



King County Flood Management Plan

Partner Planning Committee

Meeting #2 – December 20, 2022

Meeting Agenda (10:30 – 12:30)

Topic	Time	Speaker	Affiliation
Welcome and Introductions	10:30-10:40		
Public Comment	10:40-10:50		
Flood Plan Updates and Meeting #1 Follow-up	10:50-11:00	Jason Wilkinson	King County Water and Land Resources Division
Communication Agreements	11:00-11:10		
Presentation: Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles	11:10-11:20	Spencer Easton	Environmental Science Associates
Breakout Rooms: Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles	11:20-11:50		
Report Out and Discussion	11:50-12:20		
Wrap Up	12:20-12:30		

Meeting Objectives:

- To solicit input on flood plan goals, objectives, and guiding principles to inform revisions



Opportunity for Public Comment



Partner Planning Committee

- Share information and ideas.
- Provide input on updating goals, objectives, and guiding principles.
- Identify options for addressing priority flood risk reduction issues and consider appropriate strategies to address flood risks.
- Inform how climate change, equity, and multiple benefits are included in the plan.
- Committee recommendations (and minority opinions) will be shared with County leadership and will inform draft and final plan.

Partner Planning Committee Process



Legend

★ = current topic

Committee Input

External to Committee

Topic-Specific Workshops

Opportunity to identify issues and potential strategies for flooding related to flood hazards for three topics: tributary streams, coastal areas, and urban areas

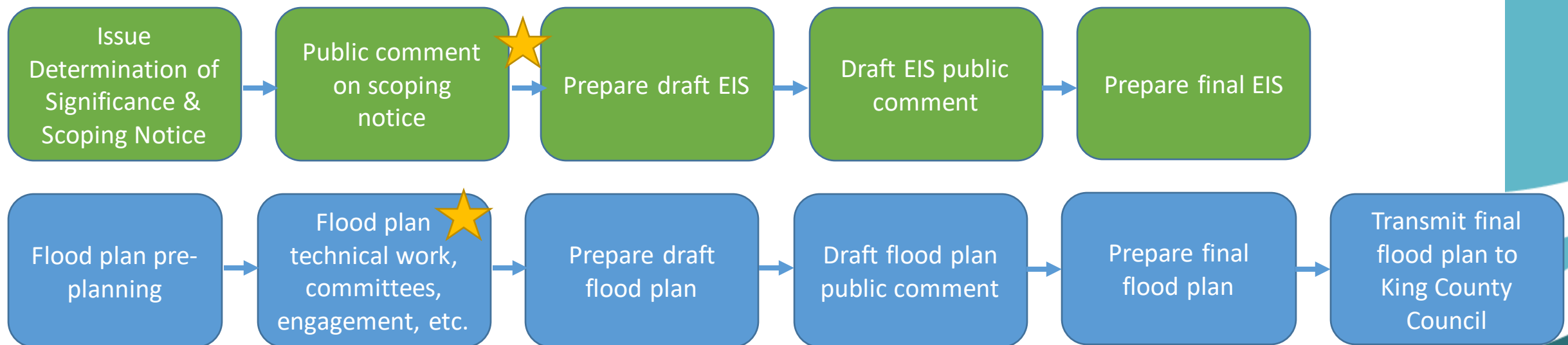
- Collaborative group approach to assessing issues and developing strategies
- 2 – 3 meetings per topic
- First two meetings for each to occur in January and February

As committee members, you are invited to all workshops and can choose which you would like to attend.

Contact Spencer Easton at seaston@esassoc.com if you have any questions.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

- Ensures environmental factors are considered in decision-making
- Covers both the natural and built environment
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - identifies and analyzes potential environmental impacts



Partner Planning Committee Meeting #1 Review

Flood issues frequently identified as important to attendees:

- Agriculture (drainage issues, economic losses, regulations, soil impacts, viability)
- Climate change (adaptation, increased flood frequency, sea level rise, climate projections)
- Equity (communication, education, environmental justice)
- Development in the floodplains (property acquisition, managed retreat, regulations, resources)
- Interagency coordination (implementation roles, FEMA programs)
- Related disasters and impacts (burn scars, erosion, forest fires, logging, landslides)
- Stormwater management (drainage infrastructure, upper watershed runoff, urban flooding)

Partner Planning Committee Meeting #1 Review

Flood problem areas frequently identified as important to attendees:

- Coastal areas
- Cedar River
- City of Kent
- Lake Sammamish
- Raging River
- Rural streams
- Urban areas
- Upper watershed areas

