



# King County Flood Management Plan

Partner Planning Committee

Meeting #8 – September 19, 2023

# Meeting Agenda (10:30 – 12:30)

Topic	Time	Speaker	Affiliation
Welcome and Introductions	10:30 – 10:35		
Public Comment	10:35 – 10:45		
Presentation: Flood Plan Input to Date	10:45 – 11:05	Spencer Easton	Environmental Science Associates
Presentation/Discussion: Action Submittal Form Process	11:05 – 11:35	Jason Wilkinson	King County
Breakout Rooms: Action Brainstorming	11:35 – 12:20		
Wrap Up	12:20 – 12:30		

# Partner Planning Committee process



## Legend

★ =  
current topic

Committee  
Input

External to  
Committee

# Purpose of Today's Meeting

- The Flood Plan team is drafting sections of the plan and waiting for input on activities to include in the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (due September 27).
- Today we plan to:
  - Reflect on input shared by this committee and share input received in other forums.
  - Walk through the activity submittal form and process and answer any questions you have.
  - Hold breakout rooms discussions to brainstorm and document potential activities to be considered for the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy.



# Opportunity for Public Comment



# Topics for Partner Planning Committee Input

- Flood and flood-related hazards and problems
- Flood plan goals, objectives, and guiding principles
- Floodplain management and flood-related policies
- Risk reduction strategies
- Mitigation activities and evaluation criteria

# Flood hazards – summary of input

- Urban flooding – overtopping of roads, access issues, and overwhelmed drainage and sewer infrastructure.
- Coastal flooding – worsening compound impacts, regulatory barriers to adaptation or relocation, and access issues.
- Sediment management, erosion, and reduced channel capacity.
- Stormwater runoff, especially from development in upper watersheds, resulting in flooding and sediment accumulation in lower watersheds.
- Challenges with emergency response, issues spanning multiple governments or departments, and impacts to vulnerable communities.
- Impacts to agriculture/rural areas, regulatory barriers to adaptation, and differences in flood issues and solutions between urban and rural areas.
- **This input will be incorporated into the description of hazards in the Flood Plan.**

# Goals and objectives input

## Input received

- Acknowledge existing floodplain land uses, commercial uses, urban areas.
- Emphasize natural resource preservation, not just restoration.
- Coordinate with other agencies, governments, and organizations.
- Address community needs with context-appropriate solutions.



## How it was incorporated

- Emphasized resilient communities and economies, working landscapes.
- Highlighted importance of open space protection, including in upper watersheds.
- Expanded upon who King County will coordinate with and for what services.
- Emphasized community engagement, working with local orgs, and community-based approaches to flood risk reduction.



# Policy input

## Input received

- Retain policies that emphasize property protection, IFM, multiple benefits, & ecological functions.
- Clarify balance between ecological restoration and existing land uses.
- Support resilience of existing infrastructure, safe ingress/egress.
- Update old policies to emphasize climate change, equity, and multiple benefits.



## How it was incorporated

- Updated and expanded upon IFM, multi-benefit, and nature-based solution policies.
- Acknowledged existing uses throughout and added language to clarify intent.
- King County will look for opportunities to improve, modify, or relocate county roads.
- Global updates to policies to incorporate key themes.

# Input about risk reduction approaches

## Preventive

Vegetation management, sea level rise studies, flood mapping and modelling, stricter floodplain development regulations, drainage basin studies

## Property protection

Structure relocation, mitigation incentives, financial assistance, life estate/acquisitions, retrofits

## Public information

Property risk disclosure (floodplain, levees, dams), educational outreach, renter information, promote flood insurance



*Before home elevation, 2015*



*Home elevated, 2021*

# Input about risk reduction approaches

## Nature-based solutions

Protect headwater wetlands, floodplain restoration, urban green infrastructure

## Structural projects

South Park berm, road elevation, sediment management, increasing stormwater storage and pumping capacity

## Emergency services

Provide emergency kits, improved intergovernmental response



*Lower Russell Levee setback, floodplain reconnection, 2022*



*Downey Farmstead Restoration Project, 2023*

# Input about Action Plan structure

- Include actions throughout the county—incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- All priority needs and actions should be called out together.
- Reflecting activities led by entities other than King County in a separate location (i.e., an appendix) suggests they are of lesser importance.



## Comprehensive mitigation strategy

Activities that can be taken by different entities to address identified flood risks throughout King County.

