



The Challenge Ahead

Burlington has a prime location central to the region, a strong business climate, a supply of housing that is affordable, and citizens that are committed to this community as a great place to live, work and play. There is also a LONG list of work to be done both inside the City Limits and connecting to the region to provide the infrastructure and framework for the long term future.

Regional Collaboration is the theme of getting plans together for the future. Whether you agree or disagree with the ideas put forward by the Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen Advisory Committee, there is a lot of interesting conversation taking place all around the area.

For Burlington, more review in detail will be needed to follow up on ideas and recommendations, and this is great timing for critical consideration for the required 2016 Comprehensive Plan updates. Here are some of the issues and questions that will be discussed and debated over the next year or two:

Will there be an additional 100,000 more population in Skagit County 50 years from now? Whether it takes 50 years or longer, or if the projected population number is reduced, there are many things to consider, including carrying capacity – limits based on water supply, agricultural land preservation, and drivers such as real estate costs and gas prices.

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Burlington Selects New Fire Chief

Lonnie J. Rash has been selected to become the next Burlington Fire Chief. Rash, who began his fire service career in Belgrade, Montana, will assume command of the Burlington Fire Department on June 26, 2012.

Chief Rash, 42, currently serves as a Deputy Fire Chief with Spokane County Fire District 8, an organization which includes four fire stations, 32 full-time, 28 part-time and 50 volunteer firefighters.

Glen Staheli, a 40 year veteran of the Fire Service with 20 of those years at the Burlington Fire Department, has served as Fire Chief for the past three years. At Staheli's request, Mayor Steve Sexton allowed him to step back to his former position as Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal thus creating a vacancy in the Fire Chief position.

Chief Rash has said: "I believe that the Fire Chief is an extension of the City and my actions affect the members of the Fire Department, the Mayor, the City Council and the overall ability of the City of Burlington to conduct business."

Chief Rash recently oversaw a two-year evaluation and professional development plan for career and volunteer members of Spokane Fire District 8. "I am," said Rash, "dedicated to ensuring that members have a path to follow as they dedicate their time and energy to the Fire Department."

Chief Rash assured the members of Burlington's Fire Chief Selection Panel that his tenure in Fire District 8 "has led to a high performance team who understand where the Department is heading and what is expected of them in order to get us there."

We welcome Chief Rash and his family to Burlington and look ahead to a Burlington Fire Department that continues to deliver the best possible service to our community.

Mayor's Message

This summer offers us a chance to look back into Burlington's past and forward into our future. Our future looks exciting as construction of our new **Regional Bi-way Center** is well



Carletti Architects, PS

underway with an expected completion date in October. Construction projects to improve a couple of well used streets are ongoing on Anacortes and Section Streets. All

of these projects show the commitment of our City Council to upgrade the city's infrastructure as our economic condition continues to improve. We continue to look for ways in which we can position our city to be in as strong a position as possible when the nation's economy fully recovers.

We will also take a few moments to look back in the history of our city. Berry Dairy Days 2012 offers us not only an opportunity to celebrate our agricultural industry both past and present, but also a chance to celebrate the founding of our city 110 years ago this June. In July there will be an all-class reunion for Burlington Edison High School. Both of these events will give us a chance to thank those who helped to get our city to where we are today.

Looking forward to this fall, we will be holding a second Community Town Hall Meeting to update citizens on what is currently happening, and hearing from all what they would like to see us working on.

Please give me a call or an email anytime.

Mayor Steve Sexton

360-755-2394

steves@ci.burlington.wa.us

**BE PREPARED... &
STAY PREPARED!**

**Read the
FLOOD BULLETIN
included in this
newsletter.**

Challenges Ahead - cont'd

Will there be a 90/10 urban rural population split? People are trending more towards the urban areas in the last few years, but is there room in the cities and towns? It does not appear that there is much potential for population growth in the City Limits of Burlington, and it may not be appropriate. The citizens of Burlington definitely support a regional plan to connect trails and open spaces and more opportunities for walking and biking throughout the city and the area. It is great timing for the Regional Nonmotorized plan that is now in development.

What about the supply of housing that is affordable and taking a more regional approach? Careful planning is needed in light of limiting availability of land to protect agriculture, forests and fish. There are innovative housing developments out there. Some examples of collaboration for long term affordable housing that need support and focus include Home Trust Skagit which is the community land trust model, cooperation and coordination with Habitat for Humanities and the Skagit Housing Authority.

The Port has identified a long term shortage of Industrial Land and there is general agreement that a regional approach to economic development and service provision will help with business recruiting and retention. Efforts are underway to get and maintain better data on employment, facilities, land availability and collaboration. Burlington is putting together a survey of local businesses and collecting information to help plan for long term business success and a task force will be formed this year to help put an Economic Development strategy together. With this unique location on I-5, near the Port, not far from the Refineries, and between major cities, Burlington has a unique and positive long term business opportunity.

Summer @ your library®

Kee your kids reading over the summer with our Summer Reading Programs for kids & teens, from June 11 – August 4. Win prizes and attend **FREE** events!

For more information, call 755-0760 or visit us at www.burlington.lib.wa.us

FOR TEENS AGES 13-18:

- ✦ Mondays, 3:00-4:30, Gaming
- ✦ First Tuesday every month, 3:30-5:00, Teen Advisory Group
- ✦ June 27, 3:30-6:00, **Murder at Toadwarts Inn* (murder mystery game)
- ✦ July 17, 19, 24, and 26, 1:30-4:30, **Robotics Workshop*
- ✦ August 9, 3:30-5:30, make Candle-holders with Cut Paper Art

* please sign up in advance



FOR CHILDREN THROUGH AGE 12:

Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Story Time — continue through June and July. Call for schedule.

- ★ June 28, 1:00: *Jason Quick*, one-armed juggler
- ★ July 10, 1:00: *Andy Locke*, ventriloquist
- ★ July 17, 11:00: *Louie Foxx*, magician
- ★ July 26, 11:00: *Cowboy Buck & Elizabeth*, musicians
- ★ Aug. 2, 1:00: *Scott Petersen*, Reptile Man





On June 16, 1902, Burlington, Washington, was officially incorporated as a small city consisting of 260-300 visionary pioneers. In 1890 the railroad arrived in Burlington establishing it as “the Hub City” for shipping to all points on the compass. Early settlers were attracted to the Burlington area by the land’s abundance of raw materials including timber, agriculture, dairy, and coal. Entrepreneurs came to establish businesses to support the farmers and the mill workers and take advance of the hub city’s railroad connections to ship goods to the growing cities of Bellingham to the north and Seattle to the South.

To mark the 110th anniversary of Burlington’s incorporation as a small city, Margie Wilson, a living history storyteller and a member of the Burlington Historic Preservation Advisory Board, will be conducting Historic Downtown Burlington Walking Tours to share the fascinating stories of “the Hub City’s” early beginnings. Ms. Wilson’ authentic 1890s costume will add a bit of historic flavor to her guided tour commentary. The walking

tour will cover approximately two miles and visit Burlington landmarks. The tours will be offered on **Saturdays, June 2, 9, 23 and 30 from 10:00 am to noon.** The tour starting point is the Burlington Park and Recreation building’s west parking lot located at 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington. It is emphasized to wear comfortable walking shoes and appropriate outdoor attire. If it rains the tour will cancel. The tours are offered free to the public and appropriate for adults. The only requirement is the ability to walk the two miles on city pavement to complete the tour. Advance reservations are not required. For more information contact: Margie Wilson, wilsongm@frontier.com, 360-757-6224 or 360-798-1681 or Shelley Johnstone, Burlington Parks and Recreation, bparks@ci.burlington.wa.us 360-755-9649.



