

**Buffalo Bayou & Lower White Oak Bayou
Federal Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study
INITIAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP (ISG) MEETING**

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Turner Collie & Braden, 5757 Woodway, Conference Room 1st Floor

Introductions and Welcome

Wayne Crull, study manager, welcomed the members of the Buffalo Bayou & Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study Initial Stakeholder Group (ISG).

The agenda for today's meeting focused on the problems, opportunities, goals and objectives for the study.

From the January meeting, it was clear that we are at an important point in our planning process and some additional meeting time should be devoted to goals and objectives.

The desire is to incorporate your feedback today and come to a consensus on the goals and objectives for the study.

Together with Susan Elmore from Elmore Public Relations, we will review and discuss.

Problems and Opportunities

We will begin by talking about problems and opportunities as they pertain to the study area. Our first exercise is to ask all in the group to identify problems or opportunities you hope will be addressed through the study process.

(Time dedicated to write down on index cards.)

You may recall that last summer we met one-on-one with many of the stakeholder groups to discuss the study process, audiences and issues and concerns as they related to the study.

Information from one-on-one meetings, a reconnaissance study conducted by TCB, and other reports and information on-hand at TCB and the District were used to compile a list of problems and opportunities.

First, we will read and capture the list from our exercise.

(Time dedicated to capture information on index cards.)

Now let's review briefly that list.

Did the list that the working team put together cover the problems and concerns identified by the stakeholders?

(Discussion on edits to the Problems and Opportunities. See revised attachment Problems and Opportunities v5.)

Overview of comments on Problems/Opportunities (in addition to developed list):

- Remove obstructions, related to community ordinances
- Terry's comments about getting houses out of the floodplain
- Concern of the floodplain/ floodway (particularly on White Oak) and expansion of floodway & floodplain via mapping – how do we make it shrink.
- Recreation- families and broad-range
- To reduce volume of runoff water that enters bayou by using green design

Let's move on to Goals.

Preliminary Study Goals

From our meeting in January, you may recall we identified three goals for the study.

To recap, a Goal is a broad, clear statement that outlines a final purpose. The purpose must fit within the guidelines for a federal project or a Flood Control District project.

Let's review the goals drafted by the team.

Let's discuss the suggested addition of a goal. At or after the last meeting, the suggestion received was to add "Reduce White Oak floodplain" as a goal. The working team feels that this input fits more accurately in the objectives that are outlined for flood reduction. You will see it when we get to the objectives part of the agenda.

Are there any comments on the Goals?

- Suggestions to add "and enhancements," in Goal 1
- Suggest adding a fourth goal along the lines of Identify viable local alternatives which may be locally funded...and consider moving forward. (Understanding federal money is scarce and studies are slow and may take years to see improvements, it would make good economical sense to add a goal on a local level since we are currently utilizing tax dollars.)

If there are no other comments, we will move to Objectives.

Preliminary Study Objectives

There are currently 11 preliminary objectives guiding our study process.

You may recall that the objectives are split into categories: flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, recreation and general.

Keep in mind that an Objective is defined as specific, measure and attainable. Refer to SMART document on the wall.

In the PowerPoint presentation and your hand out, you will notice the suggested edits from the last meeting.

Are there any comments on the Objectives?

- 1 – revise to include “damages from...”
- 2 – question about economic benefits. (FYI - defined by USACE as damage to existing structures and does not include future conditions/development. However, when looking at ER, you do look at future projections to determine benefits.)
- 4 – revise to “do not increase flooding...”
- 5 – add enhancements
- 6 – add stability and habitat
- 7 – revise and add riparian buffer zone and open space
- 8 – revise for recreational opportunities and economic benefits
- 10 – revise and add adverse
- 11 – replace study with project

Be sure to add local vs. federal objective to each goal and objective identified.

Communications

Claudia Morlan with Elmore Public Relations briefly discussed the public meeting plans. We have talked with USACE about the process for the public meeting and we are continuing to develop materials for the presentation. We estimate the public meeting is at least two months away. We want to make sure this information is appealing to an audience that is unfamiliar with the study as well as manage the expectations of our audience that we are in the study phase.

Another update will be provided at our next ISG meeting.

Final Thoughts

The working team (Flood Control District and TCB) had the opportunity to visit with the Resource Agencies about ecosystem restoration and our study, and we would like to schedule a meeting with both the resource agencies and ISG to focus on this subject.

We will be in touch with a date/time in March.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Compare the problems/opportunities identified today and previously and assure a goal or an objective is assigned.
- Identify local vs. federal goal/objective
- Revise and re-send goals and objectives to the team

Next Meeting

To be determined.