



King County Advisory Committee Meeting - Approved

March 31, 2022

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members:

Chair, Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent
Vice Chair, Mayor Rob McFarland, City of North Bend
Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, City of Bellevue
Mayor Carol Benson, City of Black Diamond
Mayor Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila
Ken Hearing, Unincorporated King County
Councilmember Michelle Hogg, City of Duvall
Mayor Kim Lisk, City of Carnation
Mayor Karen Moran, City of Sammamish
Councilmember Alex Pedersen, City of Seattle
April Putney, King County, Executive Office
Mayor Katherine Ross, City of Snoqualmie
Mayor Henry Sladek, City of Skykomish
Councilmember Chris Stearns, City of Auburn

Alternates:

Mayor Leanne Guier, Alternate SCA, City of Pacific
Councilmember JC Harris, Alternate SCA, City of Des Moines
Councilmember Sarah Moore, Alternate SCA, City of Burien
Deputy Mayor Melanie O’Cain, Alternate SCA, City of Kenmore
Councilmember Toni Troutner, Alternate, City of Kent Chair

Guest Speaker:

King County Flood District Chair, Dave Upthegrove

Staff

Executive Director Michelle Clark, Cody Eccles, Cyndee Navarro, Diana Phibbs
Steve Bleifuhs, Brian Murray, Jason Wilkinson, Emily Flanagan, Martha Neuman, Cheryl Paston,
Jerry Shuster, Ron Straka, Mike Mactutis, Sherry Edquid, Kazia Memel, Marty Nizlek

Facilitator:

Kjristine Lund, Lund Consulting

Vice Chair Ralph called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Facilitator Kjristine Lund called roll.

Opening Remarks from Flood Control District Chair, Dave Upthegrove

Chair Upthegrove reviewed some of his goals for the Flood District.

1. Be a better environmental partner
 - Led the passage of a motion making fundamental changes on the prioritization and philosophical mission of the flood control district
2. Make sure that all parts of the county see a return on their investment in the flood district
 - Expanded the flood reduction grant program
3. Make the Flood District budget process and work be more transparent
 - Moved meetings into the chambers in order to be filmed (pre Covid)
 - Made recorded votes for decisions
 - Hold meetings on a regular schedule
 - Items are not voted on the same they that they are brought to the Board of Supervisors, especially concerning the budget

Chair Upthegrove expressed his thanks to the Advisory Committee for everyone's input.

Chair Upthegrove reviewed recent progress:

- Continued commitment to multi-benefit flood reduction projects
- Projects implemented on six major rivers in King County
- Expanded contributions to salmon recovery
- Increased funding to local government flood reduction grants
- The undesignated fund balance was reduced by \$24 million—however if 100% of projects are completed on time the fund will be in the red in 2025
 - exploring bonding to spread the cost over several generations

Chair Upthegrove stated a future goal is to complete the flood hazard management plan update.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Michelle Clark said that the Flood District Board of Supervisors approved its budget in November 2021 and that during today's meeting we will be going through the changes between the Advisory Committee's recommendation and the Board adopted budget. Workplan activities for 2022 include:

- The District has been working on the Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan programmatic environmental impact statement process. The scoping process is finished and now the District is starting to study the alternatives. A draft will be available to the public sometime in Q1 of 2023.
- The District will be looking into the pros and cons of establishing a bonding policy.
- The Willowmoor Peer Review report has been completed.
- A Deputy Executive Director will be hired.
- We are planning to have a workshop with the Advisory Committee on the nexus between equity and social justice and flood risk reduction projects. This will be scheduled in summer.
- We will be working on the flood hazard management plan being led by King County.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of the Meeting Summary from August 12, 2021

Mayor McFarland moved to approve the meeting summary, and the motion was seconded by Ken Hearing. The motion to approve the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Review of Operating Rules and Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Facilitator Lund shared the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee Operating Procedures which were approved, July 15, 2021, and highlighted the important issues for new members. This is on the agenda to be sure that all members are in agreement or if there are any proposed changes or suggestions to the operating rules. Councilmember Barksdale asked about the future of hybrid meetings. Executive Director Clark answered that this may happen in May or June.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Councilmember Moran moved to nominate Mayor Dana Ralph for the position of Committee Chair for the next two years. The motion was seconded by Mayor McFarland. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hearing nominated Mayor McFarland for the position of Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lisk and passed unanimously.

Executive Director Clark expressed her gratitude to Mayor Guier for her leadership during the pandemic.

Budget

Executive Director Clark referred to the staff report for the budget.

- The Levy rate for 2022 is the 2021 rate, plus new construction
- The Advisory Committee year recommended budget was over \$155 million, which was an increase of 13% from the 2020 adopted budget
- The capital budget was over \$139 million, which was a 12% increase from the adopted 2021 capital budget
- Three new projects—Mason Thorson repair near North Bend; Dykstra repair in Auburn; Kent airport revetment repair
- \$100,000 increase in the budget for the WRIA Grants
- Opportunity fund and Flood Reduction Grants increase at the same rate as the total levy revenue

Changes made by the Board:

- Include \$1.3 million for the Issaquah Creek capital investment strategy
- Sammamish capital investment strategy, requiring a quarterly update
- Increase of \$450,000 to the Bear Creek flood erosion project in Redmond
- Continuance of briefings and workshops related to the nexus between equity and social justice and flood risk reduction projects

- Providing updates to the 2016 King County flood hazard management plan
- Better dialogue between the Flood District and jurisdictions and have regular update on financial and capital projections

Discussion

Councilmember Barksdale asked about the status of the financial plan and fund balance. Director Clark said these will be discussed during the summer budget development with the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee member April Putney asked if the fund balance policy has a trigger for when the balance goes below a certain level and how would the District address this issue. Director Clark noted the District has various tools ranging from reducing the budget, to bonding for additional cash. Advisory Committee member Hearing urged that funding not be bonded at 100%.

Flood Hazard Management Plan

Executive Director Clark shared the list of 19 items that the committee wanted to address. The County has the responsibility of adopting a flood hazard management plan as part of its comprehensive land-use plan in its role as a regional government. The County hired Jason Wilkinson as a Project Manager to lead the County through its flood hazard management plan. The Flood Hazard Management Plan is a FEMA process and it includes creating a citizen's advisory committee. There will be discussion on issues, for example, risk-reduction standards. There will be a series of briefings that are shared throughout the course of the plan update with the Advisory Committee.

Discussion

Councilmember Barksdale asked about including urban streams. Councilmember Pedersen noted that Seattle contributes 40% of the revenue to the District and wants to see the Duwamish River included in the plan, especially given the consideration of equity and social justice. April Putney added that the County is at the beginning of a two-year process and that climate change and optimizing benefits will be incorporated in the plan.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.