions in annual maintenance come from moving some monitoring functions to the capital budget. Reductions in flood hazard plan, grants, and outreach come from shifting labor costs to the flood warning program. Reductions in flood hazard studies, maps, technical services come from using carryover funds for ongoing studies. The funds for flood warning center have increased because of allocation of staff time. The funds for program management, supervision, finance, budget have increased due to training, software, vehicles and fees. Reductions in program implementation reflect staff allocations between operating and capital budgets. Increase in overhead/central costs is based on the proposed King County budget.

Mr. Dively answered questions of the Committee regarding the anticipated savings from staff working from home permanently. He described an overall county effort to reduce leases and shut-down the County Administration building. The costs and savings are still being analyzed.

Ms. Clark indicated that \$1M will be included in the capital budget for Willowmoor on addition to anticipated carryover funds. In answer to a question, Ms. Clark reported that the third party review RFP did not result in any bidders. Ms. Clark also noted that some changes are expected related to the Cedar River as the Capital Investment Strategies and flood event damage reports are reconciled.

Mr. Murray reviewed the draft capital budget; approximately 40% of capital expenditures are managed by WLRD. He expounded on seven categories for the capital budget: restore funding disappropriated in the midyear 2020 budget due to project timing issues; Black River Pump Station Capital Project Strategy; capital project gate decisions during 2020; acquisition funding; Cedar River Capital Investment Strategy Reprioritization; transferring functions from the operating budget to the capital budget; and flood damage repairs, risk analysis, and ongoing flood facility inspections.

Mayor Larson asked about acquisition priorities. Mr. Murray noted that identified neighborhoods are areas of high flows and dynamic river action.

Mr. Murray noted that line 160 in the budget related to South Park needs to be corrected to reconcile with City of Seattle planned expenditures.

**Grants Program:** Ms. Clark reported on the new flood reduction grant programs, which must have a flood nexus and an equity and social justice component. These are projects that do not fit into the six-year capital improvement program. The new funding streams are an addition to the existing Flood Risk Reduction Grants, and are for coastal flooding/coastal erosion; urban streams; and culvert replacement/fish passage restoration. A total of \$12 million is allocated for the grants programs in 2021. She noted that other grants programs are the subregional opportunity fund which is tied to the levy rate and the WRIA funding which was doubled this year and is the only fund that has an annual inflator.

Mayor Larson raised concern about the potential overwhelming demand for coastal flooding/erosion projects and culvert replacements. He noted that these are large needs that risk diverting funding from riverine flooding. He also noted the regional benefit of flood risk management investments on rivers.

Ms. Clark noted that the new grant programs all must have a flood nexus.

**Initial Ideas for Recommendations Letter to Board of Supervisors:**

Ms. Clark and Ms. Lund reviewed possible key points for the Advisory Committee letter to the Board: follow-up on previous year's letter; response to request for feedback on grants program; response to request for feedback on levy rate, feedback on the proposed operating and capital budgets and feedback on policy development.

Councilmember Barksdale recommended that a request for increased reporting on project milestones and accomplishments of the strike team be included in the letter and that this information be provided to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Clark stated that the request would be incorporated into the draft letter and that the District will provide progress reports as requested for projects.

Mayor Larson recommended that the District should be aggressive on capital projects given the economic climate. He suggested that a decrease in the levy rate does not make sense and that the District maintain the status quo levy rate (9 cents/\$1000). Mayor Ralph agreed.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.