



**10:00 AM Virtual Meeting**

**November 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	Richard Armstrong	Oakville
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	Ron Averill	Centralia
Nick Bird	Aberdeen	Darrin Raines	Cosmopolis
Lonnie Willey	Pe Ell	Mike Olden	Montesano
Steven Lyle	Bucoda	Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis		

<b>Flood Authority Members Absent</b>			
Duane Crouse	Napavine	Tye Menser	Thurston County

<b>Staff Members Present</b>			
Erika Britney	Lee Napier	Megan Sathre	Scott Boettcher
Katrina Sukola	Sarah Hensley	Katie Johnson	

<b>Others Present</b>			
Jay Gordon	Andreas Kammereck	Kat Dickey	Matt Dillin, CFZCD
Peter Regan	J. Vander Stoep	Brandon Rakes	Erik Martin, CFZCD

**Meeting Materials:**

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#November%202023](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#November%202023)

**1. Call to Order**

Vickie Raines, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Vickie announced that she needed to leave for another meeting at 10:30, at which time Edna Fund, Vice Chair, would take over the meeting.

**2. Determination of Quorum**

9 Flood Authority members were present, there was a quorum.

### **3. Approval of November 16, 2023, Agenda**

A motion was made to amend the order of the agenda. To accommodate member schedules Item 14 would follow Item 6. The agenda was approved as amended.

### **4. Approval of September 28, 2023, Meeting Notes**

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from September 28, 2023. The meeting notes were approved.

### **5. Affirm Executive Committee Action October 9, 2023**

Scott presented a proposal of how to spend the \$12,104.31 that was left over from the last spending biennium. He proposed allocating that money to the Flood Warning System (FWS). This proposal was approved by the Executive Committee on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the Flood Authority members were in agreement with the proposal.

### **6. Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District**

Matt Dillin and Erik Martin, with the Chehalis Flood Zone Control District, gave a presentation providing an update on the Flood Retention Expandable (FRE) facility.

Due to a sensitive cultural area, the FZCD explored minimization alignments upstream and downstream. Both locations proved to be feasible, but they chose the upstream alignment since its location around a bend in the river addresses tribal concerns regarding visual impacts. Moving upstream also allows for a different type of phased construction. J. Vander Stoep shared that the Department of Ecology wrote the Draft EIS with the understanding that the river would be blocked for three years, negatively affecting fish passage. However, construction phasing has been significantly changed to allow an open channel during construction. A bypass channel will be constructed on the right side of the bank while the left side of the structure is built. Then, the river can be switched over and the right side of the structure will be built. J. also shared that the Department of Ecology assumed that a six-mile reservoir would be built behind the facility, which would result in the removal of trees and vegetation, which would have a negative impact on air quality and water temperature. However, there will be a vegetation plan to mitigate these impacts.

There has been geologic testing as Phase 1 included high level feasibility studies at each location. The project is now moving to a Phase 2 feasibility study and design. Drilling will begin early next year.

Ongoing work includes revisions, fish passage design update, construction phasing, slope stability/geotechnical analysis, access roads, planning, operations, vegetation management plan, and mitigation plans.

Matt and Erik concluded their presentation by providing the project timeline.

## **7. Current Local Projects**

Katrina and Scott gave an update on current local projects (see table for more information). There are a total of 15 projects being tracked.

## **8. NWS and Skookumchuck Reservoir Gage**

Scott provided information on the National Weather Service and the Skookumchuck Reservoir Gage. The National Weather Service is, at the request of the Flood Authority, developing a river forecast model for the Skookumchuck river. Key to the NWS's model is accurate, reliable, daily data regarding the Skookumchuck reservoir (water volume, water height, change over time, spillage, etc.). Currently the existing gaging/reporting system is not reliable – not reliable for the NWS, and not reliable for the Flood Authority and its Flood Warning System. A new gage is needed at a cost of ~\$37K to ~\$42K to meet the needs of the NWS and the Flood Warning System for accurate, reliable, daily data.