Draft Communications Agreements

- Respect each other's input
- Allow others to complete their statements before contributing yours
- Offer constructive comments in disagreement, but be respectful
- Allow space for others to contribute to the conversation - do not dominate
- State concerns and interests clearly, listen carefully to and assume the best in others, ask questions rather than make assumptions
- Acknowledge that all partners bring legitimate purposes, goals, concerns and interests, even when there isn't agreement
- Acknowledge that different organizations or agencies have different business models, decision-making requirements, and obligations
- Come to meetings prepared, having reviewed the meeting agenda and materials

Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles

- Goals, objectives, and guiding principles were included in 2006 flood plan, and a lot has changed since then:
 - Better understanding of climate change impacts
 - Multi-benefit project implementation and leveraging external investment
 - New state guidance on flood planning
- This Flood Plan provides another opportunity to solicit broad input on the goals, objectives, and guiding principles.
- A King County cross-departmental team is working on *initial working draft* goals, objectives, and guiding principles. The working drafts are being discussed internally, and feedback from this Committee is important and will help shape them.

Definitions

- **Goals** describe the long-term outcomes the Flood Plan is trying to reach
- **Objectives** are more specific statements describing how we will achieve those outcomes
- **Guiding Principles** are the facts and technical understanding that direct flood hazard management in King County

Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles - Process

- Partner Planning Committee #1:
 - Introduction to goals, objectives, and guiding principles
 - Review of initial draft goals
 - Questions
- Earlier this month:
 - Latest working draft was shared with the Committee through interactive slides to review and provide comments
- Today:
 - Committee work session to review drafts, discuss comments, and provide further input

Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles - Process

- Partner Planning Committee is being asked to provide input to help shape the goals, objectives, and guiding principles
- The flood plan project team will revise the drafts based on your input and will share them with county leadership along with other Committee input as needed
- King County staff will report back to the committee on how input was addressed at our next meeting in February

Working Draft Goals

Comments and Questions

1. To reduce risks from all sources of flooding and channel migration through comprehensive, equitable, climate-resilient solutions
2. To enhance the natural functions of flood hazard areas, honor Tribal treaty rights, and support interests important to King County communities through actions that achieve multiple benefits
3. To promote flood risk reduction solutions focused on long-term cost effectiveness

- “All” flooding – does this include water line breaks, urban/ suburban stormwater, etc?
- How is equitable defined? Does this include compensation for historic/systematic inequities?
- Does solutions include those for which there likely is no funding?
- Remove “treaty” and keep more inclusive “Tribal rights” or “sovereign Tribal rights”.
- Add “preserve” and/or “restore” for natural functions.
- Enhancing natural functions is in direct conflict with supporting interests important to KC communities.
- Why is the only value listed that of cost-effectiveness? If we spend a million and it does very little vs 10 million and it helps a great deal, this statement would rate the effective solution lower.

Additional Input on Draft Goals

- Seems like there's something missing about how different actions will be prioritized.

Working Draft Objectives (slide 1 of 5)

Reminder: **Objectives** are more specific statements describing how we will achieve the outcomes described in the goals

Category: Increase Knowledge and Information

Comments and Questions

- | Category: Increase Knowledge and Information | Comments and Questions |
|---|--|
| 1. Use the best available science to identify and assess flood and channel migration risks and identify how climate change may affect future risks. | • Can we look at how things beyond climate change may affect future risk? e.g. land use trends/plans; large projects |
| 2. Promote public awareness of identified and potential flood hazards and resilience strategies in ways that are accessible and easy to understand. | |

Working Draft Objectives (slide 2 of 5)

Category: Capital Actions and Facilities

Comments and Questions

3. Identify and prioritize actions to reduce risks to life, property, and public infrastructure that advance multi-benefit outcomes and reflect the perspectives of affected communities.
4. For existing flood protection facilities, pursue the most appropriate long-term solutions—maintain, repair, retrofit, set back, or remove—that are compatible with current and future goals for the area, are set in a watershed-based context, and that take climate change into account.

Working Draft Objectives (slide 3 of 5)

Category: Programmatic Approaches

Comments and Questions

5. Adopt forward-looking land use management policies to prevent creation of new flood and channel migration risks.

- Add "...while preserving or enhancing natural floodplain functions and preventing further habitat degradation of imperiled species"
- Is there any thought or intent to expand the land covered by flood regulations beyond what FEMA has mapped?

6. Maintain a regionally coordinated flood warning and emergency response program and improve public awareness of emergency response programs

7. Coordinate across King County departments and with other jurisdictions to provide consistency in flood hazard management and disaster response activities.

Working Draft Objectives (slide 4 of 5)

Category: Programmatic Approaches cont.

