Who’s the Boss?
Special District Woes, Land Use Goals, and Leveed Land in Oregon

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- Oregon and the Portland area’s land use and statutory climate for levees
- Statewide and local challenges
- Introduction to Levee Ready Columbia
- How we are rising to the present challenges and preparing for future challenges
Quick Geography: Pacific Wonderland!
GOAL 2: LAND USE PLANNING

GOAL 7. AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND HAZARDS

GOAL 11. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Who’s the Boss?: Jurisdictions and Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goals

Photo: Google
Cities are map-holders for FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program; they are responsible for their Community Rating System scores and… ensuring FEMA accreditation?

Who’s the Boss? FEMA, Map-holders, and Districts
Local levee sponsor and participation in PL 84-99, Rehabilitation and Inspection Program

- Pump Station Inspections
- Outfall Video Scoping
- Relief Well Inspection
- Toe Drain Investigation

Who’s the Boss: USACE and the Districts

Photos: MCDD
• Highly impacts future floodplain development
• Strengthens the case for accreditation
• Local jurisdictions highly involved

Who’s the Boss: FEMA, NMFs, Jurisdictions, Districts… everyone!
- Unclear responsibilities
- Unknown quality of some levees
- Sometimes unidentified levees (!!!)
- Complexity of regulatory environment
- Urbanization

(Some of) Oregon’s Levee Challenges
• Drainage and flood-control system with 27-miles of federally authorized levees
• Drainage Districts operate and manage levees
• Jurisdictions participate in FEMA NFIP
Columbia Corridor – History and Land Use
Columbia Corridor - A History of High Water Events
- Portland International Airport: 18.4 M passengers and 90% of all air cargo in/out of Oregon (23+ M tons in 2015)
- +$7B in assessed property value; +$67M in annual property taxes collected
- +7,500 residents
- 10% of the jobs in Multnomah County
- 18% of region’s future buildable industrial land
Columbia Corridor - Future Buildable Industrial Lands
City of Portland’s Zoning Map
...And the Results of the Zoning Maps
- Drainage Districts and Drainage Improvement Companies did NOT have statutory authority to operate and maintain levees until 2015!
- Flood risk reduction infrastructure in urban areas now considered Urban Services – requiring coordinated planning

78th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2015 Regular Session

Enrolled

House Bill 2277

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Presented file (at the request of House Interim Committee on Transportation and Economic Development for Multnomah County Drainage District)

CHAPTER ...........................................

AN ACT

Relating to authority of drainage districts to perform flood control; creating new provisions; amending ORS 198.510, 547.060, 547.105 and 547.110; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The provisions of sections 2 to 12 of this 2015 Act apply to drainage districts
Meeting Challenges: Statewide

Statewide Organizing

DOGAMI Levee Mapping

Levee Assistance Program
These policies ensure proper floodplain management and compliance.

**Policy 8.76**  
**Flood management.** Improve and maintain the functions of natural and managed drainageways, wetlands, and floodplains to protect health, safety, and property, provide water conveyance and storage, improve water quality, and maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

**Policy 8.77**  
**Floodplain management.** Manage floodplains to protect and restore associated natural resources and functions and to minimize the risks to life and property from flooding.

**Policy 8.78**  
**Floodplain management facilities.** Establish, improve, and maintain flood management facilities to serve designated land uses through planning, investment and regulatory requirements.

**Policy 8.79**  
**Drainage district coordination.** Coordinate with drainage districts that provide stormwater management, conveyance, and flood mitigation, protection, and control services within the City’s Urban Services Boundary.

**Policy 8.80**  
**Levee coordination.** Coordinate plans and investments with special districts and agencies responsible for managing and maintaining certification of levees along the Columbia River.
Recognizing the large potential costs are beyond any individual jurisdiction or agency’s ability to pay, Levee Ready Columbia was initiated

- More than 20 partner organizations – Cities, County, Region, and State
- Collaboratively funded by partners
- Project Team structure for informed decision-making
- Focus is certification and accreditation for Columbia Corridor levees and long-term funding and governance of levee infrastructure.

Meeting Challenges: Portland Metropolitan Area
Levee Ready Columbia is...

-Performing first-ever geotechnical evaluations and completing certification work
-Completing a series of inventories to inform decision-makers
-Communicating flood risk to community
-Building the partnership and confronting our challenges head on!
Preparing for Future Challenges

- Long-term funding and governance for levee programs
- Risk-based decision-making for alternatives
- Certify levee system
- Remain in good standing in federal programs: accredited and in the RIP!

Roll on Columbia, roll on
Questions?

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Thanks!