Saturday, June 16 ~ 11:00 a.m.
Berry Dairy Days Parade &
110th Birthday Celebration
@ Fairhaven Avenue & Maiben Park

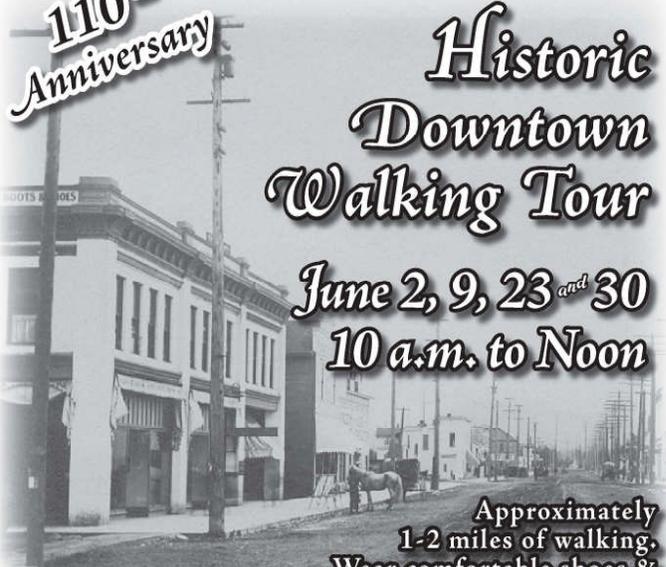
Monday, June 25 ~ 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Happy Birthday Burlington Reception
@ Burlington Public Library

The Hub City, 1902 – 2012: an evening of celebration
and raucous stories.

Come join us for storytelling, a panel of long-time
Burlington residents, time for questions and
answers, and birthday cake! Free of charge for
everyone to attend; families welcome.

MONTH of JUNE - self guided tour
Downtown ~ Fairhaven Avenue

Take a walk down Fairhaven Avenue during the 110th
anniversary and see the historic photos of
Burlington on display in the windows of Downtown
Businesses. At the corner of Oak and Fairhaven (501
E. Fairhaven Avenue) the **Skagit County Historical
Museum** has a storefront window display that
includes an old pea viner and a wealth of great
pictures.



Burlington *The Hub City*

110th
Anniversary

**Historic
Downtown
Walking Tour**

June 2, 9, 23rd and 30
10 a.m. to Noon

Approximately
1-2 miles of walking.
Wear comfortable shoes &
appropriate outdoor attire

FREE!

 **Rain Cancels**

Meet at the
Burlington Parks & Recreation Center
900 E. Fairhaven Ave.
in the west parking lot

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MARGIE WILSON | 360/757-6224 | WILSONGM@FRONTIER.COM
PARKS & REC. | 360/755-9649 | BPARKS@CI.BURLINGTON.WA.US

Photograph courtesy of the Burlington Public Library, Historic Postcards Collection – Fairhaven Ave. Looking East

The **Parks Department** has been very busy with several new projects underway that the public will enjoy for many years to come:



Grafton Park: Renovations to the grounds and a new water feature at Grafton Park were recently completed and you'll no doubt be pleased with the result, especially for those of you who have witnessed the long journey to the park's creation. A ribbon cutting was held on May 30 to officially mark the opening of this park located at 941 S. Burlington Boulevard.

New Soccer Fields: The new soccer fields on Whitmarsh are almost ready to be seeded. Thank you to the many volunteer groups who spent time removing rocks before the final plowing and grading of the field.

Kiwanis Water Park: The new and improved Kiwanis Water Park (located in Maiben Park) has been under repair to comply with new requirements of the County Health Department. Two new pillars have been added near the entrance of the water park and a poured in place rubber surface has been installed which will have the Kiwanis logo inlayed within the pattern. The Kiwanis water park is scheduled to re-opened in June.



Burlington Parks & Recreation

Happy • Healthy • Active

900 E. Fairhaven Avenue

Phone: 360-755-9649

Website: www.ci.burlington.wa.us

Email: recreation@ci.burlington.wa.us



SUMMER RECREATION FUN!

SUMMER CAMPS

KidQuest Camps for Kids!

Each of our KidQuest Day Camps has its own unique theme. This provides the opportunity to design our individual camp weeks with a creative and imaginative focus.

Camp Leaders: Kayla Hill, Rachel Tingley, & Krissa Maxwell

Please **REGISTER EARLY** so we reach the minimum needed to run camps. Thanks!

Week 1: Splish Splash

June 25-28

Ages 7-12



Summer is here! Let's kick things off with ALL water themed field trips and activities. We'll play at Birch Bay Waterslides, play at the beach, explore Padilla Bay, swim at Fidalgo Pool, and visit the Seattle Aquarium and Seattle Waterfront...School is out, Oh Ya!

TIME: 9am - 4pm \$120

Min 7 / Max 13 - min. needed by June 20

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 2: "Independence" Day Trips

(NOTE: Times, Fees, and Ages will vary)

July 2*: Red, White and ZOO!

Trip to the Woodland Park Zoo

Ages 7-12



TIME: 10am - 4pm \$40

Min 7 / Max 13 - min. needed by June 27



July 3: Birch Bay Waterslides

Ages 6-12

Pizza lunch and admission included.

TIME 9:30 - 4:30pm \$40

Min 7 - min. needed by June 27

July 5*: "Sounds of Freedom Tour"

Ages 7-14

NAS on Whidbey Is. is the destination! You'll be lucky enough to tour their MH-60S Knighthawk Search & Rescue Helicopter, meet "Recyclo" a robot at their award winning Recycling Center & go inside the P-3 Squadron (a propeller driven aircraft that hunts down submarines)!



TIME: 10am - 4pm \$25

Min 8 / Max 13 - min. needed by June 27

NOTE: *Pack a lunch & water on 7/2 & 7/5

Week 3: Life Long Sports Camp

July 9-12

Ages 6-12

Celebrate healthy habits in this energy-packed week! Hiking, learn how to play horseshoes, roller skate, putt-putt golf, bowling, and swimming at Arne Hanna Pool on Friday! Bus transportation, t-shirt & all admissions included in fee.

TIME: 9am - Noon (Mon-Thurs) \$70

Noon-3pm (Friday)

Min 10 / Max 30

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Min needed by 7/3

Week 4: Animal Kingdom

July 16-19

Ages 6-12

Answer the call of the wild at a Kangaroo Farm, Reptile Zoo & Forest Park Animal Farm. Splash around at the lake and visit 2 water parks. Also, get close and personal with rescued pets and learn about the organization that saves them when S.P.O.T. visits!



TIME: 9am - 4pm \$115

Min 7 / Max 13— min. needed by July 11

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 5: Artful Antics and Adventures

July 23-26

Ages 7-12

Let your creativity explode as art instructor Deirdre Czoberek teaches you how to draw, paint, print, collage, and use other art techniques each day. Then the afternoons will be filled with field trips with our Rec Staff to: Mon-Bowling/ Swimming, Tues-Gymnastics, Wed-Aqua Sox Game and Thurs-Absolute Air Play.

TIME: 9am - 4pm \$145*

Min 7 / Max 13—min. needed by July 18

* Fee costs include ALL supplies & admissions

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 6: Wild, Wild West Week

July 30-August 2

Ages 6-12

You won't be belly aching about this camp when you go on a pony trail ride, visit the Klondike Museum in Seattle, pan for GOLD & do some camp cooking. It'll be a rootin' tootin' good ole time!



TIME: 9am - 4pm \$115

Min 7 / Max 13—min. needed by July 25

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

continued on next page

MORE SUMMER FUN!

Week 7: Awesome Aqua Adventures

August 6-9

Ages 7-12

Summer + Sun + Water = Fun! All our trips will be water related: Seattle Aquarium, exploring Jetty Island, trails and beaches at Washington Park, and Birch Bay Waterslides! Pack your swimsuit!

TIME: 9am - 4pm \$115

Min 7 / Max 13—min. needed by August 1

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 8: Mission Impossible

August 13-16

Ages 6-12

Agents must complete the mission each day! Shhhh, we can't tell you everything because you'll be on Top Secret covert operations that include Letterboxing, exploring the San Juan Archipelago's, scoping out Mount Baker National Park, and if you complete your missions you'll end up at Birch Bay Waterslides.



