

From: [John Anderson](#)

To: john@uppercowlitz.info

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 5:06 PM

Subject: Upper Cowlitz River Community Awareness Committee Email #2

Hello again!

Thanks for joining the email list for the Upper Cowlitz River issues. Be sure and check www.uppercowlitz.info as new information is posted often. Remember this is your site to get current issues and information. Elise has done a great job of maintaining the website. If you know of news that should be shared please contact Elise (webmaster@uppercowlitz.info) or me at john@lewiscounty.com.

So here is the latest:

The NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/>) has presented a draft of their study of the Upper Cowlitz. It is a lot of great work and has recommendations for fixes. The study was done under contract with TetraTech out of Seattle (<http://www.tetrattech.com/portal/site/TetraTech/>). David Cline, Senior Engineer, Surface Water Group gave a great presentation of the study in Chehalis last week. The final version will be out later this month. Dave will be providing the same presentation to the public at the Packwood Community Center. I don't have final confirmation yet, but the plan is for October 3rd. I will send another email out when the date and time are confirmed. Please consider attending this meeting and presentation. The NRCS report represents a lot of great work by Larry Johnson of the NRCS and by TetraTech. The final report will be posted on the web site as soon as it is released.

Steve Mansfield, Lewis County Sheriff, will also present the NOAA Emergency Radio System (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>), which is now active and would be used by the county to announce emergency information. Come to the meeting and learn how the notifications system works and what you need to provide for your home. Again the dates are not finalized and you will get a notice when everything is firmed up.

So, please look at the information on the links on the website and whenever the meeting is, come informed. There is a tremendous amount of reading material on the flood issues, so I encourage you to start now.

New information on the web site includes:

1. Obama Administration's draft changes that would revise the 1977 Executive Order of President Jimmy Carter to stricter policies and restrictions for development in both the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to download the entire document. This may be more important than any other legislation. I will also put up an audio version of this later tonight for those that don't like to read ☺

2. NRCS PowerPoint presentation of the Draft Upper Cowlitz Study. Adobe 9.0 or greater is required to view this document. The reader can be downloaded free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> .
3. Flood Insurance Information
4. Various links to other good resources such as Lewis County Emergency Management site:: <http://lewiscountywa.gov/fema-flood-information>
5. All the county's CMS documents and maps also at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/channel-migration-zone-cmz>

The Committee:

About 15 people have volunteered to be on our committee. The committee will have a short meeting just prior to the community meeting, whenever that date is finalized. A separate notice will be going out to those committee members. The first task of the committee will be to document the “who, what, why, when, how” of the CMZ. There are many rumors rumbling of possible answers to these questions, so we need to first commit to writing what the truth really is about the CMZ and provide it in a format that can be easily understood. One thing for sure is that we all need to work together. There are rumors flying around proposing lawsuits. We need to join together to solve the flooding problems. There are serious hot-spots on the river that need immediate attention. Suing the county to rescind their maps does not reduce our risks to these problems. One county official has said it would only delay their assistance. So we really need to work together to provide for a safer community.

To mention in closing, Gary McCarty (High Valley Association President) and Jim Brazil (Cowlitz Geotechnical) have been doing an outstanding job meeting with county, state and federal officials to get more information and documentation on their positions on Cowlitz River issues. A special thanks to them for their energetic work. I would hope to have a condensed report available for the committee meeting on the 3rd.

Wouldn't it be great if everyone (local, county, state and federal) could join in a project to increase community safety and fish habitat? They are not exclusive. We all just need a broader vision and set up a cooperative model project.

Thanks again for your concern and help,

John Anderson