



August 20, 2014

TO: Flood Authority Members

FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff

SUBJECT: Grays Harbor County and Southwest Washington Fairs.

The purpose of this memo is to update Flood Authority members on recent efforts to engage and interact with the public via the Grays Harbor County and Southwest Washington Fairs. This will be an agenda item on our Flood Authority conference call this Thursday the 21st. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

Grays Harbor County and Southwest Washington Fairs

I. Materials/Exhibitor Booth

- Display boards and easels were crowded in small exhibitor space. A display panel system with posters than can be attached would result in smaller footprint and more space in the booth.
- Exhibitor halls were too bright to effectively see laptop and flood photos. Projection screen might work better.
- Flood book was good for browsing.
- Handouts (Basin strategy document and one-page update sheet) were helpful.
- Having two people on a shift worked well.
- Having a sign-up sheet would have been a good idea.
- Having "give-aways" could have been helpful to draw people in (e.g. pencils, candy, decals, etc.).
- Banner was necessary and a good idea (Thank You Dan!).
- Need a chart/graphic showing predicted effects of upper basin retention structure.

II. Themes Heard

- **Upper Basin Retention Structure** – Mixed thoughts/reactions. Appreciate that a comprehensive analysis with a due date, timeline is underway. Information is what is needed. Questions raised include:
 - Could a retention structure provide recreational and economic opportunities?
 - Who would own and operate a retention structure?
 - Would there be impacts to habitat and fisheries (positive or negative)?
 - How much flood hazard reduction benefit could a retention structure provide?
 - How long would it take before it could be operational? What would it cost?
- **Dredging** – Can this be done? Is it on the table for discussion? What about small scale, localized dredging?



- **Small Projects** – General appreciation for the fact that small scale projects are getting done throughout the Basin. Keep up the effort.
- **Appreciation** – Discussions with the public generally resulted in the public member leaving with a greater appreciation for the scope of the effort underway and the fact that progress is being made and things are getting done. People were appreciative of the Flood Authority thankful for the information provided and the opportunity to converse with a Flood Authority member. In some cases views were changed.

III. Thoughts Re Upcoming October Public Meetings – The impetus for pursuing the Grays Harbor County Fair was to generate public interest in the Lower Basin as the May 29th public meeting in Montesano had low public attendance. While the Fair did provide a good opportunity to engage the public and increase public awareness, it will not guarantee higher public attendance at the upcoming October 2nd public meeting. The following actions could additionally help:

- Op-ed piece from Vickie as Chair of the Flood Authority announcing the October public meetings and their significance.
- Distribution of general interest email through targeted email distribution lists (e.g., realtors, agricultural community, etc.).