

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**112 N Main Street, Montesano
9:00 A.M.
September 20, 2018 - Meeting Notes**

Board Members Present: Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Dee Anne Shaw, City of Aberdeen; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Cindy Wilson, Thurston County; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis

Board Members Absent: Jim Haslett, City of Napavine; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville

Others Present: Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Steve Schmitz, KPFF; Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology; Jim Kramer; Rich Osborne; French Wetmore

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from August 16, 2018
- Financial Report
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Sept2018

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of August 2018 Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the meeting notes and they were approved by consensus.

5. Update Animated PPT on Chehalis Basin Strategy, EIS Scoping

Chrissy Bailey presented a presentation to the group regarding the larger Chehalis Basin Strategy that highlighted work to date as well as timelines.

Chrissy distributed Focus Sheets.

Discussion followed. Brian noted that the presentation seemed to highlight farm pads. While important to the basin, he suggested highlighting other projects such as China Creek or the Cosmopolis Dam. Vickie responded that the OCB members present would take that under advisement. Ron suggested adding projects with restoration components; examples are China Creek and Fry Creek.

Alan asked if this presentation is directed towards local government or the public? Vickie responded everyone, who would be interested in outreach. Alan questioned if the presentation might want to clarify the roles of various groups. Vickie responded that the website had that information available. She also added that a bio as part of the presentation would be helpful.

Vickie appreciated the map included in the slide. It's interactive and allows the public to find projects along with project details.

6. OCB 2019-21 Budget Development Process/Timeline

Chrissy reported that the OCB is in the process of developing their budget. Detailed information will be brought to the OCB during their October 4th meeting.

7. Lessons Learned from Thurston County

Cindy Wilson, Thurston County, spoke to the group about their experience with the Thurston County Home Elevation Grant provided by the Flood Authority local projects. She highlighted the project with a Power Point slide show and videos.

The outcome was to elevate three homes. None of the homeowners were interested in buyouts. Other project deliverables that are available to this group as a resource are: Handouts, Property Owners Guide, Property Owners Checklist and Non-Conversion Notice on Property.

Discussion followed. Dan was struck most by this presentation that three homes made a difference countywide. He suggested that this type of message needs to be shared locally. Kris added that Aberdeen residents are not understanding that a benefit to one location also provides more wide spread benefits.

Ron asked if the properties were rentals or owner occupied. Cindy said they were owner occupied. This FEMA requirement often limits the number of participants.

J. agreed that there was an element of this scale in other projects, such as the north shore levee and the dam. The challenge is to communicate the benefits to the community when a specific home is located outside of a flood-prone area.

8. Demonstration of Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Project Planning Tool

Rich Osborne, Project Manager UW Olympic Natural Resource Center, presented an overview of this pilot project funded by the Flood Authority.

Rich reviewed the history of the HWS. The intent of this tool was to document all the salmon restoration work done by lead entities across the state.

Due to the current work in the Chehalis Basin, an opportunity presented itself to use the HWS as a tool to track work done by lead entity as well the Flood Authority, OCB, and other local projects sponsors.

Recently the software was sold by Paladin to Dudes Solutions, who informed the state they are not interested in continuing to host this software for the state. This is important to this group because this news came after Rich submitted a funding proposal to this group. Therefore, this project is in a holding pattern until the hosting of the web tool that integrates the data is resolved between the state and the new owner.

Discussion followed. Alan asked what the value is to the group from the HWS. Rich responded that if the group is looking at cumulative work, HWS provides this information. Additionally, the system allows the project sponsor(s) to see work completed as well as the historical record of landscape changes in the basin.

The group discussed the benefits of data housed in HWS that would inform and track culvert barriers and replacements.

9. Update/Discussion/Action: Approval of 2019-21 Local Projects Prioritization List

Vickie discussed with the groups various funding requests from the group. Vicki suggested funding a quick analysis of the Chehalis-Flood Storage and Habitat Enhancement Master Plan Phase I project to determine if it ought to remain on the list.

Scott reminded the group of the conversation last month about 17 projects that were vetted by the Local Projects Committee and presented for funding consideration by the Flood Authority last month. Since that time, discussion continued as to whether or not some of the projects might be better funded with alternative sources such as FEMA.

