

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**Hoquiam City Hall  
609 8<sup>th</sup> St. Hoquiam, WA  
9:00 A.M.  
May 17, 2018 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Dee Anne Shaw, City of Aberdeen; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner (via telephone)

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

**Others Present:** Scott Boettcher, staff to Flood Authority; Stephen Willis; Steve Schmitz, KPFF; Rick Sanger, City of Aberdeen; Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Jasmine Dickhoff, Mayor of Hoquiam

### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from March, 2018
- Memo re: Reallocation of Unspent Lower Satsop Relic Channel Funds
- Draft Press Release re: Boistfort Valley Water Project Completion
- Draft Gage Height Conversion Project
- Flood Insurance Pilot Project PowerPoint
- Hoquiam/Aberdeen North Shore Levee PowerPoint
- Financial Report
- See [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/Default.aspx#May2018](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/Default.aspx#May2018)

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

### **2. Introductions**

Self-introductions were made.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Chair Raines asked for volunteers to host the upcoming Flood Authority meetings. The schedule is as follows:

July 19, 2018	Chehalis
September 20, 2018	Montesano
November 15, 2018	Aberdeen
January 17, 2019	Lewis County
March 21, 2019	Cosmopolis
May 16, 2019	Thurston County
July 18, 2019	Grays Harbor County

#### **4. Approval of March, 2018 Meeting Notes**

There were no changes and the notes were approved by consensus.

#### **5. Update: Local Projects**

Chair Raines stated she and Scott had a discussion with the Port, the Conservation District, County officials, WDFW and DNR. The Conservation District will follow up with the agriculture people in the Lower Satsop region. There is \$100,000 left from this original project. WDFW was hoping to receive this money but they have funding available from other sources.

Scott showed a Google Earth image of the Lower Satsop region, the meandering waterway and the steady migration of the river towards Keys Rd. On the left is the agricultural asset where good soils are eroding. In the center is the current effort of WDFW to use ponds for overflow. There have been projects and funding for the Lower Satsop in the past but there has not been a game plan, i.e. tackling problems that are creating problems for others. The Projects Committee felt that a planning process was needed for all projects.

The \$100,000 in unspent funding was to open the relic channel and create an overflow area to take out the meander. WDFW ran into challenges in opening the relic channel; the Army Corps of Engineers called them wetlands and there were access issues, and issues with the Port.

The proposal is in four parts: 1: Send \$40,000 to Grays Harbor County to start the planning process; 2: Spend \$22,500 for preliminary draft engineering on Keys Rd; 3: Provide Grays Harbor County with \$22,500 to canvass local land owners to get their perspectives in the planning process; and 4: Spend \$15,000 to do an analysis on which landowners had erosion in the relic channel and see how to use this tool. There are other places in the Basin where opening relic channels might work: the Chehalis River and on the Wynoochee. Ron stated the Projects Committee looked at this proposal and were unanimously in favor of keeping the \$100,000 for this project.

Dan asked that the landowners in the area upstream from Brady be notified of the planning process, and he also thought that gravel needs to come out of the river there. Chair Raines stated the landowners would be updated after the Conservation Commission had their meeting and the gravel discussion will be with the Office of Chehalis Basin. Dan also felt that the area being considered should be wider than just the edges of the river because of how much the river travels.

Scott asked for consensus on the reallocation of the \$100,000 to this project. There was consensus with Trent abstaining as he has relatives in the subject area and thought it would be a conflict of interest.

Scott spoke to the Local Projects Recruitment Document. He stated there are links in the document to legislative actions. Given that we are in our 4<sup>th</sup> round for local projects (since 2012) there were not a lot of substantial changes. What is different is that now the Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) and its Board. They have a role in the project selection process. In the briefing to the Board, the roles were outlined: The Projects Committee is to do the legwork to produce what is necessary for people to submit projects. The Flood Authority role is to review what is provided and work with the Board – our recommendations must go to them to be approved. The criteria for the projects remain the same with a focus on multiple benefits.

The schedule is approval from the Flood Authority for the recruitment document, then Scott will go to the OCB Board on June 7 for its approval and if approval is received then distribution of the projects

recruitment request will be on June 12. July through September will be to structure the proposals: where they are, costs, etc.

