



**10:00 a.m. via Zoom
January 20, 2022 - Meeting Notes**

| Flood Authority Members Present | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Representative | Jurisdiction | Representative | Jurisdiction |
| Edna Fund | Lewis County | Duane Crouse | Napavine |
| Vickie Raines | Grays Harbor County | Ron Averill | Centralia |
| Dee Anne Shaw | Aberdeen | Tye Menser | Thurston County |
| Darrin Raines | Cosmopolis | Dan Wood | Montesano |
| Brian Shay | Hoquiam | Steve Lyle | Bucoda |

| Flood Authority Members Absent | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Lonnie Willey | Pe Ell | Richard Armstrong | Oakville |
| Trent Lougheed | Chehalis | | |

| Staff Members Present | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| Scott Boettcher | Megan Sathre | Lee Napier | |

| Others Present | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Heidi St. John | David Curtis | Kim Ashmore | Nat Kale |
| J. Vander Stoep | Nick Bird | Collin Swanson | Jeffery Budnick |
| Rick Sanger | Brandon Rakes | Jay Gordon | |

| Meeting Materials |
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| https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Jan2022 |

1. Call to Order

Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made as members logged in. There was a quorum. Trent will not be the Chehalis representative anymore – a new representative will be appointed for Chehalis.

3. Approval of January 20, 2022 Agenda

Vickie asked for any objections to approve the agenda. There were no objections. There was consensus to approve. Ron made a motion to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of November 18, 2021 Meeting Notes

Vickie noted that Darrin Raines name was spelled incorrectly and asked for a correction. Vickie moved to approve the meeting notes with the correction. There were no objections. There was consensus to approve.

5. Approval of Executive Committee Action Regarding Local Project Funding Adjustments

Cloquallam Creek Erosion Management Pilot Project – This was a successful emergency project funded by the Flood Authority (11-2021) to address significant erosion risk to a home and drain field. An additional \$5,076 is needed for Grays Harbor Conservation District to meet their 5-year WDFW permit.

Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Construction – This is a substantial construction project currently underway to protect farmland and associated structures and infrastructure threatened by rapidly eroding riverbanks. An additional \$250,000 is needed for Grays Harbor Conservation District to meet current budget shortfalls and new project needs.

Hoquiam RV Park – This is an emerging project and an opportunity to proactively address a local, multi-objective flooding need for RV Park, West Levee, eroding banks, recreation, derelict in-water structures, habitat, and fish. \$19,317 in unspent Hoquiam and Aberdeen pump station funds could be used for this project.

Staff Recommendation: Based on current spending, unspent and surplus funds, and borrowing \$89,257 from Port of Chehalis Berwick Creek Project, staff recommends moving forward to fund the immediate funding assistance detailed above. There was consensus to move forward with the staff recommendation as stated.

J. Vander Stoep commented that the staff recommendation should be moved forward. However, the Port of Chehalis funding that is being used will be needed by the Port of Chehalis in the future as there is an important project on the horizon. Ron responded that we do plan to get that money back to them.

6. Approval of 2022 Flood Authority Positions

At the last meeting Scott discussed how the appointment process would proceed. He received two nominations for Vickie as chair and two nominations for Edna as vice chair. Dan moved that we cast a unanimous ballot for Vickie and Edna as chair and vice chair. The motion was approved.

Vickie – I have learned a lot over the past years of being on the board. I appreciate the banter that we share with each other at times. This issue is a very important one to me and I know it is to everyone else on the Flood Authority. The progress that we have made since 2010 has been incredible. I enjoy working with each of you. I hope to continue to serve you with the professionalism and respect you deserve.

Edna – We have been working on this for quite a while, we are not quitters. We keep moving ahead. Sometimes it feels like we wish we could do more, but reflecting back, we have made so much progress. I also want to welcome the new members to the board.

7. Update/Discussion – Debrief January 2022 Flood Event

A. J. Vander Stoep gave a presentation on flooding in the Chehalis River Basin. He has spent a lot of time with the hydrology team that has been working in this basin for more than 10 years. The presentation focused on data on the upper basin, as the lower basin data is not yet available. Looking at the numbers, the three biggest contributions to Grand Mound water flow is the Newaukum, Skookumchuck, and Chehalis River. In the recent flood, the Newaukum numbers were close to the peak 100-year flood level, the Skookumchuck was similar, and the Chehalis River was slightly less. During the 2022 flood approximately 30% of Centralia was underwater. This is a much better result compared to the 1996 or 2007 flood. Utilizing the 2022 flood statistics compared to the 1996 flood, the following properties would not have been affected if an upstream dam would have been constructed:

- Washington Elementary School
- Jefferson Lincoln Elementary School
- Fairway shopping center area
- Kresky/Gold Street commercial area
- Fairgrounds
- Long Road neighborhood – future commercial
- South/Woodland Streets neighborhood
- Mellen Street commercial area
- Mellen Street police training facility
- Borst Park
- Oakview neighborhood – west of Borst Park
- Centralia High School

B. Dave Curtis gave a presentation on how the Flood Warning System performed during the flooding. There were record flood stages for the Newaukum River near Chehalis. There were major flood stages at the Skookumchuck near Bucoda (near record), Chehalis River at Porter, and Chehalis River at Grand Mound. There were moderate flood stages at the Chehalis River at Centralia, the Satsop River near Satsop, and the Skookumchuck at Centralia. There were also minor flood stages at the Chehalis River near Doty. Dave presented graphs showing the gage levels at the record flood stages as well as some of the major flood stages.