TIME: 9am - 4pm \$115

Min 7 / Max 13 - min. needed by August 8

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 9: Super Soakin'

August 20-23

Ages 6-12

It's a WATER WONDERLAND! This week you'll be sure to get wet during fun water games, arts'n crafts, slip'n slides, water balloon fights, beach bumming, and Birch Bay Waterslides. We'll revisit some of our favorite locations from throughout the summer too! It'll be the best of the best! Whoo Hoo!



TIME: 9am-4pm \$115

Min 7 / Max 13 - min. needed by August 15

NOTE: Pack a lunch and water daily

Week 10: "End of Summer" Day Trips

(NOTE: Times, Fees, and Ages will vary)

August 28: Birch Bay Waterslides

Ages 8-14

Pizza lunch and admission included.

Time: 9:30 - 4:30pm \$40

Min 7 / Max 10 - min. needed by June 27

August 29*: Deception Pass Jet Boat Tour & Exploration

Ages 6-12

Learn about marine mammals that live around the pass, its history, PIRATES, and zip out to the sound on a Jet Boat! Then we'll take a hike in the park and treat you to an Ice Cream Cone.

Time 10am - 3pm \$40

Min 7/Max 10 - min. needed by June 27

August 30*: Absolute Air Play

Ages 8-14

You'll be BOUNCING off the walls at this indoor trampoline center.

Time: 11am - 3pm \$32

Min 7 / Max 10 - min. needed by June 27

NOTE: *Pack a lunch & water on 8/29 & 8/30

YOUTH SPORTS

All Comer Track Meets — 6 weeks!

June 13, 20, 27 &
July 11, 18, 25

All Ages
Encouraged

"Doing your best is better than being the best!"

Bring the whole family out to the track for some healthy, fun activity this summer!

Sponsored by: Kiwanis, Rotary, Skagit River Steel, River City Screenprinting, Crossfit Skagit, & Recreation without Borders.



ACTM SEASON PASS: \$30
includes 2012 shirt and Fast Pass check-in

ACTM DAY OF REGISTRATION: \$5

TIME: Registration	5:00 pm
Field Events	5:30 pm
Running Events	6:00 pm

LOCATION: B-EHS Kirkby Field

Jr Golf Camp

July 9-13

5th - 8th Grade
Boys & Girls



Open to all skill levels, where you'll learn golf etiquette, time at the driving range, course play, and good instruction. Foursomes divided into skill level groups.

PRE-REGISTER: July 2
TIME: 2pm - 4pm \$55

LOCATION: Avalon Golf Links
19345 Kelleher Rd., Burlington

NOTE: Clubs are available to borrow. **Wear a collared shirt to course each day.**

Register today!
Keep the kids busy
and active this
summer!



Sports — cont'd on next page

REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS.

ALL PROGRAMS SUPPORT BURLINGTON PARKS & REC.



KidZ LOVE Z SOCCER NEW this summer!
Kidz Love Soccer on Wednesday's
July 18 - August 22 \$57
(6-wk session)

PRE-REGISTER: One week prior to session beginning online at: www.kidzlovesoccer.org

Mommy/Daddy & Me Soccer	Ages 2 - 3.5	5:45 - 6:15pm
Tot-Soccer	Ages 3.5 - 4	3 - 3:30pm
Pre-Soccer	Ages 4 - 5	3:30 - 4:05pm
Soccer I	Ages 5 - 6	4:05 - 4:50pm
Soccer Skillz & Scrimmage	Ages 7 - 10	4:50 - 5:35pm
LOCATION: Skagit River Park, 1100 S. Skagit Street		



Skyhawks Sports Academy Camps!
 PRE-REGISTER: One week prior to session beginning online at: @ www.skyhawks.com



July 16-20	Multi-Sport (Soccer and Baseball/Softball):	9am - 3pm	\$120	Ages 6 - 12
	Mini-Hawk (Soccer, Baseball & Basketball):	9am - 12pm	\$105	Ages 4 - 7

July 23-27: Soccer Ages 6 - 12
 9am - 3pm \$120

Tiny-Hawk (Intro to Soccer): Ages 3.5 - 5
 9:30 - 10:15am \$44

LOCATION: Maiben Park, 1011 Greenleaf

August 6-10: Flag Football Ages 6-12
 9am - 3pm \$120

August 13-18: Beginning Golf: Ages 5 - 9
 9am - 12pm \$105

LOCATION: Rotary Park, 821 S. Section Str.



British Challenger Soccer Camps

Includes a FREE ball and t-shirt!
 Full details & register online at: www.challengersports.com

July 9 - July 13 (Free jersey - register by 5/25)

July 30 - August 3 (Free jersey - register by 6/15)

CLASSES

Cartooning for Kids w/ Max Elam Age 7 - 12

Learn basic cartooning skills in a constructive, step by step environment. All students will leave the course with a portfolio spotlighting their favorite cartoon characters.

PRE-REGISTER: One week prior to start date.

DATES: **June 12, 19, 26, July 3** Time: 4 - 6 pm
July 10, 17, 24, 31
August 7, 14, 21, 28 \$40

NOTE: Supplies provided by instructor.

Watercolor for Kids w/ Deirdre Czoberek will continue in the Fall

Microsoft Business Excel Essentials

July 25 (pre-register July 18)

New to Excel? Know just enough to get around? This ESSENTIALS class targets what the Excel user needs to know. In this accelerated class format, we pick up the pace to bring you the value of a full-day class in a half-day!

Time: 8am - Noon OR 1pm - 5pm \$89
 incl. textbook & CD

INSTRUCTOR: Gail Sexton

Hatha Yoga

Every Thursday Night

Ages 13 & up



Our Yoga Class emphasizes on breath between poses and inner awareness. Achieve your goals of stress relief, strengthening, and improved balance which are all vital to our daily lives. All level welcome. New students try the class for FREE.

Time: 5:30pm - 6:45pm (drop-in) \$10
 (Monthly if paid by 1st or 2nd Thurs.) \$24

Berry Dairy Days Kids Craft Fair

June 16

Ages 18 under

We're so excited to announce the 1st Annual Kids Craft Fair where kids can sell their creations (all under \$5 each) to the festival folks!



Time: 11am - 2pm table rental - \$10

LOCATION: Burlington Parks and Recreation Center
 900 E. Fairhaven (south parking lot off Washington Ave.)

First Kicks	Ages 3	10:45-11:45am	\$82
Mini Soccer	Ages 4 - 5	9 - 10:30am	\$92
Player Development	Ages 6 - 10	9am - 12pm	\$122
Player Development	Ages 11 - 16	1pm - 4pm	\$122
Full Day Soccer Camp	Ages 9 - 16	9am - 4pm	\$175

LOCATION: Skagit River Park, 1100 S. Skagit Str.

Burlington Flood Issues Update: Spring 2012

Burlington elected officials and staff continue to work in close partnership with Skagit County, the Dike Districts, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and La Conner on a range of flood issues, with the goal of reducing flood risk in Burlington and the entire region.

FEMA Flood Map Appeal

In December 2009, FEMA Region X released its long-awaited preliminary flood maps; however, the maps were withdrawn after just a few days when it became apparent the maps contained numerous errors. FEMA released a modified work product July 1, 2010, initially stating it expected the “official” preliminary map release to occur about the end of September. The “official” release date was delayed until the end of December, 2010. This was a key date because the “official” release triggered a deadline of March 31, 2011 to appeal the preliminary maps. Burlington partnered with Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and La Conner to develop the appeal information, which can be viewed on Burlington’s or Mount Vernon’s web site. The appeal package was submitted on March 28th, 2011. FEMA acknowledged timely submission.

In July of 2010, FEMA released word of a new process local communities could access as part of an appeal. The new process, called a “Scientific Resolution Panel,” or SRP, consists of a panel of experts that can be formed at the request of the local community if FEMA and the local community cannot agree on the information presented in the appeal package. The panels, organized and overseen by the National Institute of Building Sciences, will consist of either three or five members, with the larger number of panelists chosen by the local community, and the smaller number by FEMA. According to FEMA, *“the SRPs will provide communities with an efficient, independent way of resolving conflicting technical data while ensuring that the best science is being utilized for their Flood Insurance Rate Maps.”*

On March 10, 2011, just 20 days before the Cities’ appeal package deadline, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate issued a policy letter indicating that the longstanding “levee failure” policy would be rescinded. This was the policy which required flood mapping behind uncertified levees (like ours) to be conducted as if the levees did not exist at all. This policy did affect

the technical information we included in the appeal; however, most of the appeal information was related to correcting the Skagit River hydrologic analysis previously performed by the Corps of Engineers, under contract with FEMA. Nevertheless, FEMA’s levee failure policy change cast doubt about whether FEMA would permit the flood appeal partnership to proceed to meet with a Scientific Resolution Panel.

