



9:00 a.m. via Zoom
May 20, 2021 - Meeting Notes

Members Present: Frank Gordon, City of Aberdeen; Edna Fund, Lewis County; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Trent Loughed, City of Chehalis; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Steven Lyle, Town of Bucoda; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia

Members Absent: Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Don Webster, City of Napavine

Others Present: Scott Boettcher, Staff to Flood Authority; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Carson Coates; Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler office; Pete Krabbe

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Approve Agenda

Ron moved to approve the agenda; second by Brian. There was consensus to approve.

4. Meeting Materials

See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#May2021

5. Approve Meeting Notes of March 18, 2021

Ron moved to approve the meeting notes; second by Edna. There were no changes and so approved by consensus.

6. Local Projects

Scott spoke about the 2019-2021 Projects. We need to carry forward about \$3 million; the largest portion is for the China Creek project in Centralia. There were issues with moving forward with the permitting process. They now have a construction contractor and hopefully they can start late May/early June. The carry forward balance will drop at that time.

Other projects – Hoquiam and Aberdeen have small unspent funds to move forward. Hoquiam will use theirs for Phase II engineering/design for the North Shore levee. Chehalis and the Flood Control Zone District need more time and they asked for six more months. The Port has staffing capacity problems and the project is moving slowly. For the Lower Satsop Phase II project, the design phase is funded by ASRP so carry-forward balance is not a current consideration.

Scott has asked everyone to please submit final bills by the end of June to bring the balance down.

2021-2023 Projects Funding

Chehalis Basin Board has had two meetings and is trying to decide how to get scaled back to \$70 million from a need of \$83 million. The Flood Authority asked the Chehalis Basin Board (CBB) to advocate for more precision on 2021-23 expenses and obligations. CBB will meet again on June 3rd and we will have a chance to see how the OCB has changed its numbers at that point in time. We might want to write a letter regarding OCB's memo. Scott stated there are some technical inaccuracies in the current memo from OCB.

Vice Chair Fund stated, regarding the capacity of projects being done and carryover dollars, that Scott was accurate. Chair Raines stated she was clear at the meeting about prioritization of projects with the Flood Authority and ASRP group and that the carryover is a big deal to us. We want to make sure we will know what that money is. She stated that the Project Committee met and reviewed these projects and did prioritize them. There is broad support by at least half the OCB to move forward.

Brian stated that everything we follow through on are wins for everyone. There are a lot of things in the budget and the Flood Authority would do well to stress that what we are doing are wins for everyone and we will not be carrying forward very much money at the end of the biennium.

Ron pointed out that the legislature has already adjourned and the money we have is \$70 million with \$83-86 million in claims to OCB. There is no other way to get more money. Something must be cut and we need to recognize that this is a bargaining thing and some things we really want are going to need to be sacrificed. We need to let our members know where to whittle down on that final number.

Scott asked if the members were in favor of assistance in getting the budget down. Chair Raines thought a letter would be great and Brian agreed. He suggested that the Lower Satsop project could come out of the aquatic species fund. Scott will work with the Executive Committee to finalize a letter and get it out before the next OCB meeting.

Chair Raines stated that besides the flood damage control and the ASRP, we also have \$4 million going to CFAR and they have \$2.5 million left. It is not just "us and them vs. flood projects and ASRP". There are other things that are required. Chair Raines is not willing to give a lot, especially for flood projects. She stated that there are many variables, but it started with this group in 2008 and we have been asked for boots on the ground and complete projects and

we have done that every time. Brian stated that CFAR has money and no projects. Scott suggested the letter should talk about successes we have had with sharing resources and the goodwill that that has created. The OCB is hanging on to their piece of their budget and Flood Authority has done a good job of looking at the big picture by sharing funding. That type of thing builds good will and is a model that would be good to speak to that.

