



10:00 a.m. via Zoom
March 17, 2022 - Meeting Notes

Flood Authority Members Present			
Representative	Jurisdiction	Representative	Jurisdiction
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Duane Crouse	Napavine
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Steve Lyle	Bucoda
Tye Menser	Thurston County	Lonnie Willey	Pe Ell
Darrin Raines	Cosmopolis	Dan Wood	Montesano
Richard Armstrong	Oakville	Ron Averill	Centralia
Brian Shay	Hoquiam		

Flood Authority Members Absent			
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County	Dee Anne Shaw	Aberdeen

Staff Members Present			
Scott Boettcher	Megan Sathre	Lee Napier	

Others Present			
Brandon Rakes	Jay Gordon	Nat Kale	Colin Swanson

1. Call to Order

Edna Fund, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Introductions & Determination of Quorum

11 Flood authority members were present, there was a quorum. New member, Tony Ketchum, introduced himself. The other members of Flood Authority introduced themselves.

3. Approval of March 17, 2022, Agenda

Edna asked for a vote to approve of the agenda. There was consensus to approve.

4. Approval of January 20, 2022, Meeting Notes

Edna asked for a vote to approve the meeting notes. There was consensus to approve.

5. Meeting Materials

See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Mar2022

6. Local Projects Update

A. 2021-2023 Local Projects

Scott gave an update on the 2021-2023 local projects. For this funding period, the Flood Authority was allocated \$4 million. All the projects that are under way and still under development are at a total of \$4,081,196. Some of the projects will come in under the estimated total putting the Flood Authority about \$15,000 under budget. The Flood Authority also has an obligation to return about \$90,000 to the Port of Chehalis that was borrowed to do the lower Satsop project. These are the following projects in processes:

- Fry Creek Restoration, Flood Reductions Phase IIIa (Design)
- Mill Creek Multi-Objective Implementation Phase II (Plan)
- Cloquallam Creek Erosion Management Pilot (Construct)
- Lower Satsop Emergency Riverbank Protections (Design)
- Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation (Construct)
- 10th Street Pump Station (Design)
- Queen Ave Pump Station (Design)
- Berwick Creek Flood Reduction and Restoration (Design)
- Chehalis Industrial Park Phase I (Hydraulic Modeling) (Plan)
- Farragut Street Pump Station (Design)
- Hoquiam RV Park (Design)
- S.F. Chehalis R./Boisfort Valley CMZ (Plan)
- Chehalis Industrial Park Phase II (Design)

B. Additional Available Presentations

Scott noted that on the EZ view website, additional presentations are available that have been previously presented. They include information on the Centralia-Chehalis Airport Pump, Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and Erosion Projects and Flood Warning System.

C. Local Projects Looking Ahead

2023-25 Local Projects Recruitment Process:

The Projects Committee is made up of the following individuals: Ron, Brian, Trent – replaced by Tony, Darrin, Steven, and Scott. This committee will present DRAFT 2023-25 Local Projects Recruitment Process and timeline for review and discussion at the next Flood Authority meeting. 2023-25 Local Projects Recruitment Process will establish separate review and scoring criteria for “Planning Projects” versus “Construction Projects.”

2022 Chehalis Basin Board Budget Check-Ins:

The Chehalis Basin Board members agreed at their 11/04/2021 meeting to hold “check-ins on the overall spending plan, between April/June 2022 for the first check-in and September/October 2022 for the second check-in” Chehalis Basin Board members agreed at their 8/16/2021 meeting that: “Unobligated reserves were reduced, for both Aquatic Species Habitat Restoration & Flood Damage Reduction categories. For both elements, \$8.53M of the \$30.87M would be held as unobligated until 2022 Board check-in(s)” and “\$2M of the \$8.53M would be reserved as contingency for the flood retention facility/airport levee budget line item, to be obligated by the OCB Director only for unforeseen costs associated with completing the final SEPA & NEPA EISs.”

Next Steps:

Projects Committee and Staff will be prepared to assist in the 2022 budget check-in process with local projects spending and project completion information as well opportunities for additional and shovel-ready investments.

Scott also noted that some of the projects that could benefit from the additional funding from the Chehalis Basin Board include Port of Chehalis, Boistfort Channel Migration zone planning, flood warning system, city of Chehalis planning process, and some project in Elma.

6. Flood Warning System Update/Discussion

The the warning system was well used during the January flood and did well. After the flood, we sent out a survey to a couple hundred people and got about 60 responses back. We also held a meeting with the gages group. Since then, several next steps have been identified to improve the Flood Warning System.

Update 2017 Gage Master Plan to set next step directions, priorities. We replaced the two gages in Centralia, put in webcams, prioritized which types of stream gauges we would focus on, and out of it came the warning system. All this came from the 2017 recommendations. We now think it would be good to update the gage master plan. In conjunction with stakeholders, we would set priorities for next five years. It would cost approximately \$50,000; however, we do not currently have funding. The timeline for this project would be 3 to 6 months.

Locate webcam in Aberdeen pointed at Herron Street Bridge. Move webcam from Chapman Farms (Satsop River) to location with greater viewership. Place river elevation markings on bridge for easy viewing and greater public awareness. The cost would be \$3,952.35 (funding potentially already secured). The Timeline is April/May/June 2022.

Locate new gage in China Creek. Centralia has identified this as a need to better understand flows into Centralia and mid-basin. We are currently talking with Kim Ashmore to determine the best location. The cost is to be determined (~\$6K to \$10K). The timeline is also to be determined.

