

1. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time Wednesday July 21, 2009

Name Christy Miller Title Head of National Forest District

Organization Snoqualmie National Forest

Phone Number (360)497-1100 Fax _____

Email _____ Reference _____

Notes by Gary McCarty

Christy Miller maintains that the reason she has done nothing to mitigate the flooding/erosion issue on the upper Cowlitz River is that there are too many conflicting views of what should be done with no scientific back up.

She referenced a study being done by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that specifically addresses the Upper Cowlitz. She suggested I call Larry Johnson who is in charge of the study being done by a contractor. The contact is:

Larry Johnson – Spokane
(509) 323-2955

2. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time: Thursday July 22, 2009

Name: Larry Johnson Title: NRCS Manager

Organization: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Phone Number: (509) 323-2955 Fax _____

Email _____ Reference: Christy Miller

Notes by: Gary McCarty

The NRCS is a technical service agency providing information to regulatory agencies. They do studies.

The study of the upper Cowlitz river is designed to:

- Identify downstream impacts
- Identify high risk areas including homes, roads, infrastructure, etc.
- Assess the economic damage potential
- Identify & recommend mitigation opportunities

It is designed to aid the county, state, federal and local organizations in setting priorities for remediation. The study will detail how a flood control district can be established. The study cost more than \$300,000.

Larry was surprised to learn that there was no flood control district for the upper Cowlitz. He commented that such a district could provide a vehicle for obtaining grants and ongoing maintenance of flood control dikes, rip-rap, etc.

The study is being done by Petrotech and will be finished by September. Larry is scheduling a meeting with Lewis County about September 3 to review the study. He has recommended to Lee Grose that a public meeting be scheduled mid-september to discuss the study.

This study is **EXACTLY** the type of information we need to deal with the CMZ issue and the ongoing protection of property.

3. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time: Monday August 3, 2009 1:00 PM

Name: Rod Lakey Title: Asst County Engineer

Organization: County Public Works

Phone Number: (360)740-2780 Fax _____

Email: rodney.lakey@lewiscounty.gov Reference: Protection for Mt. View

Notes by: Gary McCarty

Rod Lakey followed up on the discussions with Erik Martin regarding protection of Mt. View in High Valley 8. He stated that in 2004 lot owners along Mt. View were told by the county that the County would not be responsible for maintaining the dike along the river. I explained to Rod that protection of the lots along the river was not the primary genesis for HVCC request. At this point the river is as close as 30 feet from the right of way, 40 feet from the edge of the road and 50 feet from the center of the road. I also reiterated the fact that in 2006 the river migrated approximately 60 feet in one 12 hour period in that area. HVCC believes that the next event, probably this fall due to the level of silt, will take out Mt. View. HVCC requests emergency repair of the dike (R56) in the area along Mt. View.

Rod mentioned the following concerns re: protecting Mt. View:

- Difficult to get easements
- Historic easements are not well documented
- Other properties along the river may have higher priority
- River meander is difficult to predict
- County does not have money

I asked if the county was aware of the NRCS study Larry Johnson was managing. Rod said he was aware of the study but had not talked to Larry for about a year. I suggested Rod call Larry and find out in advance if the area along Mt. View was high risk.

I stated the following:

- The HVCC Board of Trustees representing 890 properties and 725 property owners are officially requesting protection for Mt. View.
- That protection needs to be in place before the next event which is likely to be this fall.
- If the county is not willing to protect Mt. View, HVCC requests a written explanation of the reasons for declining the request.

Rod stated that he would:

- Contact Larry Johnson and find out what he could about the risk to Mt. View
 - Send someone out to assess the situation at Mt. View
 - Get back to me with his findings and recommendation ASAP
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4. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time: Wednesday August 5, 2009 9:00 AM

Name: Les Miller Title: Flood Preparedness Program Manager

Organization: Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District

Phone Number: (503)808-4400 Fax _____

Email: d.les.miller@usace.army.mil Reference _____

Notes by Gary McCarty

After finding out that FEMA cannot fund major flood protection as that would be in conflict with other agencies, I contacted the Corps of Engineers. The Portland Office has jurisdiction over the upper Cowlitz. I contacted Les Miller and explained our situation. He requested the following email and promised to pass it on to the appropriate person.

This email is a follow-up to a phone conversation with Les Miller. Les is Flood Preparedness Program Manager for the Portland office of the Army Corps of Engineers. Les asked that I provide contact information for the people I have been dealing with in trying to provide protection for infrastructure and property along the upper Cowlitz River. The main contacts are:

Larry Johnson - NRCS Manager (509)323-2955

Larry is managing a Petrotech study of the upper Cowlitz River that will define Hazards, Economic Impact, mitigation recommendations, cost of mitigation

and means of establishing a Flood Control District. See Contact Report for a summary of my conversations with Larry.

Rod Lakey - Asst. County Engineer (360)740-2780 email: rodney.lakey@lewiscountywa.gov

Rod responded for the county to High Valley Country Club's request for emergency protection of Mt. View a key county road in our area. The county's first position was that they were not responsible for the dike that was damaged in 2006 as they told the home owners they were responsible. HVCC maintains that the issue is protecting the road. See Contact Report attached.

Emil Pierson - Community Development Director (360)330-7662 email: EPierson@cityofcentralia.com

Emil is updating the Lewis County Hazard Mitigation Plan required by FEMA to obtain grants. HVCC is a stakeholder in the Plan, unfortunately the hazard mitigation needed for the upper Cowlitz is not covered by this plan as it only addresses small flood control projects.

