

**Lake Ballinger/McAlear Creek Forum
City of Edmonds
Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2009**

Members Present

Don Fiene, Chair (Lake Forest Park City Council), Jerry Smith, Co chair (Mayor Mountlake Terrace), Janet Way (Shoreline City Council), Chris Eggen (Shoreline City Council), Steve Bernheim for DJ Wilson (Edmonds City Council)

Staff Present

Jerry Shuster (Edmonds Stormwater Engineering Program Manager), Aaron Halverson (Lake Forest Park Stormwater Technician), Noel Miller (Edmonds Public Works Director), John Caulfield (Mountlake Terrace City Manager), Curt Brees (Mountlake Terrace Public Works Director), Brian Landau (Surface Water Manager City of Shoreline), Doug Wood, Dave Garland, Douglas Palenshus (Washington State Department of Ecology), Brian Goodnight (Snohomish County)

Others Present

Joe Simmler (Otak, Inc.), Heidi Sorrell (Enviroissues), Pete Mills (Representing Congressman Jay Inslee)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Don Fiene called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. at the City of Edmonds, Brackett Room. He welcomed attendees and introduced members of the forum and staff. The agenda and minutes were approved. Handouts included the meeting agenda.

II. Staff Committee Report on submittal of the Final Programmatic Report to the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Jerry Shuster reported that the staff committee received the final version of the Strategic Action Plan. The City of Edmonds, as fiscal agent on the contract, is currently working on submittal to DOE, expected to be completed within the next 10 days. Doug Wood of DOE stated that the Forum accepted the hard copy of the final report, which finalizes DOE's part in the contract. He also stated that he was impressed with how the jurisdictions worked together to solve a common problem, especially where watershed issues are involved. He stated he was leaving this issue in capable hands and thanked the member cities for their work. Jerry Shuster stated that the report is on the Lake Forest Park website at www.cityofflp.com . Most cities have a link from their websites or Google Lake Ballinger Forum.

III. Scheduling of a one day extended Forum Work session in July (*July 10 and alternate dates of July 11, July 17 or July 18 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm*) to review and approve the Strategic Action Plan or remand the plan back to the Staff Committee for further work.

Don Fiene explained that the Forum formally accepted the draft SAP at its last meeting and has a 60-day period for review and changes or if substantial changes are needed to remand the plan back to staff. Once forum members have approved the plan, it needs to go out to jurisdictions for approval. We need to stay within 60-day time period. At the last meeting, a recommendation was made that the Forum hold a one-day workshop, open to the public, to save time and increase

understanding of the plan with all Councils in the discussion. The result would be that they could stay on task and come up with the Final Strategic Action Plan. This discussion will continue later on the agenda.

IV. Financial Funding Tool Box Report-Joe Simmler, OTAK

Don Fiene explained that the Forum is looking at many different projects to solve the flooding problem and improve water quality. Most involve a lot of money. Joe Simmler of OTAK handed out a matrix of Stormwater Management Funding Mechanisms to offer ideas to stimulate discussion on where to find sources of money to help fund the action plan. The Forum needs to get initial money with simple, realistic options for supporting meetings and keeping things going with funding for grants, matching funds, loans, and lobbyists.

The idea of an additional fee or overlay district was discussed. Joe Simmler stated that a district or regional approach to stormwater utilities could divide the region into areas and work up additional service fees for people living in the watershed. The mechanism is there with Councilmatic rate approval. The area covered by the basin could have an additional fee. The additional service fees could fund education, outreach, water quality treatment and flow control. All of the cities may have to approve to implement it. He explained two levels of funding including 1) One uniform fee for everyone living in the service area used to leverage additional money, a base fee that everyone shares for operating revenue, and 2) More project specific costs that people share as opportunities arise. This could be considered a surcharge in addition to the regular stormwater utility fee. Each city would have to determine whether they wanted to have a surcharge, decide how much to charge, and the forum would determine how to administer the money. This discussion would be a key role for the Forum.

