

Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum
Mountlake Terrace Interim City Hall
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2010

Members Present

Mayor Jerry Smith, Chair (Mountlake Terrace), Don Fiene, Vice Chair (Lake Forest Park)

Staff Present

Mike Shaw (Mountlake Terrace Stormwater Program Manager), Jerry Shuster (Edmonds Stormwater Engineering Program Manager), Aaron Halverson (Lake Forest Park Environmental Programs Manager), John Caulfield (Mountlake Terrace City Manager), Mayor Dave Hutchinson (Lake Forest Park), David Cline (Lake Forest Park City Manager), Phil Williams (Edmonds Public Works Director), Curt Brees (Mountlake Terrace Public Works Director)

Others Present

Tricia Shoblom (DOE), Ken Peirce (LBCA), Jerry Thorsen (LBCA), Barbara Sharkey (Sheridan Beach), Steve Lahti (Mountlake Terrace), Jared Bond (Lynnwood Stormwater Program Manager)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Jerry Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at Mountlake Terrace Interim City Hall. The October 26, 2010 agenda was approved, with the addition of a funding update by Don Fiene. The minutes for the June 22, 2010 meeting were approved.

II. Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Update

Mike Shaw reported that the Mountlake Terrace City Council approved the new ILA. He added that there are three current members including the Cities of Edmonds, Lake Forest Park and Mountlake Terrace and the elected representatives are staying the same. Mr. Shaw stated a fiscal agent is not needed at this time, but can be set up by the Forum when needed. He added the City of Mountlake Terrace offered to be the service provider at \$1,200 per year per jurisdiction.

Mr. Shaw stated the Steering Committee is comprised of Curt Brees, Mountlake Terrace Public Works Director, and Edmonds and Lake Forest Park need to designate their members. He added the Technical Staff Committee is working at the subcommittee level with Aaron Halverson from Lake Forest Park working on projects specific to his city. Mr. Shaw said that he and Jerry Shuster of Edmonds might be working on a joint project at Lake Ballinger. Mayor Dave Hutchinson of Lake Forest Park commented the Forum will help attract federal funding. He added that Lake Forest Park is interested in the long-term vision including habitat and water quality. Mike Shaw stated that he had four signed copies of the new ILA. John Caulfield requested that Mr. Shaw hold on to the signed copies until the end of the year when Snohomish County Council makes a decision and then route the originals to the respective jurisdictions.

III. Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek Watershed Forum CIP/Stormwater Activities Update

City of Edmonds – Jerry Shuster introduced Edmonds new Public Works Director Phil Williams. Mr. Shuster reported that the Edmonds City Council approved the new ILA in early July and Councilmember DJ Wilson was the designated elected official. He added Edmonds City Council

authorized up to \$2,400 for administrative costs. Mr. Shuster reported that Edmonds City Council is looking at another ILA between Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace to start on Capital Improvement Projects regarding the weir. He added the Draft 2011 Budget includes \$100,000 for projects involving Lake Ballinger, but needs to get through the budget approval process.

City of Lake Forest Park – Aaron Halverson reported that Lake Forest Park has been pursuing its Phase 1 projects in the CIP with the first one being the Lyon Creek Bypass or Channel Modifications. He added that they just submitted a FEMA predisaster mitigation grant application for \$3.4 million that would require a 25% of match. Mr. Halverson said they are working with the State Emergency Management Division to review the application. He added that they should know more between December and March. Mr. Halverson stated that Lake Forest Park was awarded \$250,000 from the State to design and construct McAleer Creek Bypass Intake Retrofit, their other phase 1 project, with construction to begin in summer 2011. He added that they are working on the paperwork with Washington State Department of Transportation, who will administer the funds. City Manager David Cline reported that Lake Forest Park applied for a grant match from King County Flood Control District. Mr. Halverson reported that he met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Lower Creek Habitat Restoration Project, which has been authorized for federal funding.

City of Mountlake Terrace – Mike Shaw indicated that Mountlake Terrace City Council would review the ILA with Edmonds at their November 1 meeting. He added that Mountlake Terrace NPDES II is in full compliance along with Lake Forest Park and Edmonds. Mr. Shaw stated that Mountlake Terrace is implementing one of its phase 1 projects to replace the weir gate in upper McAleer Creek in 2011. He added the project involved the purchase of a new frame at a cost of \$8,000 that allows the gate to operate.

