



King County
Flood Control Zone Advisory Committee
2007 Scope and Schedule
May 10, 2007

OVERVIEW

Ordinance 2006-0334 of the King County Council establishes a Flood Control Zone District for King County. The purpose of this district is to “undertake, operate, or maintain flood control projects or storm water control projects. The district is authorized to address flood and storm water control needs throughout the county, including within King County cities.”

Under the ordinance, the King County Council governs the Flood District as a “District Board of Supervisors”.

As part of the ordinance, an advisory committee has also been authorized. Under the ordinance, the advisory committee is charged with the task of “providing expert policy advice to the District Board of Supervisors on regional flood protection issues. The committee shall review and recommend an annual work program and budget for the district, including capital improvement program projects and funding levels, subject to approval or approval and modification by the District Board of Supervisors.”

The advisory committee’s recommendations must be filed with the clerk of the King County Council no later than August 31 of each year.

MEMBERSHIP

The advisory committee is composed of both permanent and rotating (two-year) members. The ten permanent seats on the committee are held by each mayor, or council member alternate designated by the mayor, of Tukwila, Auburn, Kent, Renton, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Seattle and Bellevue. The King County Executive is also a permanent member of the committee.

Four of the rotating seats are held by mayors or city council members as nominated by the Suburban Cities Association.

One of the two-year seats is held by an individual selected by the King County Council who represents one of King County’s Unincorporated Area Councils.

Each member of the committee is allowed one alternate, who will fill in for the member as needed. If the committee member is an elected official, the alternate must also be an elected official from the same jurisdiction.

For the first term of the committee, beginning in 2007, the advisory committee members are:

Mayor Pete Lewis
City of Auburn

Mayor Suzette Cooke
City of Kent

Mayor Steve Mullet
City of Tukwila

Mayor Kathy Keolker
City of Renton

Mayor Grant Degginger
City of Bellevue

Mayor Greg Nickels
City of Seattle

Councilmember Mike Flowers
City of Carnation

Mayor Kenneth Hearing
City of North Bend

Mayor Matt Larson
City of Snoqualmie

County Executive Ron Sims
King County

Dick Bonewits
King County Unincorporated Area Councils

Councilmember Ron Hansen
City of Shoreline

Deputy Mayor Joan McBride
City of Kirkland

Mayor Michael Park
City of Federal Way

Mayor Laure Iddings
City of Maple Valley

The committee facilitator for 2007 is Margaret Norton-Arnold.

SCOPE AND SCHEDULE

The advisory committee must make four key recommendations to the District Board of Supervisors no later than August 31, 2007. These recommendations include:

1) Annual work program for 2008.

The advisory committee must recommend a work program for the District for 2008. This will include a review and analysis of the programs and projects that have been identified in the adopted Flood Hazard Management Plan. To make this recommendation, the committee will learn about and discuss the flood hazard management programs and capital projects – and their relative level of priority – with King County staff. The committee will recommend a complete work program to the District Board of Supervisors.

2) The amount of the district's funding tax levy.

In November, the District Board of Supervisors will make a decision to fund the District and on the amount of tax to be levied to implement the district work program.

In order to develop their recommendation on the amount of tax to be charged throughout the County, advisory committee members will learn about and discuss with staff: what are

the funding needs for flood control at this time, and what types of programs or projects can be funded based on varying tax levels?

3) The distribution of the tax levy throughout the County.

Should this work be funded through a uniform tax across the county or a non-uniform tax/fee structure? In order to develop their recommendation on the distribution of the property tax throughout the County, advisory committee members will receive information and discuss possible tax distribution options.

4) Long-term operating structure of the Advisory Committee.

The final task for the committee in 2007 is to determine how the committee will operate over the long-term. The group will use a temporary rule structure for the first four meetings, and then adopt a permanent operating structure during its fourth meeting for the future. Since this will be the last recommendation developed by the committee, the group will have had several meetings together operating under “temporary rules”, and can use that experience to determine how those rules might be adopted or changed for the longer-term.

OPERATING STRUCTURE AND GROUNDRULES

It is important to remember that the advisory committee is, in fact, advisory to the District Board of Supervisors. Final decisions will be made by King County Council, acting as Board of Supervisors, although great care has been taken by the Council to appoint committee members who are representative of a wide range of interests, and who are highly respected members of their own communities.

