## King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update

## Partner Planning Committee – Meeting #8 Meeting NotesSeptember 19, 2023 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

List of attendees:

* Angela Donaldson (Fall City resident)
* Diane Pasta (Des Moines resident)
* Edan Edmonson (King County)
* Eric Beach (King County)
* Erin Ericson (Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District)
* Jamie Hearn (Duwamish River Community Coalition)
* Jason Wilkinson (King County)
* Ken Zweig (King County)
* Laura Wolfe (Port of Seattle)
* Laurie Lyford (Washington Sensible Shorelines Association)
* Martha Neuman (Seattle Public Utilities)
* Matt Baerwalde (Snoqualmie Tribe)
* Matt Knox (King County)
* Mike Mactutis (City of Kent)
* Patrick Haluptzok (Sammamish resident)
* Steve Bleifuhs (King County)
* Stewart Reinbold (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
* Spencer Easton (Consultant team – ESA)
* Dan Beckley (Consultant team – ESA)

Interested parties present:

Emily Arteche (City of Snoqualmie), Jamie Brakken (Bellevue real estate agent), Laura Casey (Carnation farmer), Michael Pruett (Real estate project manager), Molly Lawrence (Van Ness Feldman) Peter Lamanna (Washington Sensible Shorelines Association), Regina Fletcher (Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance)

**Introductions**

Spencer Easton provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting. Spencer noted the objectives of the meeting included to review input provided by this committee so far, to share input received in other forums, to provide an overview of the process to submit activities to be considered for the Flood Plan, and to brainstorm ideas that could be considered to include in the Flood Plan.

**Public Comment**

An opportunity to provide formal public comment was provided at the beginning of the meeting. No public comments were made.

**Presentation and Discussion: Flood Plan Input to Date**

Spencer provided an overview of input received on numerous topics, including flood hazards, goals and objectives, policies, risk reduction activities, structure of the Flood Plan, and evaluation criteria for activities included in the Flood Plan. A detailed overview of this input and how it informed the Flood Plan development process can be found in the [presentation](https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/flood-plan/partner-planning-cmte-presentation-sept-19-2023.pdf) and [video](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2Fi_9RlwV6UQ4&data=05%7C01%7Clibarrett%40kingcounty.gov%7Cc67d0dbc41d4479256e308dbbb8434b9%7Cbae5059a76f049d7999672dfe95d69c7%7C0%7C0%7C638309948737661381%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sKdQ7dAQs6zUqakSle%2FE%2BlkfASp1hfTJ4bB5ql6Ycwk%3D&reserved=0) from this meeting.

Following the overview of input and how it has been used, Spencer asked if there was any input that wasn’t included in the overview that committee members would like to highlight. Diane Pasta noted that she had previously discussed concerns about access to drinking water during floods and potential impacts to drinking water sources from flooding and was requesting more information on this topic. King County committed to providing additional information and resources on this topic at the next meeting, as there were not County staff with expertise in this area present at the meeting.

**Presentation and Discussion: Action Submittal Form/Process**

Jason Wilkinson introduced the approach to developing the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan components of the Flood Plan. King County shared forms with cities, tribes, and other entities which would allow them to propose flood risk reduction activities that will be reviewed for inclusion in the Flood Plan’s Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy. All proposals will be reviewed against evaluation criteria. For activities to be included in the Action Plan, King County must be the lead agency, King County must be able to commit to funding or seeking funding for the activity, and the activity must be completed or advanced within five years of adopting the Flood Plan. All other proposed activities that meet the evaluation criteria would be included in the broader Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy.

Jason and Spencer responded to questions about the form and the process.

* What types of activities should be submitted with the form? Is it oriented towards projects with established plans and secured funding or can activities be included that are not well defined and require further scoping or planning?
	+ Jason responded that the Flood Plan has a five-year timeline, although that schedule is primarily a commitment that King County is making. There will be consideration of projects that are not fully developed or require further planning if elements of the project can be studied or advanced in some manner within the five-year timeline.
	+ Spencer added that activities do not need to be proposed as individual components, if they are all part of a larger program or project.
* Could you clarify what Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy means and entails?
	+ Jason explained that the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy is inclusive of all activities being recommended in the Flood Plan, both activities that meet the requirements of the Action Plan and those that do not. The name Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy reflects that the list of proposed flood hazard mitigation activities is inclusive of those that King County is not committing to completing within five years. The Action Plan, which is a component of the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy, only includes actions that King County can commit to completing and reporting on to FEMA, as required by the Community Rating System process that King County is undertaking. Committee members suggested that the name Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy is confusing and that it might be helpful to select a different name.
* One of the evaluation criteria is that activities must not conflict with legal obligations of King County. How intensive will the legal review of activities be?
	+ The review will be a high-level assessment of the proposed activity to determine if there is an obvious legal conflict. It will not be an intensive review.
* Will planned projects by the King County Flood Control District be included in the Flood Plan?
	+ Spencer stated that actions in the King County Flood Control District’s current capital improvement program would be included in the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy.
	+ In response to a specific follow-up question about the Lower Green River Corridor Plan, Jason added that the work that the Flood Control District has been discussing for the Lower Green River has not been developed into a project list at this point and will not be included, but the planning work they are undertaking will likely be referenced in some way.
* Is King County planning to conduct an analysis of repetitive loss properties?
	+ King County completed an analysis of repetitive loss properties in 2022, which can be accessed [here.](https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/flooding/final-repetitive-loss-area-analysis-external-7-26-22.pdf)
* How will the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy be used, if King County is not committing to implementing or funding activities put forward by other entities?
	+ Jason explained that the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy demonstrates a need for flood risk reduction activities throughout King County (not just in unincorporated areas) and demonstrating this need can support efforts to seek funding for implementation. Outlining proposals by a wide array of entities in King County in one place may also help support collaboration across jurisdictions and coordinated implementation.

By request King County committed to making activity form submissions available to other Partner Planning Committee members via a shared electronic file.

**Breakout Rooms: Action Brainstorming**

Partner Planning Committee members were divided into breakout rooms to brainstorm and discuss projects to be submitted for potential inclusion in the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy. The Partner Planning Committee will discuss some of the activities that were submitted at their October 17th, 2023, meeting.