The group discussed possible partial funding for the Fry Creek Flood Restoration Project. This project is now listed on the "Alternate funding" list for the WCRI source.

Scott presented to the group projects, status updates and funding requests from the Local Projects Committee.

The question to the group was a recommendation about funding local projects. Vickie asked the group for input on the recommendation of \$6.8 million to fund the first four on the list as the recommendation to the OCB. Ron added the suggestion to send the entire list with the first four as recommended. Jim Kramer suggested the OCB may want more information about the Hoquiam North Shore and West Levee projects. He asked that someone from Hoquiam attend the October 4th meeting. Vickie also suggested someone ought to address the Chehalis Flood Storage project at the October 4th meeting.

J. added information related to the Berwick culvert project. He stated that it was a combination habitat and flood reduction project that included various partners such as the Industrial Commission and a private company. This project, if completed, makes a significant difference to the community. In response, Vickie suggested the group consider partial funding as an option. Scott also offered to confirm with the sponsors if the dollar amounts were accurate.

Vickie brought back to the group the recommendation of \$6.8 million to fund the first four on the list as the recommendation to the OCB. Scott will also reach out to sponsors to inquire if the dollar amounts could be reduced with a follow-up report during the November meeting.

10. Local Projects (2012-19)

Scott presented the projects on a map to highlight the work done to date.

11. Reallocation of Unspent Flood Authority Facilitation Funds

Scott reminded the group that this was follow up from the last meeting. He did ask WEST for a cost estimate and scope of work. WEST will be installing the webcams in preparation prior to winter. He did

request three webcams. The cost estimate was \$41,850.00, approved by Commissioners as part of Res 18-285.

Scott also discussed with the group ownership and access agreements for the various components of the Flood warning System (webcams, gages, etc.) and the need to come up with a longer-term plan for ownership. Scott will explore options and approaches over next several months.

Scott stated that following the Lewis County Annual Flood Meeting of November 1, 2018, WEST will offer a hands-on training of the updated Warning System with Webcams, dashboards and more. The details are under development.

Scott noted that one gage in Pe Ell is now off line since this past June as USGS is no longer funding it.

13. Flood Insurance Assistance to Aberdeen, Hoquiam Residents.

Scott reported for French. Scott reviewed the project earlier this year in Lewis County. A similar presentation will be made on November 29th to the Grays Harbor communities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. Scott showed the notice that will be sent out.

14. Public Comment

Alan shared with the group about a meeting he attended last night. The Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan that was discussed is notable as it's rated as one of the top plans in the country. Alan noticed that in that plan there were some things done by this group that Thurston County does not do and vice versa.

15. Financial Report

Lee reported the expenditures ending August 31st were \$13,619.37 and that all payments of claims via warrants issued by the Auditor are entered into the Commissioners Legislative Meeting minutes. She also noted that since the last meeting the Commissioners considered and approved resolutions to amend the Flood Early Warning System and the Floodplain Management contracts with West Consulting and French & Associates. The next financial report will include this action.

9. Reports

a. Chair's Report

The next OCB meeting is October 4, 2018.

b. Member Reports

Lewis County – Commissioner Fund was interviewed at the former meat packing plant about flooding. The radio station KNKX was out of Tacoma. They also offer to share information in the future. On Monday, Lewis County toured the area with several legislators.

Aberdeen - Aberdeen reached out to French to continue CRS program enrollment. They will be scheduling a CAV.

Cosmopolis - Frank invited everyone to attend the Mill Creek dam dedication on September 29th at noon.

Centralia - The China Creek project is progressing with Phase I expected to be completed by the end of the fish window. Pictures are available on Centralia's website.

Pe Ell - J. reminded the group of where they were 7 years ago. Today we have several projects completed or in progress, along with several members returning to participate or joining the group.

Chehalis - Trent reminded the group that November 1 is the Annual Flood Preparation meeting for Lewis County.

Aberdeen - Dee Anne shared her appreciation for the levee system projects.

Thurston County -Saturday September 29, 2018 is the Thurston County annual meeting.

Bucoda - Alan announced the Bucoda activities for the month. He invited the group to visit Bucoda.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team report.

10. Confirm next regular meeting

The next meeting will be on November 15, 2018 Aberdeen Rotary Log Pavilion 9am to noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.