The attachment to the memo is the same form that was used in the past with the addition of #17 which is to include return on investment. There was discussion and examples given on the return on investment.

Chair Raines asked if there was consensus on the recruitment document. There was consensus.

#### **6. Update: Outreach/Communication**

Scott stated that the Boistfort Valley water project has been completed. He drafted a news release – the first one – which stemmed from a thank you to Bob Amrine for his work on this project. Scott asked if the Flood Authority would like to do news releases and if so where should they be sent. Chair Raines stated that some jurisdictions have done them in the past. Alan suggested public service announcements on radio stations. Dee Anne suggested sending it to a media list and they could decide if they wanted to run it. Brian wanted to include the Legislators.

There was consensus to run the press release.

Scott stated that last October the Flood Authority supported USGS to share in the cost of setting new datum for the USGS gages in the Basin. Because of the effort to standardize gage heights, USGS, the Flood Authority and Ecology have been working on how to communicate this to the public. The changing methodology will provide conversion tables, maps of gages, and explain what the new numbers are going to be. There will be more outreach on this topic in September and October.

After discussion, Dan suggested comparison graphs so people understand the differences – the conversion chart is not enough. Chair Raines stated there will be an update on that next month.

There will be pre-storm meetings with Emergency Management Services so by October people will be aware of the changes and how to find the conversions.

#### **7. Update: Flood Insurance Pilot Project**

French Wetmore spoke about Centralia's pilot project. He stated that while attendance at the meeting was fairly well attended, only a couple of people requested a Flood Risk Evaluator report, no one asked for a site visit, which he found disappointing. He is still interested in exploring a pilot project in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. He presented a PowerPoint with options for flood-prone properties and information about flood insurance premiums. There was discussion on the Elevation Certificates. Not all surveyors have the experience or knowledge to fill them out properly.

Scott stated flood insurance is complicated; it has to be paid for up front. We are hoping to boost consumer education and working with a group to re-look at their policy and structures so we, as helpers, can improve consumer education.

Brian stated there is an open house for a pilot project in Grays Harbor County in September. French stated he will work with anyone in the Basin but he is focusing on pilot programs. Elevation Certificates are not inexpensive but if there is a group of people in a program it will be less expensive to have one surveyor do the work all at once.

#### **8. Update: Hoquiam/Aberdeen North Shore Levee**

Brian presented a PowerPoint on the Levee project. So far it has been a 3-year project and final design, permitting and Right of Way acquisition is expected in June of 2019. He stated the pump station is about 1/3 of the total cost of the \$75 million project.

#### **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **10. Financial Report**

Scott gave the report in Lee Napier's absence. Expenses for March were \$20,029.05; April's were \$14,725.78. There is a balance of \$246,793.17 for the remaining biennium.

The Financial Report was approved by consensus.

#### **11. Reports**

##### **a. Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Fund stated that the new director of the OCB, Andrea McNamara Doyle will be at the next Flood Authority meeting. She is gathering a lot of information and has asked about office space locally.

The Flood Control Zone District has asked that the retention facility be built now and can be added on to later.

Bob Thomas was a finalist for the director of OCB but he is still with the Army Corps of Engineers for our district. Vice Chair Fund stated he is excellent for that position.

##### **b. Member Reports**

*Centralia* – Ron stated the China Creek Project is back on track and Phase I will begin this summer.

*Cosmopolis* – Frank stated the work on Mill Creek Dam will resume shortly. Work was shut down because of the weather. He expects the construction to be completed by July, 2018.

*Montesano* – Dan reported that the river jacks will be the start of the repair of the wastewater treatment plant. There is no firm commitment yet from WEFW to unblock the upstream portion of their property on the relic channel. If that does occur, there are manmade changes that if removed could restore habitat and allow a place for the river to go.

*Chehalis* – Trent stated a representative from FEMA met with the city and offered financial help for the master plan for the proposed flood mitigation storage facility.

##### **c. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

##### **d. State Team Report**

There was no State Team Report.

#### **12. Confirm Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on July 19, 2018 in Chehalis. The exact location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. A tour of the Hoquiam Raymer Street Pump Station Project and Aberdeen Fry Creek Project followed the meeting.