On June 27, 2011, after hearing no word from FEMA about the appeal package that had been submitted three months earlier, the cities wrote to FEMA and requested a Scientific Resolution Panel be formed. Although FEMA was obligated to consult with the cities about the content of the appeal package information, the cities received no response from FEMA after submitting the appeal. Facing a deadline for formally requesting the Scientific Resolution Panel, the cities sent the request on June 27.

On September 28, 2011, the cities received a letter from FEMA’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation, Sandra Knight, indicating FEMA had decided not to convene a Scientific Resolution Panel as requested by the cities, citing the new “with levee” modeling approach and the need for FEMA to issue new maps, effectively re-setting the appeal process.

In early November, 2011, at a conference sponsored by the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, the cities’ attorney met informally with Sandra Knight and her staff to request FEMA reconsider the decision of the September 28th letter. It is the cities’ position that the main issue to be decided in the appeal is the validity of the Skagit River hydrology, and that issue is separate from the impacts of changes to the hydraulic model.

In February 2012, FEMA officials, following additional informal communication, signaled FEMA’s intention to go ahead and convene a Scientific Resolution Panel for the purpose of reviewing the hydrologic basis of the Skagit flood maps. The cities are currently working with FEMA regarding the details of convening an SRP. At the date of this writing, it is looking positive that an SRP will be convened to look into the Skagit hydrology issue. So that is good news.

A link to the appeal report is available on Burlington’s Public Works web page: www.ci.burlington.wa.us .

Skagit River Hydrology

It is our hope that through the FEMA appeal process, utilizing the Scientific Resolution Panel, that our technical research and information will change FEMA's official stand on the overstated hydrology. Our technical arguments are very compelling and it is our expectation that an impartial panel of experts will reverse FEMA's current position regarding overstated Skagit river hydrology. As stated above, the question of whether FEMA will convene a Scientific Resolution Panel and permit this issue to be decided, is in the process of being resolved.

We are, of course, keeping an eye on climate change research and the impact climate change may have on Skagit River flooding, as well as sea level rise and its impact on flooding. Research on these issues is ongoing and has produced some broad preliminary findings. More information about the potential impact of climate change on the Skagit basin can be found at the Skagit Climate Science Consortium web page, <http://www.skagitclimatescience.org/about-us/>. Future flood projects will include an assessment of the impacts of climate change.

Dike District 12 Levee Certification Project

Dike 12 has continued work to reinforce its levees to the expected flood elevations associated with the Corps of Engineers hydrology. This work will continue for at least the next decade. The Dike District will be adding additional material in the summer of 2012 to the back slope of its levee system in accordance with the recommendations of a geotechnical study completed in 2009. Photographs below show work accomplished in 2011.



Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study

There is a lot of good news to report on the GI study. Through the efforts of our Congressional delegation and an engaged consortium of local elected officials, our Congressional delegation was able to obtain more than \$700,000 of funding to re-start the GI, which had been put on hold at the end of 2011. There is new energy surrounding this study, and new people involved at the Seattle District who are enthusiastic about getting this study completed. In addition, the Corps of Engineers has developed a new process, with new expectations, for completing long-languishing GI studies like the Skagit River GI. The basics of the new process: \$3 million, 3 years, with a final report no thicker than 3 inches. Over the next few months and into 2013, the Corps will be formulating alternatives and requesting public feedback. Please watch for information regarding opportunities to share your ideas about proposed alternatives and regional flood issues.

Before the project was put on hold in 2011, the Corps conducted a public outreach process called Feasibility Scoping. This outreach process provided a formal opportunity for the City of Burlington, as well as interested citizens, municipal organizations, and agencies to comment on the Skagit General Investigation study. The Corps provided a report synthesizing all of the public input received. The report, as well as all of the comments and information submitted by Burlington and other interested parties can be viewed at the Seattle District, US Army Corps of Engineers web page, http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Doc_list.cfm?sitename=SKAGITVALLEYM&pagename=2011_Skagit_GI. This new repository is an excellent source of technical information and we recommend you take a look if you are interested in in-depth information about Skagit River flooding.

In addition, the Seattle District's latest briefing on Alternative Formulations, can be viewed here:

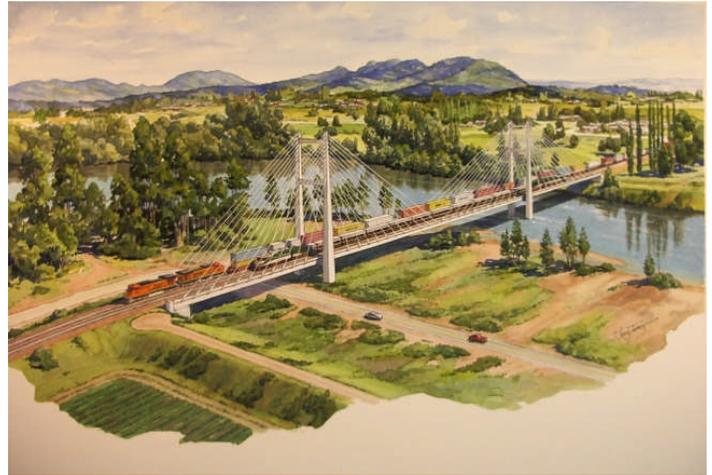
<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/Asp/Default.asp?d=PublicWorksSalmonRestoration&c=General&p=main.htm>

Potential BNSF Skagit River Bridge Replacement

Replacing this bridge is likely at least a decade away, although we continue to make incremental progress that is laying the foundation for eventual bridge replacement. In 2011, for the first time, both BNSF and Amtrak provided letters of support for replacing this bridge. Although the right set of circumstances have not yet presented themselves to obtain funding for bridge replacement, we have made progress with the help of our neighbors in Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley. Bridge replacement now has the support of the Skagit Council of Governments; our State legislative delegations from the 10th, 39th, and 40th districts (as well as other districts north of King County; the Washington State Department of Transportation (and, therefore, the Governor's Office), and our Federal Congressional delegation. Support of the concept is short of support for providing funding; however, we believe we are making progress toward getting the bridge replaced. The general approach is to first fund the environmental investigation and preliminary engineering work (estimated to cost \$11.3 million); then, move forward to find the construction funding (estimated to be \$70 - \$80 million). Replacing this bridge is critically important to reduce Burlington's flood risk, because if large debris blockages occur upstream of the old bridge (as happened in 1995), water can back up as much as five feet, making upstream flooding much worse and potentially enabling flood water to enter Burlington from the Sterling area along the Gages Slough corridor.



1995 Skagit River Flood – BNSF Bridge failure



Concept for BNSF Skagit River Bridge replacement

Flood Storage in the Baker Hydroelectric Project

A concept that came out of the Puget Sound Energy Baker Hydroelectric Project relicensing process was to draw down the reservoirs in advance of a flood-producing weather system. This idea was accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and FERC directed PSE to provide a report about the viability of this concept within three years of the license being issued. That report was submitted in October, 2011.

