

**PROTECTION OF HIGH VALLEY 8/11
MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

Subject: Proposed revetment located on Forest Service land across Cannon Road designed to protect HV8/11.

Purpose: Develop a plan that will lead to the approval of the proposed revetment and funding for the project.

Attendees: Jack Thorne - US Forest Service
Fred Chapman – Lewis County
Bob Johnson – Lewis County
Lee Grose – Lewis County Commissioner
Patricia Olson – WA Dept of Ecology
Jim Brazil – Cowlitz Geotechnical
Gary McCarty – High Valley Country Club

Discussion:

Jim Brazil explained the revetment design while pointing out:

- The design is based on the recommendations of the NRCS study
- Location established by Larry Johnson (NRCS) and Jim Brazil which is consistent with the NRCS study recommendation

Two alternatives were evaluated:

- Rock similar to that recommended in the NRCS study
- Containing a concrete barrier
- Total distance of revetment – 842 feet
- The location could force the current across the river and impact Lower Timberline

Jim Brazil stated that his goal was to fund an EA which would be the first step toward getting approval for the project. He noted that, if the EA were challenged, an EIS might be required which would cost much more and take a lot longer.

Jim estimated the basic cost of the revetment as \$300,000 based on quotes from contractors for excavation, hauling and placing rock.

Jack Thorne stated that the cost of the Forest Service doing the EA would be about \$60,000. He also stated that there may not be resources available to do the EA in the near term. In the event that the FS could not do the EA, a contractor would be hired with a substantially greater cost.

Jim Brazil raised the concept emergency measures to combat an imminent threat to HV8/11. A measure might be to just dump rock in the path of a flow down Cannon Road. Patricia was concerned that such an approach would not be effective.

Bob Johnson asked if this situation was similar to that of the Howard Hanson dam on the Green River where an emergency was declared before and actual event. The consensus of

the group was that there was not enough data/information available to convince people that there was an imminent danger.

Bob Johnson also expressed his support for an emergency plan for the Upper Cowlitz which would include High Valley in addition e.g. to the Skate Creek Bridge.

In response to a question regarding protection of private property, Lee Grose and others stated that the county can not by law spend money to protect private property in the absence of an emergency. There is a “gifting issue”.

The discussion shifted to the formation of a Flood Control District (FLC) which would be a means of obtaining funds to protect private property. A FLC can be formed by the County Commissioners, as was done in King County, or by a vote of the people in the proposed district. The County must take the lead in the formation of the FCD in either case. A concern with a FCD is the local management; someone has to provide leadership at the local level.

Jim Brazil asked again how the EA could be funded in the near term as the formation of a FCD is a long term effort. Fred said that the NRCS may be able to provide the funds.

Action Steps:

Lee Grose – Follow up to make sure that the County has an emergency plan that will address the HV8/11 as well as the Skate Creek Bridge. Suggested steps to include and evacuation plan and rock stockpile on the North side of the bridge.

Fred Chapman – Approach the NRCS to determine if funding for an EA could be made available.

Bob Johnson – Determine the County responsibility for the formation of a FCD and outline the necessary steps.

Jim Brazil – Contact potential local leaders of the FCD