

# The Joint SR 530 Landslide Commission CHARTER

## Purpose

Governor Jay Inslee and Snohomish County Executive John Lovick are working together to form a joint commission in response to the SR 530 landslide of March 2014.

## Operations

The Governor and the Executive have agreed the Commission's operations should:

- Operate independently from the state and county executives
- Be led by a commission of 12 members
- Be thoughtful, fair, compassionate and credible
- Be transparent and abide by open meetings and public records laws
- Produce a report of prioritized recommendations by December 15, 2014

## Scope

One of government's preeminent roles is to promote public safety. To that end, the Commission will focus its work on identifying the top recommendations related to the SR 530 landslide that, if implemented today, would make us safer tomorrow.

- The Commission will perform a review of the incident and establish a timeline of events.  
*Intent: To better understand the collective response and inform recommendations for the future that will guide policy makers.*
- Review of the emergency response to the slide may include the initial emergency search and rescue, recovery of victims, community efforts and coordination among local, county, state, tribal and federal governments.  
*Intent: To inform recommendations for the future that will guide policy makers.*
- Recommendations may identify information gaps, lessons learned or technical needs, and they may also include proposed changes to policy, code or operational procedures.  
*Intent: To improve planning and response for similar events.*
- The Commission will not determine liability, cause or fault.  
*Intent: To not act as a substitute for the courts in any way.*

## Executive Director

An Executive Director will be appointed who is an experienced people and project manager, and can be an objective leader who will effectively help the Commission fulfill its mission. The Executive Director will serve as the non-voting Chair of the Commission. The Executive Director will also manage the Commission's budget, and will be tasked with working with non-profits and the private sector to raise any additional funds, in-kind and pro-bono resources to complete the Commission's mission.

## Facilitation

The Commission will be staffed by a facilitator and researcher/writer. The Executive Director must approve of the choice for facilitator, and can opt to replace the facilitator at any time.

## Legal

Appointed commissioners are immune from civil liability for any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision within their official capacity. (RCW 4.24.470)

## **Commissioners**

All Commissioners will be jointly appointed by the Governor and Snohomish County Executive.

In order to preserve the Commission's independence, those who were directly involved in the landslide response and recovery efforts are not eligible to serve on the Commission.

The Governor and Snohomish County Executive are committed to appointing a diverse, talented and dedicated group of people. The Commission should include representatives from the following categories: Geologists and/or Hydrologists; Emergency management experts; Land use experts/County planners; Current or retired public safety experts; Tribal and Citizen representatives; Elected/former elected officials.

## **Meetings and Time Commitment**

Commissioners will be expected to contribute 10 to 12 hours per month for the duration of the Commission's work (not including travel time).

The Commission will meet at least once a month for a minimum of two hours. The Commission is encouraged to hold these meetings in Snohomish County. Other potential subcommittee work, field work, community work, preparation and research may require Commissioners' additional attention and time.

## **Final Report**

The Commission will provide the Governor and Snohomish County Executive with a report of prioritized recommendations by December 15, 2014. The Executive Director and Commissioners may be asked to periodically present and explain recommendations to the media, legislature and other audiences beyond this deadline on a pro-bono basis.

## **Community Engagement**

The Commission is encouraged to engage the Stillaguamish Valley community in meaningful ways throughout its work, and particularly as it prepares to submit the final report.

The Commission will share a draft report of prioritized recommendations with the Governor, Snohomish County Executive by November 15, 2014 and consult with the following local leaders: Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Chair Norma Joseph; Stillaguamish Tribal Chair Shawn Yanity; Tulalip Tribal Chair Herman Williams Sr.; Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin; Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert and Oso Fire Chief Willy Harper.

## **Decision-Making**

The Commission will practice consensus decision-making. That is to say, the Commission will seek general agreement and an acceptable resolution that can be supported by the group, even if it's not the favorite of each individual. The Commission's ultimate decisions are advisory only, and may inform the future policy choices of the State of Washington or Snohomish County. The Commission itself has no other decision making authority.

## **Ethics and Public Records**

All Commissioners will abide by the ethical and professional expectations set by the state and county, and they will be required to complete online ethics and public disclosure training.

To maintain a single repository for public record keeping, Commissioners and staff will Cc the following email address on all correspondence related to the Commission: SR530commission@gov.wa.gov

In accordance with the open meeting rules, the Executive Director will post meeting agendas and materials on a Commission webpage.