The City developed its own recommendation for an imminent flood drawdown protocol, which is included here. We believe we have put forward a reasonable and responsible approach which is good for flood control, good for aquatic resources, and good for power generation. **We continue to believe achieving a protocol enabling the Baker reservoirs to be drawn down in advance of a Skagit flood is a critically important issue for Burlington. Please see the updated presentation on this topic, on the next few pages.**



2003 Skagit River Flood – Upper Baker and Lower Baker dams spilling water after the Skagit River flood peak

Baker Hydroelectric Project Imminent Flood Reservoir Drawdown

Why Drawing Down the
Reservoirs In Advance of a Skagit
Basin Flood Reduces Flood Risk,
Improves Salmon Survival, and
Increases Power Generation

Chal A. Martin, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Burlington
November 10, 2011

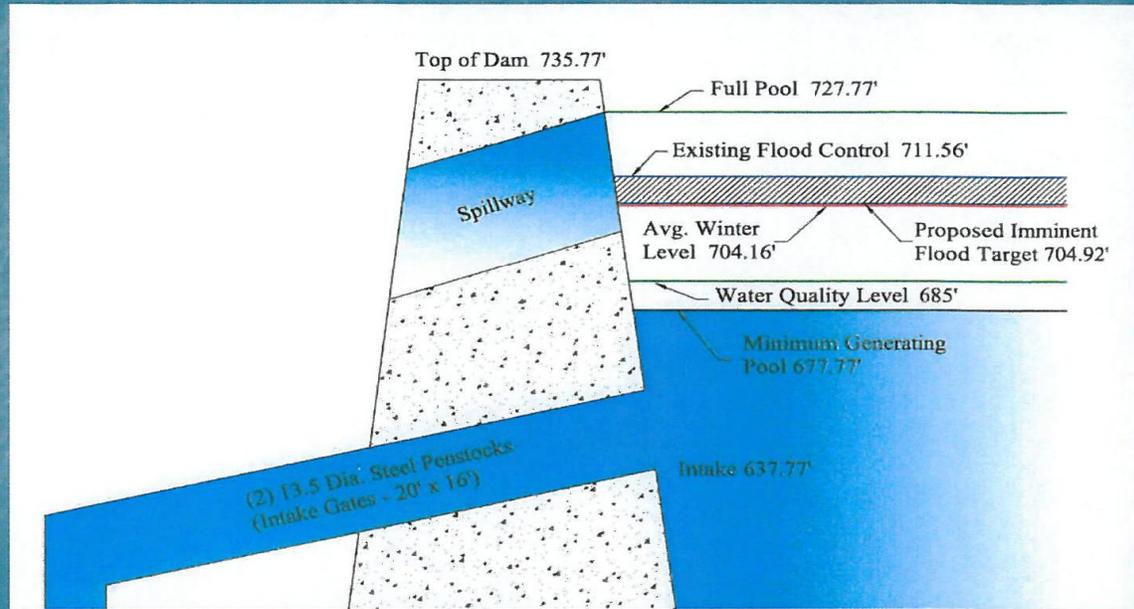
1

Goals of Advance Reservoir Drawdown in the Baker System

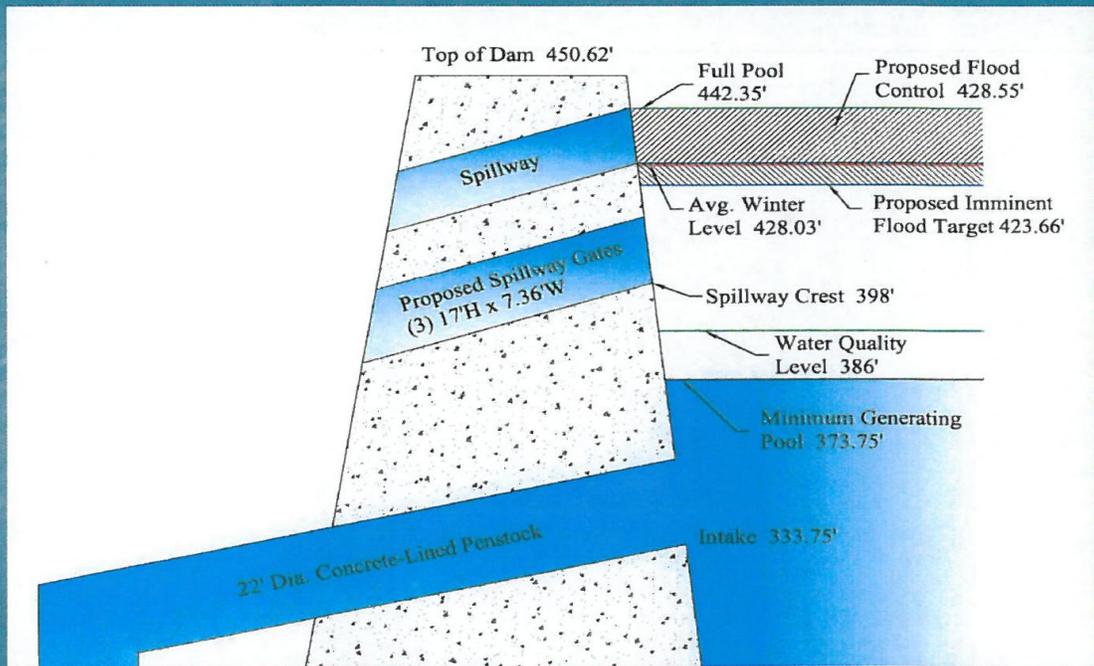
- Achieve zero outflow from Baker System during 24 hours of Skagit Flood Peak
- Reduce 100-year flood peak by 13,000 – 18,000 cfs (about 1.5 feet of Skagit River depth)
- Storage needed: 140,000 acre-feet
 - Same as “reservoir target elevations” outlined in license (see reservoir schematics following)

2

Upper Baker Dam



Lower Baker Dam



How will advance drawdown work?

- Long range forecast indicates flood-producing storm is 5-7 days out
- Skagit County consults with emergency managers and Baker Aquatic Resource Group
 - Review reservoir levels, seriousness of possible storm, salmon spawning activity
 - Most times, precedent conditions will not immediately indicate drawdown is necessary
 - Initial decision to increase outflow can be changed based on updated forecast
 - Review and adapt outflow every 12-24 hours

5

How often and how long?

- How often:
 - 2-3 times per decade
- How long:
 - 5 days
 - Total of maybe 15 days per decade

6

Maximum Baker Outflow Necessary to Achieve Reservoir Target Elevations in Advance of a Skagit Flood

Date	Storage IPP* (acre-ft)	Storage SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (acre-ft)	Storage Aquatics 1 Plus 1/2 Buffer** (acre-ft)	Outflow SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (cfs)	Outflow Average 5-Day Outflow Needed at Baker To Achieve 140,000 AF*** (cfs)	Outflow Exceeding SAA 106 Aquatics 1 (cfs)	Corresponding Skagit Rise
1-Oct	115,000	0	13,000	3,200	15,000	11,800	14 inches
15-Oct	115,000	25,000	38,000	3,200	12,500	9,300	11 inches
1-Nov	115,000	50,000	63,000	3,600	10,000	6,400	8 inches
15-Nov	115,000	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
1-Dec	no req't	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
15-Dec	no req't	74,000	87,000	3,600	7,600	3,000	4 inches
1-Jan	no req't	74,000	87,000	5,600	7,600	2,000	2 inches

Notes:

- 1) Storage needed to capture Baker basin inflow for Skagit 100-year event is 140,000 AF (297 square miles)
- 2) Storage needed to capture Ross basin inflow for Skagit 100-year event is 150,000 AF (999 square miles)
- 3) Even though the Projects' flood control rule curves do not require maximum hard storage until late November, large Skagit floods occur in October. The Skagit flood of record occurred Oct 14-22, 2003
- 4) Downstream communities' flood control goal is to reduce Projects' outflow to zero 12 hours before/after Skagit flood peak at Concrete (see Skagit Project water control manual, page 7-8)

* IPP (Interim Protection Plan) will sunset in 2013

** Approximate storage represented by 1/2 of the Upper Baker operating buffer is 13,000 Acre-Feet

*** Assumes average basin inflow during the imminent flood drawdown period is 2,300 cfs

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, Skagit Annex, p. 182

The greatest impact on egg-to-fry survival is flooding during egg incubation. Severe floods (15-20 year events) reduce survival by 75-80% when compared to 1 year flooding events. Ten year events reduce survival by 33%. In the Skagit, flood events are increasing in frequency and magnitude, which has serious impacts on survival. Flood events are especially severe in the Lower Skagit where the full brunt of a flood must be absorbed.