Next, Dave explained why the flood occurred. There were very wet antecedent conditions, significant snow on the ground, and heavy rain. The rainfall totals since October 1, 2021 have been; Hoquiam (95.42 inches), Beeville (86.98), Huckleberry Ridge (67.62), Newaukum (57.75). The temperatures in the basin were quite low and cause

snow buildup. At the beginning of January the temperature and rainfall increased. The weather forecasts did a pretty accurate job of their projections of the flooding.

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Website had 25,000 user logins between Jan 1-10. The inundation maps had 73,000 hits between January 6th and 7th. The third-party posts in the Chronicle and WA Emergency Management drove a lot of traffic to the website. The High-Water Alerts increase about 10% during the event. A couple of years ago the authority funded two new gages and they provided great information during this event.

Some of the opportunities that are being looked at include creating/distributing a user survey, making website usability improvements, and working on improved forecasting lower Chehalis.

The presentation concluded with thanks to the Flood Authority for their continued support of the system which allowed them to sustain interest and keep improving even when there is not flooding. Scott commented that as a piece of technology, there was only one little glitch at TransAlta. The system performed really well, and it paid off to get the system prepped in the fall for this event to reduce the surprise factor of the flood.

- C. Kim Ashmore gave an update on China Creek Phase II. They ran into some delays at the end of 2021 due to a lack of available steel. The work is almost complete and the steel they need is supposed to arrive next week. The contractor is coming back mid-February to finish the project. Kim noted that this would have been a good opportunity to test the system, but they will have it up for the next flood. He also thinks some of the areas that got water would have had less if the structure has been completed, but luckily the damage to homes and structures was far less than in the past.
- D. Scott led a discussion about how local projects performed during the 2022 flood, including but not limited to:
- Farm Pads - Were used for animals and equipment – farmers were thankful they performed well and were able to continue their livelihoods
 - Hoquiam Raymer Street Pump – Operated for 30 hours continuously and pumped out 51,000,000 gallons of water which resulted in a dry area that would not have normally been dry,
 - Montesano WWTP – Did not wash away!
 - Flood Warning System – It worked!
 - Bucoda Flood Vents – Performed as advertised, no homes took water inside. Several homes in the north Market Street area have water-soaked insulation, stringers. No foundations of the retrofitted homes were damaged.
 - Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Project – Flooding overtopped active construction site. No appreciable extra erosion. Structures placed to date appear to be working.

- China Creek – Did hold back a lot of water, even though Phase II is not complete. City expects to hold back more water in years to come once Phase II is complete. No structures we flooded from underneath
- Cloquallam Creek Erosion Pilot Project – Emergency riverbank project to protect home and septic drain field. This project was accelerated with design, permitting, funding, and construction to happening in 10 weeks!

8. Update Discussion – OCB Erosion Management Program

Nat Kale gave a presentation on erosion management. The problem is that erosion on streams and riverbanks harms property owners and can harm aquatic species and their habitat. In addition, emergency repairs with rock (hard armoring) are often detrimental for river and stream habitats. The program will likely include a cost-share element and will need to demonstrate balance of habitat and flood damage benefits. The items that still need to be determined for the project include: Emergency vs. non-emergency projects, Public vs. private projects, and additional non-project elements (education, mapping, etc.). The timeline for the project will span between 2020 and 2024. The pilot projects include the 36 Lower Falls Creek Road, Port of Grays Harbor Haul Road, and Satsop 3.5 Willow Planting. The next steps will include; exploring a planning pilot with the Flood Authority, compiling lessons learned from pilot projects and other notable recent erosion projects, and making recommendations to CBB in early 2023.

10. Chehalis Basin Board

Jay Gordon introduced himself to the new members of the Flood Authority and the public. He is an agricultural representative. He noted that a stunningly low amount of flood damage occurred to farms during the flood. He also expressed interest in learning more about the China Creek flooding and non-huge dam options to share with interested parties.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12. Financial Reports

Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported that expenditures for November were \$27,581.29 for salaries, wages, and consulting services. Expenditures for December were \$8,848.34 for the same budget lines. The budget was amended to fully fund the Flood Authority through 2023. The state auditor is in process of determining whether we will be going through an audit.

15. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics, and Location

The next meeting will occur on March 17, 2022, 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment was at 11:42.