



September 17, 2014

TO: Flood Authority Members
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: DRAFT Op-Ed Piece Re Upcoming Public Meetings

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with a DRAFT Op-Ed piece that we can discuss at our upcoming Flood Authority meeting. The purpose of the Op-Ed piece is to provide an additional approach to getting the word out about the upcoming October public meetings. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

I. **DRAFT Op-Ed (549 words)**

December 2007 and January 2009 brought epic floods to our Chehalis River watershed. Communities throughout the Basin were impacted significantly, many forever. Floods of the scale experienced in December 2007 and January 2009, do permanent and lasting damage. Those floods damage infrastructure. Floods damage homes, schools, roads and families. Floods destroy jobs and businesses. Floods also sear indelible memories into those of us who have experienced them, memories we do not want to repeat.

We do have floods however. It rains in Washington and rains a lot. We will have big floods again. We know this. As Chair of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and member of the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group I can tell you we are better prepared than we were in 2007 and 2009, much better prepared.

- We have a state of the art basin-wide flood warning system that will provide ample warning and allow the public to follow events on the web (see www.chehalisriverflood.com).
- We have completed (or will have completed by the start of winter and start of flood season) many local projects that provide real flood mitigation now and protect infrastructure, jobs and our communities. We have completed projects in Adna, Bucoda, Chehalis, Grays Harbor County, Lewis County, Montesano, Pe Ell, and Thurston County.
- We are developing a comprehensive restoration plan for salmon and other aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin and will be recommending next steps to the Governor and Legislature.
- We are also evaluating the long-term approach and immediate next steps to reduce flood damage. By the end of the year we will recommend to the Governor and Legislature on whether to proceed with a dam in the upper Chehalis River above Pe Ell, additional protection for Interstate 5 and the amount of funding for protecting homes and businesses in the Chehalis floodplain.
- We strive for transparency in all that we do knowing it is best for all and regularly update our website (www.ezview.wa.gov/chehalisfloodauthority) with project updates, construction photos, decisions, announcements, meetings and more.



I know many in the Basin are frustrated by the slow progress on mitigating flooding. That is understandable as the issues are complex, they are expensive, they do take time and to be meaningful they must be broadly embraced. This is hard, slow work. That being said we are at a critical juncture right now and need your help, your involvement and your input.

We have two important upcoming public meetings that will be instrumental in setting the stage for flood hazard reduction and aquatic species enhancement throughout the Basin for years to come. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We need to hear from you. Public meetings will be held:

- October 1, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Museum (100 SW Veterans Way; Chehalis, WA; 98532).
- October 2, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Aberdeen City Hall (200 E Market Street; Aberdeen, WA; 98520).

Thank you for the opportunity to share my sense of progress and hope for the future. I am hopeful and know the work we have done and the progress we have made will help to ensure we don't have a repeat of 2007 and 2009.

Thank you.

Vickie Raines, Chair
 Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, and
 Member, Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group

II. Distribution

<p>Vidette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need it by Sept. 19 for our Sept. 25 issue to advertise the events on Oct and Oct 2. • Need a photo with the column if we don't have one on file. • Send to editor@thevidette.com. • Cc – Steven Freiderich, sfriederich@thevidette.com. 	<p>Chronicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send it to Editor Eric Schwartz, news@chronline.com. • Let him know in the email what time you would like it to run. • Cc -- cbrewer@chronline.com.
<p>Daily World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send editorial with dates clearly marked and your desire to run it a week ahead of time to Editor Doug Barker, dbarker@thedailyworld.com and Karen Barkstrom, letters@thedailyworld.com. • Cc – Erin Hart, ehart@thedailyworld.com. 	<p>Olympian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send to Lisa Pemberton, lumperton@theolympian.com. • She wants to "do a brief to advance the Oct. meetings when they get closer." • Send before 9/25/2014.