Upgrade Thrash Creek stream gage to bridge-mount radar gage. We have moved gages due to tree growth. This same thing is happening to the Thrash Creek gage. We want to continue to upgrade the system with more accurate and user-friendly gaging technologies, such as using a mounting radar gage on a bridge. The cost is to be determined (~\$10K to \$15K). Timeline is to be determined.

Ron – The current gage is good at telling us when the water is high, but not when it is too low. The radar gage will help to determine when the water is too low.

Outreach/social media. Social media has a tremendous role in keeping users informed during the last flood event. Build on 2022 success of social media (e.g., Chronicle Facebook postings) as a foundational information dissemination tool. There is no cost for this project. Timeline is August - October 2022.

Ron – We can underestimate the power that information has. In the 2007 flood we only had a few hours to prepare. After the 2007 flood this warning system became one of our highest priorities. This system is now being copied by other jurisdictions. Due to this system, the damage of this recent flood was significantly less than the 2007 flood.

A formal implementation recommendation will be presented to the Flood Authority at the next meeting.

The Flood Warning System is paid by state capital budget dollars. However, this money cannot be used to maintain the system. It is now maintained by WEST consultants who designed and developed the system. They are paid by Lewis, Thurston, and Grays Harbor County. Lewis County shares maintenance

cost with the city of Centralia and Chehalis. Thurston and Grays Harbor pay for their amount. Each county pays a percentage based on the population that benefit from the warning system as well as the areas that have the most damage/risk. WEST has been paid since 2010 about \$600,000. Not all of that has been done for just the Flood Warning System. The entire system has been about \$300,000 - \$400,000, which is small compared to the benefit it provides.

7. Outreach Update/Discussion

Scott discussed setting a schedule for another round of Flood Authority presentations to local governments.

In 2013, 2014, and 2015 (in particular), the Flood Authority was very active in providing outreach and education to basin governments. These outreach presentations were reported as helpful and informative. With busyness and pandemic, there has not been a real outreach, education program for some time. It is important to reestablish such an effort as (a) there are many new players and activities, (b) there are many new local government members, and (c) the basin has recently experienced significant flooding making flooding fresh on peoples' minds.

Some points to highlight in future outreach and education presentation include the following. Role of Flood Authority versus role of OCB, CBB, Chehalis Partnership, etc. Flood Authority successes (Local Projects, Flood Warning System), and what makes them successful. How the Flood Authority can help (future local projects, future opportunistic shovel ready projects).

Scott will bring to the next Flood Authority meeting (5/19/2022) a proposed outreach presentation for input, discussion, and then finalization. Following finalization, outreach presentations with Basin governments will begin in June 2022 with schedule prioritization being given to those governments offering in-person presentation, discussion.

Edna – we also want to know who is having in person meetings versus virtual meetings for outreach.

8. Chehalis Basin Board – Jay Gordon

Everyone has their nose to the grindstone. There were reports at the last meeting and they are working on EIS on upstream storage above Pe Ell. There's lots of work on the Salmon projects too. Jay missed the meeting on the Skookumchuck Dam but watched the recording and Department of Ecology did a great job! He was impressed with how much the Department of Ecology has already developed.

This information came from an email from Nat Kale, provided by Edna Fund:

Thanks to everyone who attended our Skookumchuck Dam Webinar last week. We were grateful to see so many participants, and happy to have a chance to respond to all the thoughtful questions posted by you all.

The [webinar recording](#) is now live on our [Skookumchuck Dam web page](#).

In a few weeks we will be posting answers to all the questions asked during the Q & A section of the webinar to the page as well. You will receive a second email from me once they are posted.

I also have a **correction** to a response I gave to a question about instream flow rules. Contrary to what I said, the Skookumchuck River *is* subject to an instream flow rule. The rule was adopted in 1976 in [Chapter 173-522 WAC \(Water Resources Program in the Chehalis Basin, WRIA-22 and](#)

[23](#)). The instream flow rule is junior to TransAlta's water right (but senior to some other water rights issued in the basin). It varies from 160 cubic feet per second (cfs) from December through May down to 35 cfs August through October.

If you have more questions about Office of Chehalis Basin's Skookumchuck Dam project, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Nat: Phase I took place between March and October 2021. During this phase we looked at short term actions. Phase II included a bigger team that is looking at long term options. Phase II will end this fall/winter.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Financial Reports

Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported that expenditures for January were \$8,423.77 for salaries and wages (for Lee and Megan) and consulting services (for Scott). Expenditures for February were \$8,233.41 for the same budget lines.

The O&M cost for the early warning system will be going out this month for billing. We thought the state auditors were going to audit the Flood authority program again. After some conversation, we found that the Flood Authority will not be audited outside of the county's regular audit.

11. Reports

A. Chair's Report

Edna – I was in the Lewis County Historical Museum and found an article in the Chronicle on a previously built Skookumchuck dam and she will be doing further research.

B. Member's report

Ron – the city of Centralia is still working on the completion of the China Creek project. At the last meeting Kim Ashmore gave some information on the China Creek project. We would have had a lot more water/damage if we had not implemented the China Creek project.

Brian – Aberdeen and Hoquiam have been putting out a bid to replace the Fry Creek pump station and it will go to bid at the beginning of next month. The estimated amount is \$16 million. We received a \$10 million grant to do final design on the Northshore Levee. We have a lot of momentum right now to solving flooding in our community.

C. Correspondence

Dave Curtis was nominated for a national reward for the "David R. Maidment Award for Exemplary Contributions to Water Resources Data and Information Systems." We provided a letter of support.

12. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics, and Location

The next meeting will occur on May 19, 2022, 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment was at 11:17.