

**Lake Ballinger Forum
Lynnwood Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2008**

Members Present

Don Fiene (Lake Forest Park City Council), D.J. Wilson (Edmonds City Council), Janet Way (Shoreline City Council), Chris Eggen (Shoreline City Council), John Caulfield (Mountlake Terrace City Manager), Curt Brees (Mountlake Terrace Public Works Director), Noel Miller (Edmonds Public Works Director), Gene Williams (Snohomish County Surface Water Management), Jared Bond (Lynnwood Stormwater Program Manager), Jerry Shuster (Edmonds Stormwater Engineering Program Manager), Mike Shaw (Mountlake Terrace Stormwater Program Manager), Dave Hutchinson (Lake Forest Park Mayor), Jerry Smith (Mountlake Terrace Mayor)

Others Present

Joe Simmler (Otak), Doug Beyerlein (Clear Creek Solutions), Penny Mabie (Enviroissues), Ron Rutledge (Edmonds), Allison Krutsinger (Shoreline), Jerry Smith (Mountlake Terrace), Larry Kiriluk (Edmonds), Jerry Thorsen (LBCA), Julian Anderson (Lake Forest Park/EQC), Neil Jensen (Lake Forest Park), Mark Phillips (Lake Forest Park Environmental Quality Commission), Jim Halliday (LFP Streamkeepers), Pete Mills (Rep Jay Inslee's Office)

I. Welcome & Introductions

• **Approval of Agenda**

D.J. Wilson, Edmonds City Councilmember, called the meeting of the Forum to order at 2:06 p.m. in the City of Lynnwood Council Chambers.

Hand outs: Agenda, meeting minutes, staff minutes, basics action plan.

The agenda was approved.

• **Approval of Minutes from July Meeting**

The minutes were approved.

II. Presentation of Lake Level and Outlet Study by Doug Beyerlein of Clear Creek Solutions.

- Purpose of study
 - To perform a hydrological and hydraulic analysis of Lake Ballinger.
 - Consider lowering lake level to avoid flooding during high rains.
 - 3230 acres drain to Lake Ballinger.
- How study done
 - Created a computer model and kept track of where the water goes.
 - 5-6 years worth of data – ground water, surface water, model keeps track and mimics what the lake is doing.
 - Paid for by inter-local between Edmonds, Shoreline, and Mountlake Terrace.
- What we see
 - Today we are getting more water in the lake than we used to.
 - 50% more runoff into lake due to land use changes (compared to forested conditions).

- Calibrated model to match historic lake levels, both simulated and observed levels.
- Modeled flow out of lake.
- Three alternatives to lower lake flood levels
 - 1. set the outlet to weir to a constant elevation 275.7 ft
 - 2. set the outlet to weir to a constant elevation 275.0 ft
 - 3. set the outlet to weir to a constant elevation 272.78 ft
 - Best results at lowest, #3 – lowers lake flood depths at about 2 feet.
- Impact on downstream areas
 - Looked at December 1996 LFP Towne Center flooding.
 - Changing weir doesn't increase the flooding.
 - Water levels graphed to show amount of water leaving Lake Ballinger, and at McAleer mouth. McAleer peaks much higher.
 - In actual event you have mix from Lyon Creek – Not included on computer model.

Questions and Comments:

- Lake Forest Park flooding, - based on slope down grade
 - Lake Washington Elevation ~14 ft above sea level
 - Lake Ballinger ~ 200 ft above sea level
- If we changed the weir level, would we need to revisit the 1980 Snohomish Co Superior Court judgment? – Yes, any of the issues would require a revisit to Superior Court Judgment.
- 2 feet lowering of the lake level water, can we see it on the map? - Not on map.
- Are you suggesting opening up culvert under I-5 to let more out? – No, the culvert is essentially the control, once water heads out the channel there is no more storage available.
- Where does it go? – To LFP.
- Does it make things worse? – No, the modeling shows that it does not make it worse.
- Suggested an alternative to be able to adjust the weir during storms.
- We have information from 1950 – 2005 – not lake levels but rainfall models.
- Whether the weir goes up or down, the flow through McAleer Creek is essentially the same at the mouth because of the I-5 culvert, and it's not the level but the rate.
- Discussed being able to change weir during a storm with MLT a couple of years ago.
- Peak flow – possibility of throttling flow by having a weir that you can adjust during a storm, but avoid flooding both Lake Ballinger & LFP.
- Agreed but would probably only work when there is only under a foot of water.
- The current weir structure is set up as a gate that moves up and down (example) – that was replaced; now there is a system of plates that move when the lake is at high level.
- The culvert under I-5 belongs to WSDOT, and appears structurally sound.
- The graph showing the historic forested area was very helpful – having one detention facility is not enough.
- For the last couple of years we haven't paid attention to the stormwater runoff as we should.

