



**10:00 a.m. via Zoom  
March 16, 2023 - Meeting Notes**

<b>Flood Authority Members Present</b>			
<b>Representative</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Tye Menser	Thurston County
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	Ron Averill	Centralia
Richard Armstrong	Oakville	Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
Steven Lyle	Bucoda	Tony Ketchum	Chehalis
J. Vander Stoep	Pe Ell	Darrin Raines	Cosmopolis

<b>Flood Authority Members Absent</b>			
Dee Anne Shaw	Aberdeen	Duane Crouse	Napavine
Mike Olden	Montesano		

<b>Staff Members Present</b>			
Scott Boettcher	Megan Sathre	Cheryl Vincent	

<b>Others Present</b>			
J. Paul Rinehimer	Jay Gordon	Nat Kale	Jeffery Budnick
Brad Murphy			

**Meeting Materials:**

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Mar2023](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Mar2023)

**1. Call to Order**

Vickie Raines, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

**2. Introductions & Determination of Quorum**

Introductions were made. 10 Flood Authority members were present, there was a quorum.

**3. Approval of March 16, 2023 Agenda**

Scott called for a vote to approve the meeting agenda for March 16, 2023. The agenda was approved.

#### **4. Approval of January 19, 2023 Meeting Notes**

Scott called for a vote to approve the meeting notes from January 19, 2023. The meeting notes were approved.

#### **5. Approval of Process to Refill Expiring Chehalis Basin Board Position**

Scott shared that Jay Gordon, one of the Flood Authority's four-year appointments to the Chehalis Basin Board, ends on July 1, 2023. The position needs to be refilled for the 2023-2027 period. Anyone interested in applying for the position will need to submit his or her request and documentation to Scott by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Scott asked if the Flood Authority would like to follow the process presented. There was a motion to accept the process as presented. The motion passed.

#### **6. National Weather Service Meeting Re: Forecasting Improvements**

At the January 19, 2023 Flood Authority meeting, staff presented a draft letter to the National Weather Service (NWS) seeking a meeting to discuss lower basin forecasting improvements. That letter was finalized and sent on February 1st. A meeting was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> with NWS and other entities to discuss forecast improvements for the Skookumchuck river and lower Chehalis River. Moving forward, all parties will review the data that NWS could use to generate improved river forecasts for Skookumchuck and Chehalis and identify data deficiencies. WEST Consultants are going to work with the NWS to define and document what it would take to develop a lower Chehalis River model and memorialize that in WEST's forthcoming updated Basin Gage Plan.

Edna shared that it was a good meeting and it will be important to remember that whatever is put in place will need to be maintained. Nat has reached out to NWS to figure out just what information they need to get started on the Skookumchuck.

#### **7. Gage Alert Data Dashboard (#1)**

Cheryl presented the dashboard, explaining what information is available and how to navigate. The goal is to have a dashboard that is informative and user friendly.

#### **8. Approval of Time Extensions**

RCO manages and administers State Capital Budget funding for Flood Authority local projects. This is done through RCO's PRISM contracts and grants data system. Changes to scope, budget, and timeliness require formal amendments in PRISM. RCO is seeking the Flood Authority's approval for several time extensions requested by local sponsors

(see Agenda Item #8, Table 1 – Time Extensions and New End Dates). Scott briefly described the projects listed in Table 1.

Scott recommended that the Flood Authority approve Table 1 time extensions to allow time for sponsors to complete their projects and provide RCO the formal basis needed to make these time extensions. There was a motion to approve the proposed extensions. The motion passed.

### **9. Current/Proposed Local Projects**

Scott displayed the 2023-25 local projects tables and gave an overview of the new and current projects.

### **10. RCO Metrics/Local Projects Dashboard (#2)**

Scott and Cheryl have begun working with RCO and OCB to set up new metrics for 2023-25 funding that will generate data that will be used (e.g., to populate local projects data dashboard). Scott described the metrics. Staff will continue to “field test” the new metrics to see how hard or easy it is to get the data for each of the metrics. Cheryl will work with OCB to see if an environmental justice metric would be applicable here. Final metrics will be presented for approval at the next Flood Authority meeting so RCO can accordingly update their PRISM contracts and grants data system in time for the 2023-25 funding cycle.

Cheryl displayed and described the Local Projects Dashboard #2.

### **11. Survey/ILA**

Scott worked with Lewis County staff to create a survey to collect data on the Flood Authority looking forward. The survey is now closed and the data/responses are available to review. Scott walked through the data received. The information is important to the Interlocal Agreement – the purpose and goals.

Vickie added that it may be good to distribute the survey to more people to get additional responses. Brian said that he thought it was great for the intended audience and it doesn't seem necessary to distribute it further at this time. Ron shared that rather than re-opening the survey, it may be good to share the results of the survey to the city councils. Scott said he will put together that information and distribute it for those who want to share it further.

Based on the survey responses and the conversations being had with the Flood Authority, Scott will update the ILA and bring the draft to be voted on at the next meeting. Scott will distribute the ILA in advance of the next meeting so everyone can have some time to review it.

## **12. May 18, 2023 Flood Authority Meeting**

Scott gave an overview of the items that will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **13. Chehalis Basin Board (Jay Gordon)**

Jay Gordon shared that the capital budget is going to be released next Monday. OCB has spent a fair amount of time in the past meetings on the land work and Skookumchuck dam.

Jay has replaced J. Vander Stoep on the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan committee group.

## **14. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public who wished to comment.

## **15. Financial Reports**

Scott shared on behalf of Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported that expenditures for January were \$17,269.07 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting services (Scott). Expenditures for February were \$15,393.27 for the same budget lines.

## **16. Reports**

### **A. Chair's Report**

Chair Raines did not have anything to report.

### **B. Member's report**

Brian shared that he is hopeful the budget will be promising next week.

Tye shared that the Thurston County Voters approved two new Commissioners to the Board of County Commissioners. The way the district lines have been drawn, the new Commissioner will be connected with this effort.

### **C. Correspondence**

The only correspondence was the previously stated letter with the National Weather Service.

## **18. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics and Location**

The next meeting will occur on May 18, 2023, 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment was at 11:41.