Comments and Questions

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8. Proactively acquire properties (developed or undeveloped) to reduce flood and channel migration risks, support the implementation of multi-benefit projects, and provide ecological benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">This is a high priority objective for the Snoqualmie Tribe |
| 9. Co-design solutions with impacted communities that reflect community priorities, actively seek opportunities to meet multiple benefits, and leverage grant funding and partner investments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Also provide support to partners to achieve multiple benefits/mutual goals |
| 10. Improve access to programs that help residents recover from flooding beyond traditional flood insurance (such as federal crop insurance programs). | |

Working Draft Objectives (slide 5 of 5)

Category: Implementation

Comments and Questions

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- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. Identify funding sources for implementing recommended flood risk reduction activities, including multi-objective activities, and identify opportunities and strategies to leverage grant funding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Including collaborating with/supporting partners |
| 12. Use adaptive management to adjust actions based on scientific and technological advances, including climate projections, and the best available information on floodplain management practices, principles, and risk assessment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also emerging equity issues |
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Additional Input on Draft Objectives

- Does the county anticipate updating their floodplain regulations as a part of the plan update?

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 1 of 6)

Reminder: **Guiding Principles** are the facts and technical understanding that direct flood hazard management in King County

Category: Natural Environment

Comments and Questions

1. Flooding and erosion are natural processes that sustain biological productivity and diversity.
2. Protecting and working with natural processes can provide environmental benefits, increase climate change resilience, and reduce flood risks to people and property in a less costly manner than structural flood control approaches.

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 2 of 6)

Category: Natural Environment cont.

Comments and Questions

3. Rivers and streams and their floodplains, coastal areas, and riparian areas provide habitat for salmon, including several that are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Salmon are intricately connected to Native American culture and tribal treaty rights.

- Remove “treaty”

4. Riparian vegetation improves levee/bank stability.

- As well as a whole host of other critical, irreplaceable functions

5. Restoring river ecosystems, habitat protection, and salmon recovery are dependent on the river and areas adjacent to it.

- “Restoring” may not be needed here

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 3 of 6)

Category: Risk Management

Comments and Questions

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6. Many areas behind levees or outside of the mapped floodplain have a residual risk of flooding (for example, from potential levee failure). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could be helpful to contextualize this residual risk with other types of risk, and what that means in terms of priority. |
| 7. Flooding is influenced by land use decisions, stormwater, and climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What about land “management” decisions? “Land use” implies regulatory framework but management includes actions. |
| 8. Structural flood control methods can reduce flood damage in the near-term, yet those methods require maintenance, do not eliminate all risk, and may not be adaptable to changing conditions. | |

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 4 of 6)

Category: Best Practices

Comments and Questions

9. Actions to address flood risk to existing development must consider other land uses and interests, such as fish and wildlife habitat, open space, agriculture, recreation, and transportation.
10. Flood damage creates public and private financial costs, and effective flood risk reduction reduces long-term flood damage costs while minimizing new impacts to other values.
11. Flooding is a watershed-scale issue; actions and environmental conditions in upland portions of watersheds can impact flooding and channel migration downstream.

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 5 of 6)

Category: Best Practices cont.

Comments and Questions

12. Engagement with and involvement of residents, stakeholders, flood-vulnerable communities, and public and private landowners is vital in developing a responsible, effective flood management plan.

- Please add “tribes” as tribes are more than just “stakeholders”

13. Private property rights should be respected when providing flood protection.

14. Cooperation among local, regional, state, and federal agencies is essential for the success of long-term comprehensive flood hazard management.

Working Draft Guiding Principles (slide 6 of 6)

Category: Best Practices cont.

Comments and Questions

15. Constructing new flood protection facilities where none currently exist should be an option of last resort.

- Assume this does not apply to setbacks? Clarification needed.

16. Identifying flood risks and determinations of flood risk reduction solutions is most effective in the long-term when informed by the best available science, best practices in floodplain management, and multi-objective and multi-benefit considerations.

17. Solutions to address flood and channel migration risks should consider historic, ongoing, and continuous negative ecological impacts of flood risk reduction facilities and offset these impacts through implementing the standard of Net Ecological Gain for each project.