IV. State and Federal Legislative Agenda Options

Mountlake City Manager John Caulfield gave an overview of his memo outlining the options of how to obtain funding to implement the Forum's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), and benefits of using a lobbyist to secure state and federal funding. He stated that the Forum received \$200,000 in State Funding in 2008 to develop the SAP adopted in 2009. Mr. Caulfield stated that the second ILA with Lake Forest Park, Edmonds, and Mountlake Terrace is moving forward. He added that Shoreline and Lynnwood are supportive and want to be involved. He added that Forum members have worked with Congressman Inslee, who has requested \$1.2 million in 2010 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funds. He added this success is due primarily to the positive relationships the respective jurisdictions have with State and Federal Legislators who are sensitive to and aware of the Forum's needs.

Mr. Caulfield stated the Forum is now ready to implement the SAP that identifies a list of short- and long-term strategies related to flooding, water quality and habitat enhancement to include specific capital improvement projects. Mr. Caulfield stated that the Forum needs funding to implement the SAP. Mr. Caulfield suggested a lobbyist could develop relationships with key State and Congressional elected officials and staff and provide access to the Forum. He added that having a presence in Olympia and Washington, D.C. significantly enhances the Forum's likelihood of securing state and federal funding. Mr. Caulfield explained the specific assistance is provided through funding requests, lobbying meetings, budget and appropriations monitoring

and reporting, and delegation engagement or maintaining relationships. Mr. Caulfield explained the five options available for lobbyist services including 1) Core Program, 2) Core Program and District Engagement, 3) Core Program along with District Engagement and Olympia/DC Lobbying, 4) Forum Jurisdictions or a joint approach, and 5) Forum Jurisdictions current approach. Mr. Caulfield stated that if the Forum wishes to pursue funding opportunities in 2011 and utilize the services of a lobbyist, time is of the essence. He added that funding requests are typically due to our congressional delegation in January/February and state requests should be submitted now. Mr. Caulfield explained the next steps would include 1) decide what projects to pursue funding for 2) funding approach as State, Federal or both 3) general scope with Mr. Caulfield recommending option 3 4) obtain a funding commitment from Councils and 5) move forward with option 3 with an RFP or reach out to lobbyists that we've worked with. Mr. Caulfield recommended that the next Forum meeting be scheduled as soon as possible to review lobbyists' preliminary scope of services and costs. He requested and received direction from the Forum by consensus as step 1, the two projects for funding requests are for development of the flood plain map for both upper and lower watershed basins, step 2, go for both state and federal lobbying and step 3, go for option 3 or the full deal with state and federal lobbying services. Mr. Caulfield stated that cost on the upper end could be \$45,000. He added that the next step is to talk to the lobbyists, get a positive response, and develop a preliminary agreement to bring back to the November 16 meeting.

V. Funding Update

Vice Chair Don Fiene gave an update on funding discussions from Puget Sound Partnership and WRIA 7, 8 and 9. He provided examples of legislation that could lead to a Watershed Improvement District, similar to what Hugh Spitzer discussed at one of our previous meetings. He added that the Governor is interested in putting a firm plan in place to restore Puget Sound. Vice Chair Fiene said there is a driving force to look at issues from a watershed level rather than the jurisdiction level.

VI. Public Comments

Barbara Sharkey, Sheridan Beach, thanked the Forum for continuing with the new ILA. She expressed a concern about having an emergency notification system in place to warn neighbors if the lake is getting near flood stage.

Ken Peirce, Lake Ballinger Community Association (LBCA), expressed concerns about the adopted CIP and that the priority one project of Flood Plain mapping is based on the weir, which he feels is a flawed design. Mr. Peirce stated that a weir engineer should be hired first or the Flood Plain mapping study would need to be done again.

Jerry Thorsen, LBCA, thanked the Forum for including the LBCA Statement in the minutes and asked if any of the items would be used.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at Lake Forest Park City Council Chambers.