

# LAND SG NOVEMBER 17 MEETING SYNTHESIS\*

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*\*Note: This synthesis is intended to assist LAND SG members in briefing constituents and interested organizations on the meeting's main objectives and outcomes. A more detailed meeting summary is also being prepared and will be publicly available after LAND SG review and approval.*

## **LAND SG Charge:**

- The LAND Steering Group's charge is to bring consensus recommendations to the Chehalis Basin Board by the end of 2022 (now extended to early 2023) identifying the best and most feasible alternatives to provide flood damage reduction without the proposed dam/airport levee project. We'll be looking at projects and programs that include things like smaller-scale infrastructure (e.g., levees or floodwalls) and floodproofing or elevating at-risk structures, or incentivizing people to relocate where floodproofing or elevating structures, or diverting floodwater, is not feasible.

## **Talking points synthesizing the meeting:**

- We convened virtually on November 17 for our 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. We focused this meeting on discussing refinements to the LAND alternative concepts, an evaluation matrix for the concepts, and the process going forward for developing the final LAND alternative.
- As with the last meeting, the MIG team reviewed five conceptual options for the LAND alternative, which the team had refined with new names and visuals. These options include:
  - A concept focused on floodplain restoration and safe structures
  - Other concepts that feature diversions and conveyance improvements, levees on the Skookumchuck and/or Chehalis Rivers in and around Centralia and Chehalis, relocation of the Mellen Street Bridge, daylighting of China Creek, or
  - A combination of these structural tools.
  - All concepts include some floodplain restoration and implementation of the Safe Structures Program but have varying amounts of structural solutions included. Our group appreciated the new visuals and recommended improving the accuracy and consistency of the descriptions.
- Next, we reviewed and discussed a draft evaluation matrix that compared the concepts across a variety of quantitative and qualitative criteria. We suggested that the MIG team reexamine the cost estimates for floodproofing, add programmatic costs for relocation, and clarify the economic impacts from homes displaced by infrastructure and voluntary relocation.
- To simplify the analysis and public engagement process, the MIG team proposed that we select three of the five concepts to go forward, namely those representing low, middle, and high levels

of structural interventions. SG members present indicated preferences for “going big” with investments such as in concept 5 and including a diversion channel (in concepts 2 & 5), which could potentially create opportunities for refugia habitat in addition to flood protection for structures. Each of the concepts represent a range of benefits, including jobs, and funding can come from many sources and be paid at different times. We also noted that the MIG team has not yet discussed possible mitigation measures for levees or dikes, and that overall, the concepts embody a lot of information for the public to grasp.

- Finally, the MIG team reviewed a proposed process and schedule for working with us to develop a final LAND alternative by March 2023. This includes a community workshop in January, a SG retreat, a road show with community groups and leaders, and regular LAND SG meetings. We liked the idea of a SG retreat and suggested considering holding it before, rather than after, the road show.
- Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 12, where we’ll review refined presentation and discussion materials for the forthcoming LAND community workshop in January.