2021-2023 Projects Also

Scott stated that we have 9 projects that we had identified for 2021-2023 budget. He explained the memo. In the memo, the green are construction projects and the pink are planning projects. The \$1.98 million asked for the Lower Satsop Phase II will be a fish project in the end. Since this is designed with ASRP should it be built with ASRP? The restoration funds could be shifted.

If funds could be shifted for the Chehalis River bank stabilization study, then that would mean \$2 million less in the bottom line. The total need currently is \$10.6 million.

Success Stories started with J Vander Stoep, Ron and Scott. The Project Committee identified 5 projects that could be sent to the newspapers. All have excellent Return on Investment. We want to create local project success stories, a periodic series that is sent to news media. Vice Chair Fund stated that people forget what we have done and they need to be reminded, and new people will learn more. Telling our stories will make a lot of difference.

7. Flood Warning System Update

Scott stated we are working on 6 gage relocations in forest land. WEST is looking for alternative locations. 5 out of 6 have new locations and we are waiting on confirmation. Once that is done (within a week) then Weyerhaeuser will finalize access agreements. In June WEST can physically move the gages.

The webcam at the Monte-Elma Bridge is to relocate to Chapman Farms which is a safe and suitable site.

Aberdeen Gage on Wishkah River – We are working to bring this gage into the Flood Warning System. This is taking a little time; hopefully new information will be available at the next meeting.

Scott stated there are access agreements for various gages and some have expired. This summer will get new access agreements and insurance in place.

8. Webcam Relocation

Scott stated the webcam on Monte-Elma Bridge is being moved to a new location at Chapman Farms. This is a good location as it points to a portion of the river where there are challenges. The cost to move it is approximately \$2,800 and Scott asked that the Flood Authority approve this cost and he will find money, either out of the \$425,000 for jump starting emergency work, or out of the Lower Satsop \$320,000 design project, or a combination of both. Trent asked what the gage would be mounted on. Scott stated there is a small airfield there with a pole and

windsock. The pole is movable so if the webcam might be in jeopardy because of river erosion, it can be moved. The contract states that it will be moved when requested.

Chair Raines asked if there was consensus to relocate the webcam and approve the cost. There was consensus for the relocation and cost.

9. Lewis County continuing as Fiscal Agent for 2021-2023

Scott explained what Lewis County does as Fiscal Agent. Scott recommended an action to retain Lewis County as Fiscal Agent.

Chair Raines asked if there was consensus to retain Lewis County as Fiscal Agent for the Flood Authority. There was consensus.

10. Chehalis Basin Board

Chair Raines stated that Jay Gordon was not present, and the members talked about this earlier. She stated that the most recent meeting on Monday was about budgeting and the Flood Authority also discussed that this morning. Vice Chair Fund stated the meeting was an in-person meeting for the Board and it was a good meeting. Some of the Flood Authority members who attended via Zoom stated the audio quality was not very good.

11. Public Comment

Brian thanked Chair Raines, Vice Chair Fund and Jay for great representation at the Chehalis Basin Board and he thinks the Flood Authority will be happy with the outcome of meetings.

12. Financial Report

Lee stated that for March, expenditures were \$8,538.88. For April, expenditures were \$7,973.93. Invoices for WEST have gone out for O & M expenses. Ron stated it appears we may have a little money left over from what was budgeted.

13. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chair Raines stated she is continuing to work on issues with Scott and county staff, and that things are going well.

b. Member Reports

Centralia – Ron reported that the City of Centralia is moving into Phase II of the China Creek project. The Request for Proposals went out and Public Works has recommended approval of a request and city council approved. The work should start work this summer. Council also approved covering the difference in cost, which is a little higher than current funding.

Lewis County – Edna asked if we have we sent letters to the legislators for their support. Scott stated he would do that.

Hoquiam – Brian stated Hoquiam can begin design on the West Levee project. After months of review from FEMA, the city finally got the CLOMR and the go-ahead pending funding. He is hoping OCB will approve that.

14. Confirm Next Regular Meeting – July 15, 2021 will be a Zoom meeting, beginning at 10 a.m.

Adjournment at 11:13.