

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**Satsop Business Park
Elma, WA
9:00 A.M.
May 16, 2019 - Meeting Notes**

Board Members Present: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Shawn O'Neill, City of Napavine; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Cynthia Wilson, Town of Bucoda; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis (via phone); J Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell (via phone)

Board Members Absent: Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville

Others Present: Jay Gordon, Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Bart Gernhart, WSDOT; Stephen Willis; Steve Seville, David Evans & Associates; Rob Wilson and Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor County Public Works; Miranda Smith, Natural Systems Design; Alissa Shay, Port of Grays Harbor County; Terry Willis; Natalie Osowski, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Leif Embereson, Natural Systems Design (via phone)

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from April 18, 2019
- Financial Report
- See all materials at https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#May2019

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Raines asked to add an additional comment period after Item 5. The agenda was approved by consensus with the change.

4. Approval of April 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were approved as written by consensus.

Chair Raines introduced Alissa Shay with the Port of Grays Harbor. Alissa spoke about the Satsop Business Park, stating the 1800-acre park is operated by Grays Harbor. It has 1200 acres of managed forestland, 50 customer agreements, and 300-500 employees. She stated there has been a lot of growth in the past several years and that warehouse and office space is available for more growth.

5. Appointment of Flood Authority Representative to the Chehalis Basin Board

Scott explained that there are staggered terms on the Chehalis Basin Board. Jay Gordon's term is expiring and letters of interest to fill that position were received from Ron Figlar-Barnes, Jay Gordon, Tye Menser and Dan Wood. At the last Flood Authority meeting, Dee Anne Shaw recommended that whoever was elected for this position be required to attend the Flood Authority meetings, which became a criterion for applying.

The applicants spoke briefly; Dan withdrew his letter and Ron Figlar-Barnes was not present. There were no questions of the applicants.

A paper vote of 12 jurisdictions yielded 10 votes for Jay Gordon and 2 votes for Tye Menser.

5b. Public Comment

Terry Willis, a resident in Satsop Valley, spoke about the flooding and erosion in the valley. She stated that in November the Satsop River began an avulsion that is now threatening her and others' properties. She stressed that action must be taken. The landowners put in for an emergency permit for a gravel bar for a temporary fix but the Army Corps of Engineers was against that and wants to wait for a bigger plan. Terry does not want to go through another winter without some type of fix; there is valuable soil being lost and it is not good for fish.

Vickie stated that Rep. Blake asked for \$1.4 million for this project and it was not approved. Terry stated she appreciates the offer and she is hopeful the legislators will come up with something. Scott stated after the avulsion occurred, he went to OCB for \$160,000 for an engineering plan. There was no time to wait for the budget session.

6. Presentation: Lower Satsop Reach-Scale Design, Costs and Current Funding

Miranda Smith presented a PowerPoint on the Lower Satsop Assessment and Design. She explained how geomorphic clusters are proposed to put the flow back into the abandoned oxbow and to improve riparian function. Miranda stated there would be three phases: 2020, 2021 and 2030. There was discussion with group that included: taking action now to prevent further losses in the future; and valuing the cost of lost agricultural land.

7. Update: Local Projects

Scott stated \$3.5 million needs to be carried forward for the wastewater treatment plant for Montesano. There was a delay in this project because of copper discovered. Approximately \$4.3 million will be carried forward to RCO. He encouraged all jurisdictions to have staff complete their billings so that there is a good understanding of what is left over (unspent) on projects.

a. Funding Reinstallation of Riverside Rain Gage

Scott gave background information for the Riverside rain gage that had been removed. It can now be re-installed and brought back online for \$4,795. He asked if there was consensus to move forward. There was consensus.

b. New Local Projects Sign

Scott showed illustrations of a proposed new sign for Flood Authority projects. There were some ideas for recommended changes. Scott stated he would come up with a couple more versions with the Executive Committee. There was consensus on that proposal.

8. Update: Flood Warning System

This item was not discussed.

9. Action: Lewis County Acting as Fiscal Agent for the Flood Authority

Scott's staff report explained the duties of Lewis County as Fiscal Agent for the Flood Authority. After a brief discussion, he asked if there was consensus for Lewis County to continue in that capacity. There was consensus.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Financial Report

Lee reported that expenses ending on April 30, 2019 were \$8561.47, which included salaries and wages for Lewis County staff and consulting fees for Scott. There were no questions.

12. Reports

a. Chair Report

There was no Chair report.

b. Member Reports

Lee stated the Flood Authority had received an award and there is another one coming. She was unsure where they should be displayed.

Centralia – Ron stated Phase 1 for China Creek was completed with a ceremony.

Aberdeen – Kris stated the pump station is 90% complete and the city is working with the State Emergency Management for additional funding. The South Side Levee project is close to completion.

Cosmopolis – Darrin stated the new dam is working great, as is the fish ladder, and that small salmon are starting their migration to the Chehalis River.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team Report.

13. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 18, 2019 in Lewis County at the Riverside Fire Station.

Scott is working on a meeting with the Flood Authority and OCB to integrate the two. He is also working on the return on investment for local projects. His chart showed specific projects, and overall, they are about 7 to 1.

Dan suggested that protection of human life, not just damage to property, be included, and perhaps fish and wildlife and food production. Scott stated, for example, that there is value to taking down the old meat packing plant and that there are many other intangibles (values).

Edna thanked Scott for all he does.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

DRAFT