The Promise of Advance Reservoir Drawdown for Increased Fish Survival

On the front side of the flood, advance reservoir drawdown has a minor negative impact on spawning fish:

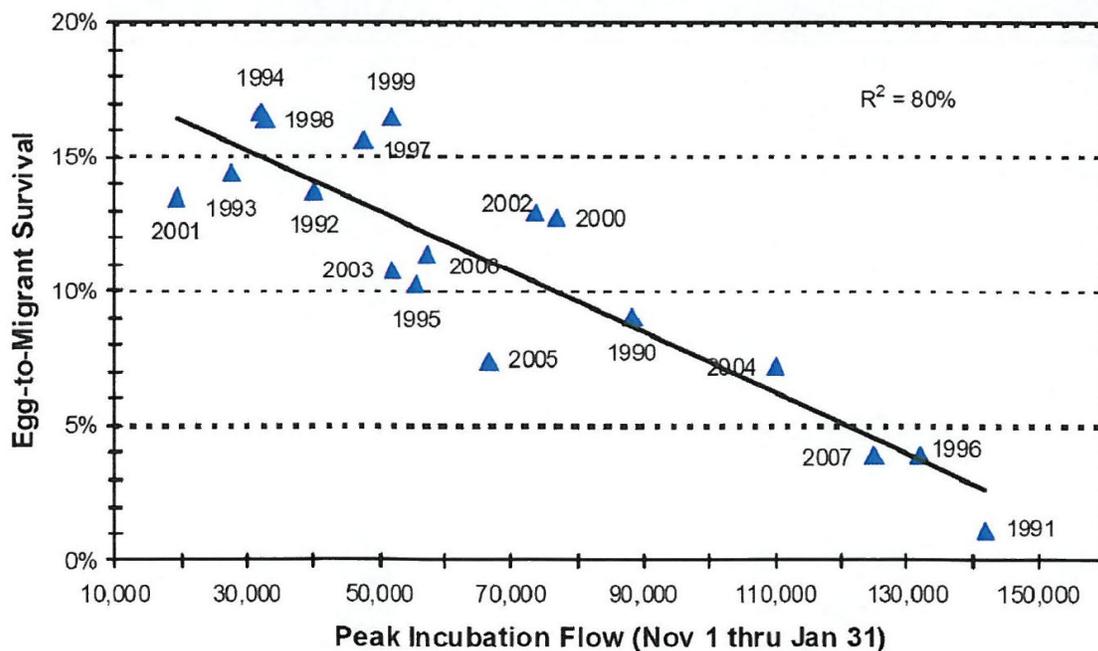
- Higher artificial water level may fool fish into spawning in areas that may later be dewatered
- Therefore, dessiccation of redds will be higher during the 5 days of advance drawdown (example assumes 100% mortality, although actual mortality would be expected to be much less)
- Spawning periods are about 60 days

On the back side of the flood, reservoir drawdown has a major positive impact on spawning fish:

- Reduced peak flow dislodges fewer redds, significantly increasing egg-to-migrant survival

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Egg-to-Migrant Survival (Kinsel et al, 2008)



How Egg-to-Migrant Survival Increases with Imminent Flood Drawdown Protocol

For this example:

- 1,200 spawning females*
- 5,500 eggs per female**
- Spawning period is 60 days***
- At peak Skagit 24-hour flow of 135,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival is 3.5%****
- At peak Skagit 24-hour flow of 120,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival is 5.0%****

*Email communication with Wendy Cole and Brett Barkdull, WDFW, 7 November 2011, 2:34 p.m.

**2007 Skagit River Annual Salmon Production Evaluation, Annual Report., Table 14, page 28. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, December 2008 .

***Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. Shared Strategy for Puget Sound. Figure 2.4, page 42. January 19, 2007.

**** 2007 Skagit River Annual Salmon Production Evaluation, Annual Report. Figure 13, page 44. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, December 2008 .

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How Egg-to-Migrant Survival Increases with Imminent Flood Drawdown Protocol

Condition with no advance drawdown:

- 1,200 spawning females at 5,500 eggs/female = 6,600,000 eggs
- Baker reservoirs are filled, so system passes inflow of 15,000 cfs at Skagit flood peak
- With peak 1-day flow of 135,000 cfs, egg-to-migrant survival = 3.5%, resulting in $(.035)(6,600,000) = 231,000$ outmigrants

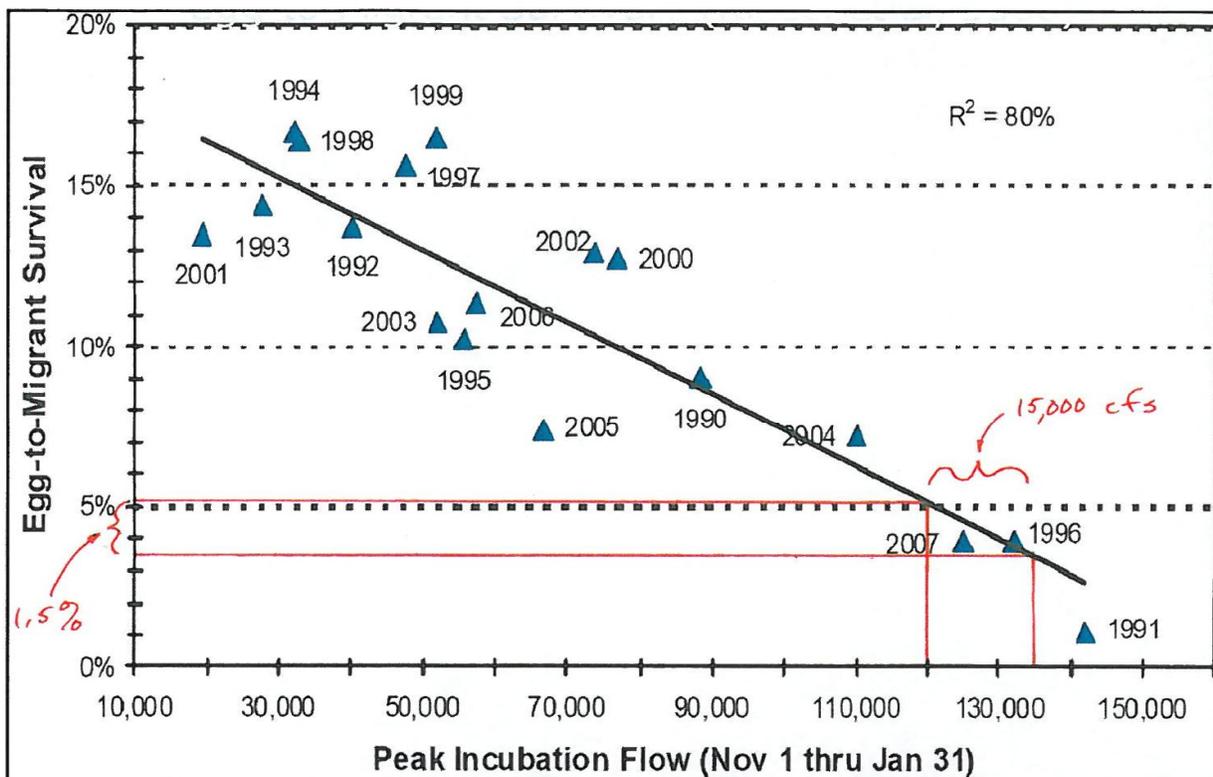
Condition with advance drawdown:

- 6,600,000 eggs reduced by 5 spawning days over a 60-day spawning period, $(55/60)(6,600,000) = 6,050,000$ eggs (assuming 5 days continuous drawdown)
- Baker reservoirs have enough capacity to absorb all Baker inflow for 24 hours surrounding the Skagit flood peak, resulting in 15,000 cfs reduction in Skagit peak one-day flow
- In this case, egg-to-migrant survival is increased to 5% (based on 15,000 cfs peak flow reduction), resulting in $(.05)(6,050,000) = 302,500$ outmigrants

Result: Increase of 71,500 outmigrants

- 31% increase

12



Power Generation is Improved*

- $$\text{POWER} = (\text{Density of Water}) \times (\text{Height}) \times (\text{Flow Rate}) \times (\text{Gravity Constant}) \times (\text{Efficiency})$$
- If, for Lower Baker Dam only, imminent flood drawdown protocols enable an average reservoir elevation 10 feet higher, then power generation could increase by 3.9%**

*Estimate for Lower Baker only. Similar power increases may be possible for Upper Baker.

