

City of Cosmopolis
Workshop
July 16, 2014

Mayor Vickie L. Raines presided.

Councilmembers Present: Jonathan Fischer, Carl Sperring, Frank Chestnut, Jim Ancich and Debbi Moran

Staff Present: Finance Director Cheryl Turner, Attorney Stephen Hyde, Interim Fire Chief Jerry Schreck, Police Chief Casey Stratton and Public Works Director Darrin Raines

Mayor Raines opened the workshop at 6:00. This workshop is a Flood Authority Presentation Scott Boettcher from the Flood Authority staff and Thurston County Commissioner Edna Fund who also serves as the flood authority education and outreach chairman. Mayor Raines also serves on the Flood Authority. We will also hear from Tim Hume from HDR Engineering.

Mayor Raines welcomed Montesano Mayor Ken Estes, Grays Harbor County Commissioner Frank Gordon and Cosmopolis School Principal/Superintendent Sherry Patterson.

The Flood Authority was established in 2008 and Cosmopolis has had a seat on it since 2012.

Mayor Raines turned over the time to Edna Fund. She thanked Vickie for making the group more cohesive and she said up and down the basin they are making great progress. Ms. Fund turned the presentation over to Scott Boettcher.

Mr. Boettcher said there are two groups that are working together, they are the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and the Governor's Work Group. In 2013 Legislators appropriated 23 million dollars. The strategy is all moving forward towards some critical decisions in November 2014.

In 2007 the storm was devastating throughout the basin. The I-5 corridor was closed for 5 days. There was approximately 300,000 acre feet of water flooding the area. This is the equivalent to one inch of water covering 80% Kitsap County, 70% Clark County or 60% Thurston County. Big floods seem to be more frequent.

In 2012-\$5 million and 2013-\$15 million was appropriated by Legislators for small projects. By October 2014 about 7 projects will be constructed and operating. Mayor Raines said of the \$28.2 million appropriated \$10.7 million was for small projects and of that \$10.7 million \$9.6 million came to Grays Harbor. Mary's River Lumber, the Montesano Waste Water Treatment Clarifier, the Mill Creek Dam and critter pads that are high areas for livestock safety are all considered small projects.

A hydraulic model of the area between Grays Harbor and the headwaters was developed to help measure stream flows and proposed projects within the basin. These proposed projects will be entered into the model to help measure the benefits of those projects.

They are also looking at land use regulations and land use codes and how to find the appropriate use for flood plains. Aquatic environment is also a concern.

The Flood Authority put in 10 new flow gauges that go to the national weather service. These gauges give people the opportunity to decide whether or not to move livestock or machinery to safety.

All information is available on the website and Pat Anderson maintains an e-mail distribution list so you can add your name to that list and receive information.

Dams are part of the major capital projects. Two types of dams are being looked at. One would be a flood storage dam and the other would be a multi-purpose dam.

Councilman Fischer asked if tracking in 1932 was different than now? Mr. Boettcher stated the methodology in 1932 is the same as it is today.

Mayor Raines introduced Tim Hume from the HDR engineering.

The Mill Creek Dam Replacement project is in the conceptual design phase. The new dam will allow fish to go across, under and through. This will be a multi-purpose facility because of the flood hazard reduction and fish passage.

One of the key elements is the long lead permits by the Army Corp of Engineers that is triggered by the current creek being changed back to a pond and that affects the wetlands. We will prove to them that this is the most practical.

The second element is the State Dept. of Ecology Dam Safety Office. They require information on the lowest flow to highest flow and the safety of the dam.

The third element is with the St. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and meeting their requirements for fish passage.

August or Sept. HDR will submit the application to the Corp of Engineers. Permit timeline can take 8 to 14 months.

County Commissioner Gordon asked about the culverts downstream. Mr. Hume explained the culverts will be looked at and if needed be repaired or replaced.

Sherri Patterson, Cosmopolis School, asked when the dam is put back in will it help with the water drainage at the school. Public Works Director Raines told her it would help.

Tim Hume said they will be putting in a gauge for measuring flow on the creek.

Allen Somerville, Stanford Drive, said someone came to his home, who is not for putting the dam back in, and said the runoff would be worse with the dam in so there would be more flooding. Tim Hume said the runoff goes to the creek and the dam would provide help to moderate the flow.

Councilmember Chestnut, 812 Altenau, stated he lives on the lowest point of the City. He said he has not been flooded because we have not had a significant amount of rainfall. He also addressed Commissioner Gordon's concerns over the culverts. He told Commissioner Gordon that was his first concern and that issue had already been discussed with the Public Works Committee.

Meeting Adjourned.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor