

Lake Ballinger/McAleeer Creek Watershed Forum  
Mountlake Terrace Interim City Hall  
Meeting Minutes  
December 21, 2010

Members Present

Mayor Jerry Smith, Chair (Mountlake Terrace), Councilmember Don Fiene, Vice Chair (Lake Forest Park), Councilmember D.J. Wilson (Edmonds)

Staff Present

Phil Williams (Edmonds Public Works Director), Jerry Shuster (Edmonds Stormwater Engineering Program Manager), David Cline (Lake Forest Park City Manager), Frank Zenk (Lake Forest Park Public Works Director), Aaron Halverson (Lake Forest Park Environmental Programs Manager), Curt Brees (Mountlake Terrace Public Works Director), Mike Shaw (Mountlake Terrace Stormwater Program Manager)

Others Present

Councilmember Dave Gossett (Snohomish County), Tricia Shoblom (Department of Ecology), Jon and Shirley Parrott (Ballinger residents), Susan Meredith, Tyrone Hardy (Ballinger Lakes Golf Course), Ken Peirce and Jerry Thorsen (Lake Ballinger Community Association), Jake Johnston (The Johnston Group)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jerry Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at Mountlake Terrace Interim City Hall. The agenda for the December 21 meeting and minutes for the November 16, 2010 meeting were approved.

II. Federal Legislative Agenda

a. Proposed Modification to the Interlocal Agreement

Mike Shaw explained that the modification to the Interlocal Agreement was a simple draft amendment to Section 4.2.3 to provide for contracting with the Johnston Group for Federal lobbying services. He added that the jurisdictions can take the draft back to their attorneys and councils for review. Curt Brees stated that all three current members including Edmonds, Lake Forest Park and Mountlake Terrace would need to act on the amendment for it to go into effect.

Edmonds Councilmember DJ Wilson asked Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Gossett if Snohomish County was going to sign the new Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Gossett stated that the County Public Works Department was very reluctant because of costs, but he would try to persuade the County to continue as part of the Forum.

Chair Smith introduced Jake Johnston of the Johnston Group who gave an overview of his firm and experience. Mr. Johnston stated that his firm deals with northwest public agencies in developing long-term strategies to position them for funding opportunities with the Federal Government. He added that with the ever-changing environment in Washington D.C., agencies need to make sure that they have multiple requests in a variety of funding areas.

**It was moved and seconded to approve Amendment #1 to the Interlocal Agreement as written to provide for a Federal Government Relations Service Provider (Johnston Group) at a cost of \$30,000 split evenly (\$10,000 each) between Edmonds, Lake Forest Park and Mountlake Terrace and have each jurisdiction take it back to their Councils and Attorneys for review and to recommend its adoption. Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Proposed Projects to Seek Federal Funding

Curt Brees explained the next step was to confirm the priority projects for which the Forum would pursue federal funding. He stated that these include the Upper McAleer Creek/Lake Ballinger/Hall Creek Phase 1/Priority A1 Project (\$750,000 to \$1,000,000 in 2009 dollars) with Project lead agencies the Cities of Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace and the McAleer Creek Flood Berms Phase II/Priority E Project (\$844,000 in 2010 dollars) with the lead agency the City of Lake Forest Park.

Aaron Halverson explained the McAleer Creek flood berm project. David Cline stated that Lake Forest Park has completed its mapping project using \$300,000 of their own funds and now considers the McAleer Creek Flood berm project its highest priority. Vice Chair Fiene explained that Lake Forest Park has secured funding to modify the overflow on McAleer Creek to relieve pressure on the culvert, but the streambeds do not have the capacity to hold the extra storm water. He added that this was the reason this project was moved to a top priority.

A discussion on priorities resulted in a decision to take the two projects and wrap them into one request for funding. Mr. Johnston explained that funding would be eligible at 80% of project costs and these projects at \$1.4 million would be at the upper boundary. He added that the jurisdiction would have an obligation to show the need for the project. Mr. Johnston explained that two requests would be more competitive but only one might receive funding.

Mr. Johnston explained the pros and cons of the Federal funding process and recommended that the Forum look for foundational building blocks for future projects. He added that when WRDA comes up, it would be good to have something bigger to include in requests.

Councilmember Wilson recommended that the Forum put together its best guess on what project to fund and refine over time. Jerry Shuster suggested Mitigate flooding in upper watershed to include modification of the weir structure.

Mr. Johnston explained that they have a tight timeline and need to act quickly because the first deadline is January 28. He added that the delegation wants to partner with local government to solve this problem. David Cline suggested that a regional request would benefit the whole area. He added that a request for general infrastructure improvements at \$1.4 million keeps the Forum together, strengthens the request and keeps the group moving forward. Chair Jerry Smith recommended merging the two requests into one. Mr. Johnston stated that the Forum should reflect its need as a whole.

**It was moved and seconded that the Forum merge the two projects together as one request for funding for the region at a \$1.6 million project cost resulting in a \$1.3 million ask. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Johnston asked how he should work with the Forum. Chair Smith replied that he should work with the Steering Committee consisting of Public Works Directors Curt Brees, Frank Zenk and Phil Williams.

### III. Public Comments

Ken Peirce, Lake Ballinger Community Association (LBCA), said that restoring the current weir to its original purpose won't work because it was only designed to make the Hypolimnetic System work, which was turned off by the Department of Ecology.

Jerry Thorsen, LBCA, agreed with Mr. Peirce's comments and stated that there was no point in spending money to put the old weir back into working condition. He added that he didn't think it would work and hoped for a new weir design.

Vice Chair Fiene said that comments from LBCA made a good point. He asked why DOE stopped the use of the system and what the corrective measure was to be able to start it up again. Trisha Shoblom of DOE answered that it was stopped because of a dead zone that allowed non-oxygenated water to go into McAleer Creek. She added that the injection system is still working and that Ralph Svrjcek of DOE ordered it and she would let him know that the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum would like a letter explaining the corrective action needed or to reconsider the decision. It was mentioned that the old letter is on the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum website. Councilmember Wilson stated that Legislators are very interested in helping with the issue at Lake Ballinger and maybe they could help with DOE.

Jon Parrott stated that he just purchased a house last summer and had to put sandbags out last week. He encouraged Forum members to think about the people that live on the lake and work together to fix the problems all at once if possible.

Shirley Parrott stated that she wanted Forum members to know how frightening it was to see the lake water rise so quickly in the last rainstorm.

### VII. Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:17 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at Edmonds City Hall.