Will include **the Action Plan**, which consists of activities for which King County has decision-making and budgetary authority.

# Evaluation criteria input

## Input received

- Definitions of evaluation criteria should be clearly defined and quantified.
- Allow flexibility, limit barriers to inclusion.
- Resilience/adaptive capacity criteria should be more explicit about climate change.
- Evaluation criteria should inform prioritization, activities should be tiered.



## How it was incorporated

- Developed semi-quantitative definitions and rankings for all criteria, except legal obligations.
- Eliminated requirement for activities to be in adopted plans.
- Defined technical merit to include climate resilient component and require submissions to identify climate resilience potential.
- Priority activities will be identified in Flood Plan.

# Community input activities

- Two companion online surveys (one shared by King County and one shared by WA Coalition of African Community Leaders).
- Surveys at public tabling events.
- In-person field visits with groups of immigrant farmers.
- Public comments shared by email or received after presentations.
- Public comments received during three county-hosted meetings.



# Summary of community input

- 31% of online survey respondents either know someone or have personally been physically at risk from flooding, and 33% experienced flooded roads in their communities.
- All but one of the immigrant farmers reported some level of damage to their farm-related businesses from flooding.
- WA Coalition of African Community Leaders survey respondents had a greater level of concern about flooding than general survey respondents.
- Public tabling events indicated that indigenous or youth-dominated event audiences had a middle to very high level of concern about flooding.

# Summary of community input

- Public support for focus on climate science and projections, multi-benefit approaches, equitable outcomes, and including coastal, tributary, and urban flooding.
- When given the option to select from a list of options of strategies to reduce risk, most people indicated a preference for “all of the above.”
- Dozens of recommendations for enhanced and improved communication efforts with a more variety in approaches.
- Frequent requests to maintain open roads.
- Strong statements from all public input streams to limit development in at-risk areas.
- Suggestions to provide resources and support to local organizations to implement elements of the Flood Plan.
- Desire for increased attention to urban stormwater flooding.
- Mentions of desire to use floodplain management efforts to protect or recharge groundwater sources for future water supply.



# Discussion

- Any questions about how Partner Planning Committee or community input will be incorporated into the plan?
- Is there any specific input you have shared or have heard from other committee members you want to highlight again?

# Mitigation activity requests

The project team has requested activities from King County departments, cities within the County, and Partner Planning Committee members. All submissions will be considered for the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy.

## Activity submissions need to identify:

- Project lead
- Activity type (preventive, property protection, public info, emergency services, structural, natural solutions)
- Cost, funding source
- Multiple benefit opportunities
- Climate resilience
- Implementation timeline
- Lifespan, maintenance needs

# Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy & Action Plan

Receive submission forms by Sept  
27

Evaluate activities for inclusion in  
Flood Plan

Develop Comprehensive Mitigation  
Strategy and Action Plan

## Evaluation Criteria

- Supports goals
- Supports legal obligations and policy priorities
- Technical merit
- Multiple benefits
- Funding
- Timeline

## Action Plan

- Meets evaluation criteria
- King County is lead agency
- King County can commit to pursuing funding
- Completed or advanced within 5 years

## Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy

- Meets evaluation criteria
- May be led by other governments or King County
- King County is not funding or cannot commit to funding
- May take >5 years

# Discussion

- Do you have any questions about the process to submit activities for the Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy?
- Do you plan to submit activities?

# Breakout Rooms

- We will split into 3 breakout rooms for 45 minutes.
- In your breakout room, please consider:
  - Activities your organization would like to submit.
  - Activities to recommend that King County include in their Action Plan.
  - How already proposed activities could be improved upon
  - Opportunities for multiple benefits with proposed or recurring activities.
  - Methods for increasing the climate resilience of typical flood risk reduction activities.
- The breakout rooms are work sessions. Consider them an opportunity to submit project ideas and to brainstorm with your fellow committee members.
- The only topic after we reconvene will be a quick summary of next steps, so if you feel you wouldn't benefit from the work session or share all of your input early, feel free to leave the meeting. We will see you in October.

# Next steps

- Next meeting: October 17, 2023 – 10:30-12:30
  - Review of activities submitted for Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan
  - Review upcoming Flood Plan timeline, discuss further engagement opportunities
- Contact us:
  - Jason Wilkinson, [jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.wilkinson@kingcounty.gov)
  - Spencer Easton, [seaston@esassoc.com](mailto:seaston@esassoc.com)
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