It was asked if the charge could be taken off the rate citizens already pay for stormwater fees. Jurisdictions would pay based on the number of residents in their community. It would keep it simple by using existing structures, but would take money away from each city for existing projects. Impact fees for building in the watershed could be charged, but estimating the overall share of costs of the problem is tricky. Development Impact fees are coming of age for building in the watershed. Examples of a surcharge and special purpose District, such as Flood Control and Drainage districts were discussed. It was explained that it can be difficult to create a capitalized program to allocate fairly. Some jurisdictions have more ratepayers than others allowing them to complete projects quickly. Smaller cities have to wait until there's enough revenue generated. A comparison of a Transportation Benefit District providing additional funding was given, but because of the economy, questioned if voters would support it.

It is a well-known, definite need and something that needs to be fixed. It could be done incrementally by beginning with a dollar or two to start for operational funds, and then reach in for specific projects. After the Forum agrees on the final action plan, this discussion could be expanded. This is a preliminary discussion. The Forum also needs to discuss how they continue to operate, keep the mailing list going, and schedule meetings, until it is able to get funding to complete the bigger projects. The Forum needs a mechanism to provide funding to continue.

It was suggested that the Forum needs to have a discussion on the capital side. Another way to secure funding would be to prioritize projects, and develop six-year and twenty-year CIPs. Then

the Forum would begin evaluating these funding mechanisms. It could be a priority for the forum.

Edmonds is currently updating their Comprehensive Plan for stormwater and will coordinate with Mountlake Terrace in coming up with a long-term CIP. Jerry Smith stated that all cities need to get this into their Comp Plans by 2011 and need to formulate a work plan on a parallel track to commit to fund projects. The Forum needs to get this CIP in sync with cities CIPs.

V. Next Steps for the Forum - Forum Action: Consensus on future meetings and topics; consensus on the future direction of the Forum

Don Fiene asked if there is a date in July that the forum members are willing to commit to finalizing the draft action plan. Jerry Smith stated that July 10 would be good. Mountlake Terrace will organize the workshop and provide lunch. Space has been reserved at the Mountlake Terrace Library. OTAK will facilitate the meeting and provide materials at a cost of \$3,000. Don Fiene recommended that the six jurisdictions would split OTAK costs. Janet Way moved, seconded by Jerry Smith, to approve the one-day workshop on July 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Motion passed.

After the Strategic Action Plan is finalized, the Forum needs to decide how it will continue to go on. It was suggested that the Forum meet on the same day, rotating meetings between cities monthly and discuss funding priorities and a wealth of subjects. Lake Forest Park will host the August meeting. The upcoming workshop should provide lots of ideas and priorities for projects.

VI. Appointment of Jerry Smith to Chair and Don Fiene as Vice-Chair

Don Fiene stated that he would like Jerry Smith to become Chair of the Forum and he would go back to co-chair to allow him more time to find opportunities for funding. He recommended that because Mountlake Terrace has shown a lot of leadership in the forum, they elect Jerry Smith as Chair. Janet Way moved, Steve Bernheim seconded, to elect Jerry Smith as Chair of the Forum and Don Fiene as Vice-Chair. Motion passed.

VII. Public Comment: 3 minutes per speaker

John Halliday (speaking on behalf of himself) Chief Operations Manager for the Muckleshoot Tribe commented on his father's fight for preservation of the salmon and a little creek right next to his house. He suggested that impervious surfaces should be taxed. Those who do the most damage should pay for it. He also mentioned a rain barrel program, grass roofs, and paint roofs white to save energy.

Funding: Property owners are taxed by Snohomish County as a separate item called Lake Ballinger Maintenance Fund. It's not a lot of money but could be a start.

Steve Plush Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation stated that their desire is to begin immediately with natural solutions to control flooding. They look forward to the workshop.

Dave Garland, Ecology Water Quality Program NW region out of Bellevue stated that Water quality was standing by as the plan developed knowing that flooding was the main focus. If the forum wants to take on water quality projects the cities could apply for Centennial Clean Water

Funds and other funding sources as a good way to accomplish projects that have a water quality component such as stream restoration, getting the in-stream hypolimnetic back up and running, public education, reducing nutrients going into the water to help with the plant problem.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 2:52 p.m.