

Is flood control a solution?

Did you ever get the feeling that something was wrong, but were unsure what it was? Perhaps you thought you knew, but were unable to prove it.

In my case, it's the "Oregon Solution for Highway 101 north of Tillamook's downtown area. The concept is fantastic. All of the agencies and those affected by flooding and a few others get together and arrive at a solution to the flooding problem.

However, that creates a prob-

lem in my mind because they appear to be searching for a solution that does not include flood control. If that is not true, then I am further confused because (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has declared that the federal government will not fund dredging in the bay or the rivers and that the state is opposed to any dredging because of the fish runs and they don't have any money anyway. And both have refused to issue permits so the locals can do it themselves.

The only solution that seems to work for both the state and federal governments is to buy out the victims or raise the buildings above the last flood's elevations and continue to allow the flooding problem to escalate, which will result in additional flooding inside the city each year.

More than anything else, I hope that I am wrong. But, if I am correct, then North and South County residents can be glad they are not included in this Oregon Solution.

*Don Hurd
Tillamook*

Why such limited input?

As consultant here to look for "flooding" solutions, Dick Townsend was handed a list of people to interview.

According to your Jan. 31 story, "Townsend said the commissioners gave him a list of about 50 names of people in the local government, business, environmental and agriculture sectors whom he expects to interview..."

Never mind that Tillamook County Commissioners are micromanaging those who'll be granted testimony to the repetitive flooding problems. The lack of openness about who says what is worrisome.

Would it have been too much to set some dates and call for public witnesses as to why floods are so much of a repeating threat? One assumes "Solutions" is well funded and Townsend's time here is compensated.

I know of many, many more than 50 people who want to talk about flooding. I was affected by the flooding and I don't fit into the stated categories. My church in Tillamook was affected. Recreation sites I visit felt impacts. Why the limit to these 50?

Would public meetings really have been so bad? Or was the state's dread of the six-letter cussword "dredge" just too difficult to consider?

*John Jay Ponce
Tillamook*