**Assume average LB reservoir elevation increases to 438 feet from 428 feet. Hydraulic head increases from 258' to 268' (438'-170'(powerhouse elevation)), or 81.68 meters from 78.63 meters. Full pool elevation of LB is 442.35' NAVD.

Questions / Discussion

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Further Discussion / Background / Issues

Research assumes one-day flows, not peak flows. Therefore, to be effective, the shutdown would need to be for 24 hours.

- Answer: Yes

Is 140,000 acre-feet enough to absorb 24 hours of Baker inflow?

- Will depend. However, this is what was agreed to in the relicensing negotiations

Example assumes 13,000 – 18,000 cfs savings, but that is for a 100-year event and the Kinsel chart only goes to 1-day flows of 162,000 cfs

- Answer:

- 1) COE 1-day, 100-year regulated flow = 178,000 cfs at Concrete*
- 2) COE 1-day, 50-year regulated flow = 153,000 cfs at Concrete*
- 3) PI Engineering 1 day, 100-year regulated flow = 151,000 cfs at Concrete**
- 4) PI Engineering 1 day, 50-year regulated flow = 133,000 cfs at Concrete**

Baker hydrology is independent of Skagit basin hydrology. 140,000 cfs still needed in "smaller" Skagit events (i.e., 50-year floods) to ensure Baker can be shut down for 24 hours, due to variability in main storm energy, even in smaller-than-100-year Skagit flood.

Answer above begs question: would it be appropriate for Puget to always operate system to shut down outflow in the 24 hours, even for relatively small Skagit flood event?

- Answer: we believe the science indicates Yes.

"Flood events are natural processes that also form and maintain rearing habitats important to salmon capacity and productivity. Actions that seek to eliminate flood events only would likely also have adverse impacts to juvenile rearing life stages of salmon."***

- Answer: there may be methods to analyze this assertion. We are skeptical that peak flow reduction in the range discussed would reduce habitat-forming processes to the point that the positive benefit of increased egg-to-migrant survival would be supplanted by the negative impact of "not as much" habitat-forming process.

*COE Hydrology Summary, 1 May 2008, Table 22. Regulated peak flows reduced by 1.179

**PI Engineering Hydrology Summary, October 2008, Table 9

***Beamer, et al., "Linking Watershed Conditions to Egg-to-Fry Survival of Skagit Chinook Salmon, An Appendix to the Skagit River System Cooperative Chinook Recovery Plan." Draft Version 2.0, November 2005, p. 6.

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There continues to be much more going on with this issue than we have room to print here. Please feel free to contact the Burlington Public Works Department at bpublicworks@ci.burlington.wa.us any time you need the most recent information.



Notes from the Finance Department

The City of Burlington residential sewer bills are currently based on actual water usage as supplied by PUD No. 1 of Skagit County. The Summer Averaging period begins May 1, 2012, the residential sewer bills will be an average of your previous sewer billings for the period of November 2011 through April 2012. Please remember to report any water leaks to Skagit County PUD and the City as soon as possible, as your sewer bill is determined by your water consumption.

Visa and Mastercard CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS are now being accepted **until 3:00 p.m.** daily either by phone or in person at City Hall.

We also offer direct debit from your checking or savings account. You could stop worrying about your City of Burlington utility bill due date. With Direct Debit Autopay, you will never again receive a late fee! The application is simple. Please stop by City Hall to obtain an Autopay Agreement or contact us at (360) 755-0531 for more information.

CITY CONTACTS

General Information 755-0531
Mayor 755-2394

CITY COUNCIL

Bill Aslett..... 757-4539
Garnor Benson 757-6680
Tonya Bieche 757-1020
Rick DeGloria 755-0675
Edie Edmundson 757-4757
Chris Loving 755-9245
Ted Montgomery 391-2909

CITY DEPARTMENTS

Building..... 755-0077
Buildings & Grounds 757-3450
Cemetery 707-2492
Finance..... 755-0531
Fire (*business*)..... 755-0261
Legal..... 755-9473
Library 755-0760
Municipal Court 755-0492
Parks & Recreation 755-9649
Planning/Permit Center ... 755-9717
Police (*business*)..... 755-0921
Public Works/Engineering.755-9715
Sewer 757-4085
Street..... 757-4214

EMERGENCY911

www.ci.burlington.wa.us



833 S. Spruce Street
Burlington WA 98233

Phone: 360-755-0531
Fax: 360-755-9565
E-mail: cityhall@ci.burlington.wa.us

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FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #39

Spring 2012



This Bulletin is being sent to you because your property has been determined to be in the floodplain.

Everyone in Burlington should already be prepared for disaster because of living in the floodplain, and that includes earthquakes that could result in flooding in the event of a problem at one of the upriver dams. There is no doubt that everyone needs to keep that Emergency Kit updated and have your family plan organized at all times! Plans are in the works to greatly expand emergency notices in cooperation with the 911 center.

Dike District #12 has a systematic plan for enlarging the levees so that they will first qualify for credit to help keep flood insurance rates lower, and eventually, they will provide 100-year flood protection under federal standards. The final project design will add height to the improved levees as needed.

FEMA is changing the way they set the base flood elevations, with the goal of giving some credit for existing levees. There is no schedule at this time for final decisions on the methodology, or any map changes. The project is being closely monitored because of the fact that Burlington has so many flood insurance policies and great care has been taken to make sure that every structure is elevated and complies with the best practices. The related question of how much water gets to Burlington in a flood event is now on track to be determined by a panel of experts.

Local Flood Hazard Areas

There are three flood zones in the City Limits of Burlington, the Floodway (river side of the levee), the 100 Year Flood Zone and the Special Flood Risk Zone. Most of Burlington is in the 100 Year Flood Zone.

The Special Flood Risk Zone includes all land within 300 feet of the landward toe of the levee. All structures must be designed so that floodwaters can pass underneath and there is no occupied space below one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, unless the site is within 100 feet of the levee where nothing can be built. All property in Gages Slough that is three feet or more below the 100 year flood elevation was designated as Special Flood Risk in the mid-1980's as part of a negotiating process over the uniquely complex Skagit River delta area when the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were finalized. The status of Gages Slough will be revisited when new base flood elevation maps are finalized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The goal for Burlington is to get credit for the levees when the 100-year flood elevations are established on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This is only possible if the levees are certified as having 100-year flood protection and the work is accredited by FEMA. The process will take quite a few more years to complete, and in the meanwhile, efforts to get FEMA to use the most accurate data in setting new base flood elevations are underway. It is a very difficult challenge because of the federal regulatory framework.

Levee enlargement work started in 1990 and earthwork is still underway. Dike District #12 is focused on completing the levee work at the upstream end by Lafayette Road, then completing the work from the Gardner Road Boat Launch Ramp to the Railroad Bridge. This will give the best flood protection in the shortest timeline.

Flood Safety & Disaster Preparedness

Every home needs to be prepared and STAY PREPARED! Review your Flood procedure at home with your household and take the time to put your Emergency Preparedness Kit together, or check your flashlight batteries in your existing kit. Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food and first aid kit are the bare minimums, along with flashlights. In addition to the basic three day supply of food and water, consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks. Keep a small “grab and go” kit for your place of work with food, water, first aid supplies. For the emergency kit in the car, add flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies.

There is an excellent FEMA publication entitled “Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” available. This publication offers disaster information for natural hazards, technological hazards and terrorism. It will guide you for preparation in advance and recovery from a disaster. If you want to order a free copy for your home, call 1-800-480-2520. On the internet, <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/> is the website link. A copy is available in the Burlington Public Library. **THIS COVERS THE BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT IN DETAIL.**

Earthquakes are an example of a disaster that cannot be predicted and that is not seasonal. Be prepared at all times!