III. Introduction of consultant Otak, and Discussion of Watershed Strategic Action Plan by Joe Simmler of Otak

- Watershed Goals and Vicinity Map – lots of discussion over the last few years on how to deal with it.
- Look for opportunities for water quality, public safety, habitat, and flooding.
- Conceptual approach.
- From concept – technical approach.
- Project schedule.
- 8 months duration, starting last month.
- 4 pieces.
- Multidisciplinary team.
- Help from staff, Edmonds, Otak, LFP, MLT, Lynnwood, WDOE, and Forum Members.
- Project objectives.
- Modifications to watershed and water balance – what we need to bring back conditions of forested state.
- Ability to infiltrate rainwater.
- Restore groundwater contribution of 1 acre converted from impervious to pervious – amazing results.
 - Ways to do so – permeable pavement, green roofs, lateral flow dispersion, bio-detention cells, dry wells, gravel trenches, rain gardens.
 - Solutions - immediate need for something, so there are short term non-structural solutions in addition to long term structural .
- Need to look at what's going on in the rest of the watershed.
- Prioritize solutions for implementation, public objectives, technical studies, identify solutions.
- Managing perceptions and expectations.

IV. Briefing and Discussion of Nov 12th Public Meeting by Penny Mabie of Enviroissues

- New packet:
 1. A high level public involvement strategy – covers presentation bullets.
 - a. Forum meetings, not many in audience, these might be a good way to inform them, use forum meeting to keep them involved.
 - b. Public meetings.
 - c. Staff committee meetings – Penny will be working on how to make it so the public understands.
 - d. Stakeholder interviews - development of the strategy, interviews this month.
 - e. Outreach: Website, mailings, media releases.
 - f. Ongoing outreach program.
 2. Questionnaire.
 3. Survey.
- Need to know thoughts on Nov 12th meeting and ideas on lists of stakeholders that could be interviewed. List of brainstorming already sent (Penny received).
- Would like to know if any of the Forum members would like to speak at meeting.
- Send to: pmabie@enviroissues.com

Questions and Comments:

- Do we want to involve everyone in the watershed, including Lyon Creek, not just Ballinger and McAleer?
 - We should invite them, as they would have good input, but make it clear that this study will not look at Lyon Watershed.
 - Tool that would be useful would be an areal map so that people can find themselves in the watershed.
 - Even if they are in Lyon Creek this meeting would give a good overview and background of information on the watershed.
- Each city should have a link and what is happening on their website.

V. Discussion of Forum Legislative Agenda

- The state legislative process begins tomorrow. If we review handouts from DJ Wilson – could help to secure more funding.
 - State can provide \$200,000.
 - Federal government can provide \$500,000.
- Direct other state agencies to start working together on our behalf.
- Federal – leveraging momentum – funding a hotline, study of weir or culvert, watershed CIP, and facilitator.

Questions and Comments:

- MLT already has their Federal funding request strategy together. At the state level they are partnering with 14 cities in Snohomish County for their legislative agenda.
- Agree that it's good to talk with legislative members quickly – talk directly to people. Think it would be stronger if we wait for finished strategic action plan. Not comfortable with asking for funding commitments without final decisions and document.
- Staff level thought \$200k not enough. Would that be an approach, at state level, here's where we are need some support to go forward?
- Can we use this session to update them on where we are and what we have been working on? Hearing from State legislature "don't ask for money". But if we don't ask then we don't get it until July 1.
- Now that we have this started we need to show that we are being proactive. Since we have this started, we should ask for money. If we don't we don't make ourselves visible.
- More discreet you make your request, the more likely you would receive your requested funds.
- Federal "asks" are due at the end of Feb. It's usually an 80 page document, get money Sept 2010. Sept 2009 go back to legislature and show what we got.
- Back to original plan – educate the public – use the information for the legislature.

- Perhaps we should create a small sub-committee to work on this and create a good strong package. Work with Otak.
- Appropriation was originally for Okanagan.
- May be other opportunities that we need to pursue.
- Last budget cycle, state made local grants available to all cities. More money available for cities that joined together for joint efforts. Perhaps similar structure in next funding cycle.

VI. Forum Administration

- Certain minimum advertising requirements for these types of public meetings. Spoke on each city sending out advertisements.
 - How do we let public know about these meetings?
 - Set up a yearly schedule, post on website.
 - Special meeting 24 hour notice to anyone who ever expressed interest through e-mail.
 - Review of shareholders suggested.
 - Ask City Clerks office to handle the agenda's etc.
- Need to discuss who will be the administrative person, keep minutes, knows where they all are, deal with press. Etc.

VII. New Items and Public Comment

- A lot of work being done as part of NPDES compliance with public outreach – if there is an interest in joining cities together to work on this that may be of benefit to this forum.
- Statement regarding what I think needs to be thought of by the forum: Heavy on Admin and engineering, not environmental, I think if we don't include other voices, environmental people and their viewpoints would be very useful down the road if they want to succeed. Will send it to forum.
- Representative from State Fish & Wildlife. Lowering the lake level will impact wetlands, should be up front about how many acres are impacted. In watershed functions, best way is to remove development from the flood plain and letting it flood, buy out the property as a consideration.
- Request information from FEMA for available flooding funds for homeowners who want to relocate because of flooding. Usually in response to emergency event.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

3:45pm

Next Meeting

Tuesday December 16, 2008

Mountlake Terrace

Location to be determined

2:00pm – 3:30pm