

POINT ROBERTS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM

NOTES: December 3, 2021 Special Meeting on Flooding and Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater Mitigation

Members Attending:

Chair: Allison Calder (Point Roberts Registered Voters Association)

Vice-Chair: Kat Smith (member-at-large)

Secretary: Grant Heitman (member-at-large)

Bill Zidel (member-at-large)

Prakash Sundaresan (member-at-large)

Brian Hunter (member-at-large)

Also Attending:

Jim Karcher, Engineer, Whatcom County Public Works

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 PM

First Atmospheric River event around 11/15/21:

- High water was just to east of Airstrip.
- County roads partially submerged.
- Flooding of private property and residences across Point Roberts.
- Pt. Roberts Marina is still seeking engineer to visit and study hydrology / drainage and frozen tidal/flood gate.

PRCAC agrees - Emergency mitigation work needed this winter ASAP:

- Replace broken tidal/flood gate
- Open apparently clogged connection between West and East flood holding ponds
- Investigate sink hole/erosion around tidal/flood gate and county road.

Next Steps:

County Public Works should provide single point of contact for PRCAC to assist with:

Flood Mitigation and Prevention for all of Point Roberts with special attention to known flooded areas and submerged public roadways:

- Maple Beach
- Moose Trail north of stream diverted for Seabright Development
- County drainage ditches all around the Point are clogged and have not received seasonal preventative clearing.

Public Comments:

- Ditches plugged across the Point for lack of regular maintenance by County
- Private property on Largo is flooded - entrance of marina disrupted the levee that used to be the foundation of Edwards Drive.
- West flood holding pond only drains through the east pond or the marina sluice gate.
- 12" pipe between ponds - sluice gate into marina basin - not working.
- 48" pipe from East pond to ocean - cannot drain at high tide. Drains at low tide. Mike Terry: Put new pipe above it to skim water from higher level of pond - outflow above the high tide line should avoid overflow.
- West flood holding pond should be drained with pumps immediately to avoid overflow or submerging the access to homes there.
- Owner of private lot adjacent to West flood holding pond: 3 months groundwater monitoring: Culverts transiting private property from NW at Peltier, Terrace: through property via culverts in the dyke. Western pond and eastern pond not equalizing - most flows west to east - then out to sea in 48" pipe on east side - usually drains in 1 or two tidal cycles. Western pond is much slower to drain. 36" connector between west and east ponds not working well or blocked.

Comments by Jim Karcher, County Engineer, Whatcom County Public Works:

- Will follow direction from the Executive - needs to check what funds can be used appropriately for the drainage issues.
- Emergency services, funds and responders are under unprecedented demands and we need need to be patient to obtain County assistance.

Action:

PRCAC Chair moves to send letter to Whatcom County Executive and Council requesting immediate assistance with emergency mitigation work - offering to utilize up to \$100,000 of Point Roberts Transport Benefit District Fund to contract engineers to scope the mitigation work and secure contractors if County Public Works resources are not available. Also will request Point Roberts be included in County's Comprehensive Stormwater Plan, including storm drain regular maintenance.

Vote: Six in Favor - None Opposed - One Absent (Norman)

Adjourned: 8:15 PM