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standard. The major issue is elevating the structure one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, along with all mechanical equipment, ductwork and electrical equipment, and installing properly located and sized vents. However, if you are located in the Gages Slough Special Flood Risk Zone, “breakaway walls” are required below the 100 year flood elevation, and they must be designed by a licensed structural engineer.

Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Filling property to increase elevation in the floodplain is allowed today, but the long term goal is to minimize fill to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Burlington supports habitat improvements in the floodplain, and the Gages Slough restoration projects are a major effort in the city. Storm water quality monitoring in Burlington clearly shows that better water quality treatment systems are needed and this is a major focus of the surface water utility. The use of natural rain gardens is one of the ideas included in the low impact development approach that is being promoted as a way to get storm water runoff back into the ground, and to clean up water quality.

The Gages Slough habitat management plan has identified locations for restoration and water quality improvement projects. There are three complete restoration sites today, and about 15 more in need of work! The community is working towards the goal of clean water entering the Skagit River as the top priority, along with improving public access to habitat areas. The most exciting project is the plan to build a nonmotorized trail along Gages Slough that extends under I-5 at Cascade Mall. This will combine water quality treatment with public access.

Protecting agricultural lands is part of protecting the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains. The city has implemented the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program which is a density bonus credit option that will help raise funds for farmland preservation in exchange for increased residential density in mixed use business and commercial areas of the city.

Key elements of the Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan include protecting existing urban areas and preserving farmland and open space, looking at a variety of measures through the delta area to the mouth of the Skagit River, carefully coordinating and managing the hydroelectric power dams in the river system during a flood event, permanently moving homes and development rights out of the floodway, improving the environment for wildlife, and creating new public access opportunities to improve everyone's quality of life.

Flood Warning System

Each and every citizen has a role to play in the event of a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!** The Burlington Flood Emergency Team prepares and coordinates activities needed to be ready for any flood event with the involvement of all the responsible agencies.

The procedure for warning the public is coordinated through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management. The Emergency Alert System is activated when necessary and includes the following local radio stations:

KBRC - 1430 AM ■ KWLE - 1340 AM ■ KAPS - 660 AM

If evacuation is necessary, there will also be door-to-door notification and loudspeakers broadcasting from public safety vehicles in the neighborhood. Flaggers will be stationed at key intersections along the Evacuation Route to direct traffic.

Today, there are several neighborhoods in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor notification plan for very early warning. Contact your neighbors to ask if they want to be part of taking responsibility for each other, through a simple Telephone Tree, and call the Planning Department to get on the list. Now is the perfect time to identify your block captains and work together to **BE PREPARED**. The City is working with the 911 center on the latest ways to contact everyone in the event of an emergency, so stay tuned!

Flood Insurance

Any property owner in the City of Burlington is eligible to obtain Flood Hazard Insurance, since the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Purchasing or refinancing a home will trigger a requirement for flood insurance by the lender. Coverage in the event of flooding is not included in typical homeowner's insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through your own agency or broker and includes flooding from ponding/drainage problems, snowmelt flooding, runoff on hillsides, or any flooding involving surface water. Contents of the building are a separate addition to the policy. There is limited coverage available for flood-related erosion and mudslide. Replacement cost coverage is available for principal residences. *Concerned about high Flood Insurance Rates?* You may qualify for a substantial reduction if you have an Elevation Certificate that shows your home or business is located at or above the 100 year flood elevation. You will have to retain the services of a Licensed Engineer to complete the paperwork, unless an Elevation Certificate is on file already with the Building Department, so please check here first.

Lowering flood insurance premiums: Not only should the lowest floor be elevated but make sure that the floor of the crawlspace meets Technical Bulletin 11-01 and copies are available at the Permit Center. Flood insurance rates are higher for buildings with crawlspaces that are two feet or more below the lowest adjacent exterior grade. Also make sure that all mechanical equipment is elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This includes ductwork, heat pumps, furnaces, and propane tanks or oil tanks. Make sure any garages that have the floor below BFE are also vented along with the crawlspace.

Property Protection Measures

Let's get started on improving flood protection in your home! Staff is available to provide site specific flood and flood-related data, make site visits to review flood, drainage and sewer problems and to advise and assist on retrofitting techniques.

Stop by the Permit Center or give the Building Department a call at 755-0077 and let the city provide you with technical assistance on improving flood protection in your home. A site visit will be scheduled at your convenience to put a checklist together for home flood protection improvements. Staff is also available from the Public Works Department if additional assistance is needed to assist with drainage and sewer problems.

If you want to do your own research, here are some of the recommended FEMA technical bulletins that you will find at the Burlington Public Library and the Building Department for your use:

- [Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting, FEMA-312](#)
- [Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Structures, FEMA-114](#)
- [Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage, FEMA-348](#)

Take a few minutes to look over the possible areas where you may need to floodproof important parts of your home. A good example is protecting utility systems. This is one of the easiest and least expensive retrofitting methods to accomplish. Whether it is elevating, relocating, or anchoring; items such as electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, washers/dryers and heating fuel tanks are typically very cost effective items to upgrade. There are also recommendations for drainage and crawl space improvements.

If you have a newer (post 1985) home, check to be sure these items have been taken care of when the home was constructed. Identify the potential for moving essential items and furniture to upper floors or the attic of your home. Materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing can already be on hand. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters and requires minimal storage space.

Map Determination & Library Information

A map determination is figuring out where the 100 year flood elevation is located relative to the first occupied floor of your home or business. This information is used to prepare an Elevation Certificate. A citywide system of elevation benchmarks is maintained in the Building Department. An average of an additional \$200 in savings is possible on your flood insurance policy if you have an elevation certificate, in addition to the 25% rate reduction available in Burlington as a result of community participation in the federal Community Rating System program. There are issues with lenders and flood insurance providers, and if you feel that you are not getting good information, please contact the city and we will try to help.

Information on other flood improvements, such as elevating your building, filling the crawl space, or floodproofing the lower portion, is available from the City and in the Burlington Public Library. There is a flood reference area in the library and staff will assist in directing you to the information you need.

Every land use newsletter includes a flood and natural hazard mitigation topic. Call the Planning Department at 755-9717 to get on the mailing list! Take the time to participate because your ideas will be taken seriously and you will have a say in the future of your community.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you build, add fill, or make changes to your property and structures, be sure to contact the Planning and Building Departments to determine if any permits or approvals are necessary. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the insurance industry make frequent changes in the interpretation of floodplain standards, and you need to be sure you are using the most current information for any construction project.

**DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH
FLOODED AREAS.**

Drainage System Maintenance

This is the ninth year of water quality studies in Gages Slough and wetland restoration projects to improve water quality are a high priority. The commitment to long term maintenance, monitoring and habitat improvement is beginning to show, with the success of the first two wetland restoration projects that are beginning to mature. Clean water, efficient flow of water when needed, and a quality environment are the goals. Gages Slough and the Skagit River are important amenities for the community. Burlington is fortunate to have the Skagit Conservation District as a partner in Gages Slough water quality sampling. There is still a long way to go to deliver clean water to the River.

The drainage maintenance and inspection program is part of flood hazard mitigation. Every year, all detention ponds, pipes, catch basins and other drainage control structures are inspected and corrections required as needed to ensure that the capacity of the ponds is maintained and that the ability of the system to clean the storm water is retained, in addition to inspection and maintenance of the city street system. The public drainage system, including culverts, pipes and ditches is well maintained. Gages Slough is maintained at each street intersection and culvert location. A well maintained drainage system that functions in small storms will provide the best assistance possible in large storms and floods, by quickly and efficiently carrying the excess water out of town.

Thank you for respecting the signs that state “No Dumping – thank you” at public access points to Gages Slough! Each property owner along the Slough is responsible for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access to the River can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. You may report illegal dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough, by calling the Planning Department at 755-9717, or in writing.

CITY OF BURLINGTON Planning Department

833 S. Spruce Street
Burlington WA 98233

Phone: (360) 755-9717

Email: bplanning@ci.burlington.wa.us