Given the advisory nature of the committee, it is important that time be spent in the meetings thoroughly exploring all sides of the debate on the important issues that the committee will be wrestling with. The committee’s operating framework for 2007 will include:

- 1) The creation of committee recommendations on each of the four issues will begin with an in-depth discussion. What is the issue to be resolved? What are the options around that issue? What are the perspectives of committee members as they review and analyze the issue at hand? These discussions will begin with a presentation from King County staff, and ample time will be allocated to hear from all committee members on the subject. It is the role of the facilitator to ensure that everyone is able to voice his or her opinion as the discussion proceeds.
- 2) During these discussions, wording for a “draft recommendation” on each issue will be crafted based on the opinions of the members. After the draft recommendation has been formed, the facilitator will call for an early show of hands indicating support for, opposition to, or uncertainty about the draft recommendation (taking the group’s “temperature”). The facilitator will then probe for the rationale behind these preliminary votes.
- 3) “Final answer” votes will be taken at later committee meetings, so that members will have time to thoroughly review the issue and think about their final votes. The facilitator and King County staff will also work between the meetings to revise the recommendation if needed, answer questions, and further determine the perspectives

of the membership. Email will be used to communicate with members between meetings.

- 4) The recommendations will be forwarded to the King County Council with a full explanation of each of the vote categories (pro, con, undecided), so that the Council can derive full benefit from the nature of the debate. Committee members will review and edit these “recommendation submittals” prior to their being forwarded to the King County Council.
- 5) For the first four meetings of the committee, it will operate without a chairperson. The facilitator will work with staff to develop the agendas, manage the committee discussions, and help the group reach their conclusions.
- 6) It is recognized that this series of meetings takes place during the usually-busy vacation time of summer. It is not likely that all members will be able to make all meetings. If members or their alternates are not able to attend a meeting, the facilitator will discuss their votes, perspectives, and opinions in advance of the meeting, and will share those opinions with the full group. This will be particularly important for “final answer” votes.
- 7) Members are asked to approach the process with their “regional” hats on, given that flooding has economic, if not physical, impacts on the entire King County region. Members are asked to represent well those who sent them to the committee, come prepared for the discussion, and use the group’s time wisely. Cell phones OFF during the meetings in order to demonstrate full courtesy toward the other members.
- 8) This framework for an operating structure and groundrules is temporary; it is only meant to serve the committee through its first four meetings. A permanent governing structure and operating framework will be recommended by the committee at its final meeting.

Meeting Schedule

Each meeting will last for three hours. Except for the first meeting, all meetings are scheduled for Friday mornings. They will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon

Meeting One: Thursday, May 17, 2007 4:30-7:30 p.m. Bellevue City Hall

- This will serve as an introductory meeting of all members and to lay out the purpose, roles and the operating framework for the committee throughout the summer. King County staff will provide a brief overview of flood hazard management needs and how the District came to be: history, need, evaluation, and funding. In addition, the proposed work program and list of capital projects will be presented.

Meeting Two: Friday, June 8 9:00 a.m.-Noon Renton City Hall

- In-depth discussions will take place regarding the proposed capital improvement program for 2008: identified projects; level of urgency associated with each; recommendations from King County staff regarding project priorities/scheduling/timeframe for construction. An “early recommendation” on

- project sequencing will be crafted and preliminary votes on the recommendation will be taken.
- The committee will engage in an in-depth discussion about the tax levy. An “early recommendation” on the amount of the tax will be crafted and preliminary votes on that recommendation will be taken.

Meeting Three: Friday, June 22 9:00 a.m. -Noon Bellevue City Hall

- In-depth discussions will take place regarding how that tax should be allocated throughout the entire County. Should all property owners pay the same, or should those in communities that are most impacted by flooding be assessed at a higher rate? An “early recommendation” on the tax allocation will be crafted and preliminary votes on the recommendation will be taken.

Meeting Four: Friday, July 20 9:00 a.m. -Noon Bellevue City Hall

- In-depth discussion will take place regarding the long-term governance structure of the flood control district, including how the advisory committee should continue to operate.
- If not already decided, we will take “final answer” votes on the amount of tax to be collected, the distribution of that tax, the capital improvement program for 2008, and the long-term governance structure of the advisory committee.

*This date is reserved on calendars as a back up date to be used if needed.
Friday, August 17 9:00 a.m. – Noon Bellevue City Hall