

To: Flood Authority Members  
From: Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting, Project Manager for the Ruckelshaus Center  
Date: February 13, 2012  
RE: Proposed Next Steps for OFM Report

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Thank you all for sharing your time, knowledge and experiences with me. I honor your commitment and hard work to address the critical issues of flooding in a manner that supports the broad interests of the communities you represent.

As we discussed at the last Flood Authority meeting in January, the OFM Chehalis Basin Alternatives Report is required to address a number of topics by the Legislature; this report is due by July 31, 2012. I would like to structure the process for development of the report so that you have a significant opportunity to discuss the relevant technical information and explore the policy implications before the report is written. The target date for the first report draft is in May. I am unable to be there in person this week, but wanted to propose holding a workshop in mid-May to discuss a number of critical topics.

Although there is a wealth of existing information on flooding in the Chehalis, there are still critical analyses yet to be completed like the Fish Impact Study, Fish Enhancement Study, Department of Transportation's I-5 and critical facilities projects and more. The outstanding analyses are slated to be completed between March and the end of April. Since the different flood management alternatives and analyses are related and have overlapping policy implications, I think it is best to wait to have your policy discussions until the analyses are completed. This would mean the soonest a discussion of all the policy issues related to the report could occur is the middle of May.

The list of topics for the policy discussion includes:

- a. Water Retention
- b. Fish Enhancement
- c. Corps Levees
- d. Protection of I-5 and Critical Facilities
- e. Bridges
- f. Other Alternatives like critter pads, buffers, flood proofing, buyouts
- g. Land Use
- h. Forestry
- i. Sediment Management (dredging)
- j. Cost Benefit Analysis
- k. Process forward

I would expect it would take at least two hours per topic to have ample time to discuss the technical information and explore your various views. It is not required to reach consensus for the purposes of the report but it would be extremely helpful and informative for others to know where there are common perspectives and if there are differences, the basis for the difference. I know you all have busy schedules and many other commitments and this is a significant request of your time.

I suggest we schedule a 3 day workshop with evenings blocked in case the discussions need to go longer. Please let me know if this is possible. If so, Lara Fowler and I can work immediately to schedule the workshop on your calendars.