

**Education and Outreach Committee  
Conference Call Summary  
October 13, 2011 1:00 p.m.**

**Participants:** Lara Fowler, Scott Boettcher, Karen Valenzuela, Edna Fund, Jay Gordon, Pat Anderson, Ruth White (law student working with Lara)

***1. Feedback on Flood Tour and follow up***

- Additional information to answer questions

Edna stated that overall the tour went fairly well. The Centralia Police Department went above and beyond getting some of the legislators to the starting point because of an accident at Exit 81. She said “hats off” to Mr. Lionel Pinn, the bus driver who took a dry run of the tour on the Wednesday before.

Edna stated local people in the Boistfort Valley had contributed. Most of the attendees would have liked to have seen more legislators there rather than staff. She believed the Flood Authority got the message out that the Authority is active and exploring ideas on flood mitigation and it will continue to communicate with others. She also stated that Dave Muller’s talk about the retention site was very good.

Edna stated the legislators requested the flood plain information from Larry Karpack and they also wished to have the information that was distributed on the tour sent to them electronically.

Karen stated there was confusion about why the tour ended in Chehalis. It was explained that the tour didn’t actually end there but some of the legislators did not ride on the bus; some had to leave the tour early; others got lost. The accident at exit 81 added further problems. Jay stated it was not clear who could go to the Tribal luncheon. Lara explained that Susan Howson worked with Mr. Dunshee on that part of the tour and it was the Tribe that decided who would attend the luncheon.

Lara stated that Commissioner Willis felt that Grays Harbor County was short-changed because their report was to be given on the bus from Chehalis to the reservation and there was no one left.

Lara stated Dave Muller would have some feedback regarding filling in the flood plain and the impact to I-5 and the railroad.

Lara stated Larry Karpack was misquoted in the Chronicle and she is working on having a correction made.

- Recognition – Legislators, staff and non-Flood Authority member participants  
Lara asked Edna to provide a list of people to be recognized. Edna stated she also had a list of attendees.

- Follow up with Legislative staff and Hans Dunshee  
Lara is going to have a discussion with Mr. Dunshee on retention costs, the likelihood of a retention dam, other projects, and whether the work plan is doable.

- Middle and Lower Basin tour opportunities

There was discussion about a Tour Part II, perhaps from the Skookumchuck to the mouth of the river. Even if the legislators are not interested in another tour, the Flood Authority members would benefit from such a tour.

Karen suggested since the meeting in November is in Rochester that perhaps a short tour could be set up to go to the park in Bucoda which is at the confluence of the Skookumchuck and Chehalis Rivers. She would like to check with Mark Swartout before a Thurston County tour is decided upon.

Lara asked Karen to contact Andrea Fowler as Lara's attempts to do so have failed. Lara will follow up with Mark about a Thurston County tour.

## **2. Status Update on Website**

- Redo of existing site

Lara asked what the committee members thought of the mock up website that Lara had created. There was good feedback on it and she asked for suggestions as to how to implement it. Karen thought that the subject should be put on the agenda with the attachment for discussion it at the next work session.

Scott stated he has updated iPRMT but has not yet populated the site. He would like to show it at the next meeting.

He would like the Frequently Asked Questions as soon as possible as that will be a tab on the website. He asked if Flood Authority members or others could send emails to him with those questions.

Scott needs a projector for the work session and asked about an internet connection at the meeting room. Pat said there is a projector there and she would make sure it was ready to use. She would check on the internet connection, also.

Scott suggested that Susan Howson could get questions that are asked of the legislators and those could be included as well.

## **3. Discussion on early warning/fall outreach opportunities**

Karen stated that Thurston County issued a proclamation on flood awareness at the last Commissioner's meeting. Lara has spoken with Bob Johnson about Lewis County doing the same thing.

There was a discussion about holding workshops/open houses with Dave Curtis explaining the Early Warning System. The sub-committee thought an evening open house in each county would be beneficial. Edna stated Lewis County's meeting could be held at Centralia College and it could be recorded and televised later. Karen thought Swede Hall in Thurston County would be a good location.

Lara suggested a more technical session could be held for emergency response people.

Karen asked if flood awareness could be combined with the early warning system information. She stated the presentation in their county was extremely well done and very informative. Lara thought that each local jurisdiction could design its own program for those open houses. She stated this item would go on the October work session agenda.

#### **4. Feedback on other outreach efforts**

- Periodic updates: useful? How can they be improved?

Karen thought the updates were beneficial since different committees are meeting at different times between the regular meetings.

Edna stated the Chronicle is going to start publishing only 3 times a week; the other days will be on line. Karen asked if the Flood Authority can make copies of newspaper articles and Lara said no, that is not allowed. Edna stated anyone with a Timberland Library card can use a computer at a library and read the newspaper. Lara said a link can be sent to anyone; it will be up to that person to access it.

Karen stated the Olympian does not require a subscription; however that paper does not cover much of the Flood Authority. Sometimes it has information from another newspaper.

Lara stated the next meeting would be in late October or early November. She would contact the sub-committee members.