



September 20, 2017

TO: Flood Authority Members
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: Grays Harbor County role in Lower Satsop

The purpose of this memo is to provide Flood Authority members with background and recommendation on Grays Harbor County (GHC) assuming a coordinator/convenor role for Lower Satsop projects. We will discuss this at tomorrow's 9-21-2017 Flood Authority conference call. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

Background

1. In April 2012, State Supplemental Capital Budget provided "Up to \$500,000 of the appropriation is for improvements to areas affected by the Satsop river" (see Section 313 [here](#)).
2. Following State appropriation, GHC undertook a project (with support from Watershed Science and Engineering) to evaluate removal alternatives of Lower Satsop riprap revetments to: (a) enable the river to migrate more freely within its channel migration zone; (b) restore floodplain function; and (c) reduce erosive forces and protect agricultural lands downstream of the project site.
3. In July 2013, GHC determined there was not an obvious project and discontinued its sponsorship.
 - See WSE final report [here](#).
 - See GHC Commission Action [here](#).
4. In October 2013, the Flood Authority approved WDFW assuming sponsorship of a project to design and implement restoration actions in the Lower Satsop with added flood hazard reduction benefits. See [here](#).
5. In June 2016, the Flood Authority approved an expansion of WDFW's work to design and implement a project to reopen a relic channel and alleviate high-flow erosion on agricultural landowners. See [here](#).
6. In Summer/Fall 2017, Flood Authority staff worked with Lower Basin interests (POGH, GHCD, GHC, WDFW, Ecology, and landowners) on the following agreed to approach to address issues that had arisen out of the WDFW relic channel project:

- (a) Grays Harbor County will serve as a primary coordinator/convener of Flood Authority supported projects in the Lower Satsop, including projects to protect Keys Road, restore habitat and floodplain function, reduce landowner erosion, and protect critical infrastructure and assets (e.g., POGH well).
- (b) In this role, GHC will work to ensure projects are appropriately sponsored, synchronized, vetted, and move forward without unanticipated issue.
- (c) In some instances, GHC will serve as the project sponsor or co-sponsor (e.g., Keys Road). In other instances, others will serve as project sponsor (e.g., GHCD and landowner erosion projects).
- (d) It is not the intent that GHC serve as sponsor for all projects; rather that GHC serve as overall coordinator/convener (and sometimes sponsor, or co-sponsor).

Recommendation

As outlined in 6 above, staff recommends Flood Authority endorse Grays Harbor County serving as a primary coordinator/convener of Flood Authority supported projects in the Lower Satsop to ensure:

- Lower Satsop projects are appropriately sponsored, synchronized, vetted, and move forward without unanticipated issue.
- Most efficient funding and implementation of Lower Satsop flood hazard reduction projects occur.
- Partnerships are identified and made that improve Lower Satsop project support and success.