Les will pass the information on to Linda Hicks who will hopefully assign someone to evaluate our request for emergency protection of Mt. View and assist us on a longer term basis to undertake the recommendations in the NRCS study. The upper Cowlitz is in the jurisdiction of the Portland office of the Corps.

Gary McCarty (360)494-7080

President

High Valley Country Club (highvalleycc.org)

PS: HVCC comprises 890 properties (725 owners) water system, golf course, three swimming pools, clubhouse, and maintenance facilities valued at well over \$100 million.

5. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time: August 14, 2009 12:45 PM

Name: Rod Lakey Title: Asst. County Engineer

Organization: Lewis County Public Works

Phone Number: (360)740-2780 Fax _____

Email: rodney.lakey@lewiscounty.gov Reference: Mt. View

Notes by: Gary McCarty

I followed up on a contact August 3rd with Rod this morning. Rod returned my call. In my previous contact, Rod had said he would try to investigate the situation at Mt. View by sending someone up to look and to contact Larry Johnson of the NRCS for his input. Rod stated that he had not contacted Larry and was too busy to send someone up to look at the situation. Rod asked if Mt. View was a loop; I responded that it was. He then said that access could be from either end which is true.

Rod than stated that the position of the county was:

- They would respond to a threat to Mt. View when and if it is threatened.
- The dike is considered the responsibility of the property owners as he has stated before.
- To repair the dike would require permits which take a long time.
- His inspectors continue to be too busy to investigate the situation.
- Other County projects have a higher priority than Mt. View.

I asked for a written response to HVCC's request for protection of Mt. View with the official position of the County. I also said that HVCC would continue our attempt to raise the priority of Mt. View as the likelihood of severe damage to the road and HVCC's water system is very high and would occur too quickly for the County to respond during an emergency. I asked that the written response be delivered early next week.

6. CMZ – CONTACT REPORT

Date & Time: Friday August 14, 2009 6:00Pm

Name: Laura Hicks Title: Chief Planning and Project Management Branch

Organization: Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Number: (503) 808-4703 Fax _____

Email: laura.l.hicks@usace.army.mil Reference: Les Miller Contact Report
Protecting Mt. View

Notes by: Gary McCarty

Laura called after Les Miller had referred our inquiry Re: Mt. View to her. Les's responsibility is emergency situations. Laura's area is to protect infrastructure. In order for Laura's group to become involved, several criteria must be met including (I hope I got this right):

- Federal Government has an interest (Section 14)
- Authorized by Congress
- Partner with someone like a county
- Civil work project using Corps ability to do bank protection
- Infrastructure must be at risk

- The project can not be to protect private property

Laura was aware of the Larry Johnson NRCS study and indicated that the study would be very important in justifying a project. Laura said that while our water system might qualify, something like the Skate Creek Bridge or Highway 12 is more likely to result in a project.

We discussed the CMZ and the county's position regarding responsibility for repair of the 300 feet of dike being assigned to the property owners at Mt. View. I also explained the potential for rapid erosion which could wipe out the road and part of our water system in a matter of hours. In addition, I described the threat of a major shift in the Cowlitz which would potentially devastate HV8, our club house, maintenance facilities, swimming pool, golf course and two other housing developments unassociated with HV.

Laura then said she will refer us to the ninth floor which is responsible for the levee certification program. Specifically, she is referring us to:

Guy Fielding Phone: (503)808-4909

Email: guy.j.fielding@usace.army.mil

Guy's group can determine which levees on the upper Cowlitz River are in his group's levee certification program. If our levees are in the program, they might do repairs.

In closing, Laura said she would send Pat McCrea up to investigate our situation. Pat will contact me and I plan to show her the various threatened areas. I also promised to reference web sites showing maps of the upper Cowlitz which are:

- Lewis County Parcel Maps <http://pats.lewiscountywa.gov/imsmaps/patsmap/viewer.htm>
- Cowlitz Migration Zone (CMZ)

Hi Gary,

I'm the GIS Manager for the County & I was forwarded your email. I can answer the questions about the maps & direct you to our website to get some of the other information also. Barb & Fred should be able to help you with the rest.

We have posted some draft information on our Planning Commission website. It includes maps, county code revisions, and comp plan revisions in PDF format.

Go to <http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/planning-commission> & scroll down (about half-way) until you get to the July 28th Meeting. The maps show the proposed CMZ boundaries and the tax parcel boundaries. They also include the FEMA Floodway & 1%-risk Floodplain (100-yr) to show what areas are currently administered under flood-damage reduction regulations.

The two maps that were shown at the June 28th meeting were both of the High Valley/Timberline areas north of Packwood. One included 2007 aerial photos & the other had LiDAR-based hill shade. The high-level detail and the large amount of information from the photos & LiDAR of those maps makes for pretty large files, so we have not posted them on the website yet because they tend to be hard to download/view over the internet. I think we will post them and add a warning that they are large & may be difficult to open. We can reproduce them in hardcopy and/or burn them on a CD for just the cost of reproduction (\$15 for a hardcopy & about \$6 for a CD), plus postage if mailed. There are no restrictions to copying the maps or the CDs.

Draft text revisions for the ComPlan are posted which introduces the CMZs as a type of Critical Area. Draft text revisions for the county code is posted that adds the Severe CMZ as a regulated area with restrictions very similar to the FEMA Floodway restrictions. These text drafts will likely change as the process continues & we will then post new versions.

I believe that the high-level detail maps are now on the website.