Scott recommended that the Flood Authority should seek approval to immediately implement this new “project” (i.e., Purchase/Install/Calibrate new Skookumchuck Reservoir gage) from the Chehalis Basin Board at their 12-07-2023 meeting. The Flood Authority had consensus to move forward with the recommendation. Scott noted that he would follow up with Chair Raines since she was not in attendance for this item.

Aberdeen is willing to contribute \$50,000 towards the installation of the new gage.

## **9. CBB and Local Projects “Masterplan”**

Erika shared that during the Chehalis Strategic Planning process at the Chehalis Basin Board (CBB) on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, they discussed the need for the Flood Authority to clarify their process and criteria for selecting projects. Next steps include developing a presentation for the January CBB meeting that includes two graphics showing local investment planning areas and population density in the basin, as well as a presentation from 2020 where the Flood Authority forecasted the need for local investment (regional) planning. Also, the Flood Authority will proceed with developing a list of future projects that reference long-term planning and local investment (regional) planning efforts.

Edna indicated she wants to be included in the meetings to develop the presentation and shared that she is passionate about the work that the Flood Authority is doing. Erika asked anyone else who is interested in participating in the presentation to let her know.

## **10. Local Investment Planning – Lower Basin**

Erika provided information on Local Investment Planning in the Lower Basin and looking ahead. She shared that Local Investment planning is how the Flood Authority is approaching long term planning to identify and prioritize future local projects. These planning processes will identify and prioritize local projects and feed into development and implementation of the Chehalis Long-Term Strategy.

Erika proposed that staff plan a series of presentations on Local Investment Planning efforts at each Flood Authority meeting. These presentations would cover the Lower Basin / Joint Surface Water Comprehensive Plan, the Satsop River Investment Plan, the Chehalis River Mile 13-20 Analysis and Investment Plan, the Comprehensive Flood Strategy and Investment Plan for City of Chehalis and Port of Chehalis, and the S.F. Chehalis Boistfort CMZ and Lewis County.

Brian, Darrin, and Nick shared about local investing for the lower basin and the Joint Surface Water Comprehension Plan.

## **11. 2023-24 Gage Alert Sign-Up Drive**

Erika reviewed the planned activities and next steps to encourage people to sign up for the Gage Alerts for the 2023-24 flood season. She will send communication materials to all Flood Authority members for distributing to their email lists and posting one line. Materials include email text, a flyer, and content for website and/or social media posts.

## **12. Chehalis Basin Board**

J. Vander Stoep shared that it is worth thinking about the state of the basin during the 2007 flood and what the Flood Authority has done since then to change the outcome of flooding. More than 130 projects have been done to benefit every community in the Basin through the partnership of the FA and the OCB.

OCB has a new director, starting today, who has quite a bit of background in the basin. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ARSP) is going forward. The OCB only meets once a month.

Edna thanked the people on the Flood Authority for coming to the OCB meetings.

## **13. Public Comment.**

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

## **14. Financial Report(s)**

Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported that expenditures for September were \$8,975.54 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting

services for SBGH. Expenditures for October were \$15,895.85 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting services for SBGH.

Resolution 23-256 was executed to approve the RCO agreement in the amount of \$224,000. Resolution 23-257 was executed to approve professional services for SBGH. The amendment from RCO to increase the budget by \$12,000 has been received and will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval before the next meeting.

## **15. Reports**

### **A. Chair Report**

Vice Chair Edna Fund shared that it is important to work with media to push out information on how to sign up for the Flood Warning System when flooding is in the forecast.

### **B. Member Report**

Brian shared an update on the Northshore Levy project, which is continuing to move forward.

Richard thanked the Flood Authority for the grant the city of Oakville received for flood analysis in 2017. They are trying to pursue recommendations from that study.

### **C. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report.

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

The next meeting will occur January 18, 2023, 10:00 AM as a virtual meeting. Adjournment was at 11:42am.