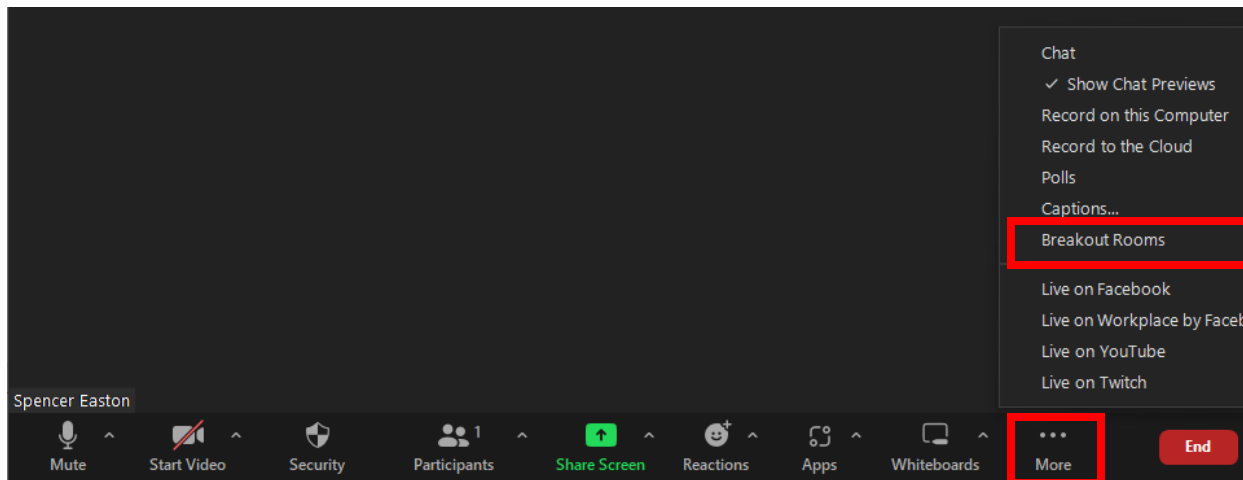
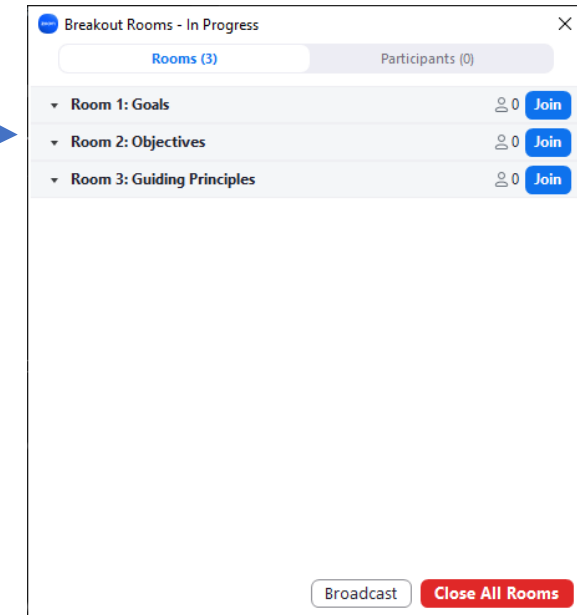
- Nebulous standard, (gain in whose opinion?); is there and can we use a better term or phrase?

Breakout Room Discussions

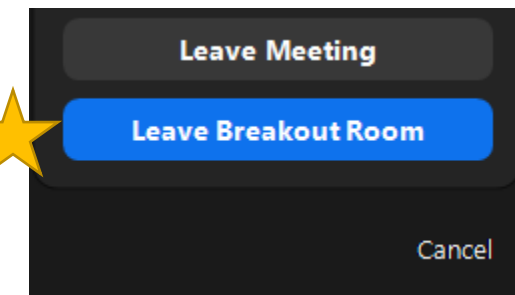
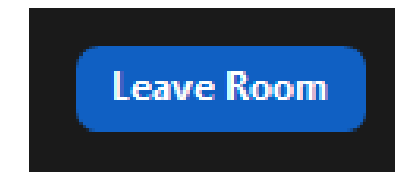
- Select your breakout room based on what you want to provide input on (goals, objectives, or guiding principles).
- You can move between rooms whenever you want. If you want to give input on both goals and objectives (for example), start in one room then jump to the other when you're ready.
- We will have 30 minutes in the breakout rooms and then 30 minutes to discuss as a full group after, so if you don't have time to share all your input in the breakout rooms there will be more time after.
- If the breakout room you join is too full and it's hard to jump in and provide your input, you can:
 - Jump to another room with less people in it then come back later
 - Add your thoughts in the chat – we will be saving the chat from each room
 - Share your input during the full group discussion after the breakout rooms end
 - Share input by email after the meeting – today is not the last chance to weigh in
 - Listen to what your fellow committee members have to say

Breakout Room Discussions

- Use the Breakout Room pop-up box to move between breakout rooms.
- If you can't find it, click "More", then "Breakout Rooms".



- If you don't have access to the breakout room box, leave the room by clicking the blue "Leave" button in the bottom right corner. This will take you back to the main Zoom room, and Dan will be able to move you into whatever room you would like.
- Make sure to select Leave Breakout Room, not Leave Meeting.



Next Steps

- Next meeting: February 21, 2023 – 10:30-12:30
 - Update on goals, objectives, and guiding principles
 - Update on topic-specific workshops
 - Basin-by-basin river flood hazard information and discussion
- Participate in the topic-specific workshops you are interested in (coastal, tributary, and/or urban flooding)
 - Please accept or decline the workshops based on your planned attendance
- Contact us:
 - Jason Wilkinson, jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov
 - Spencer Easton, seaston@esassoc.com