

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Meeting 9:00 A.M.

Conference Call

February 18, 2016 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Jenifer Slempp, City of Napavine; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioners; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Kathi Hoder, City of Aberdeen; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Vini Samuel, City of Montesano; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis

Board Members Absent: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville

Others Present: Chris Vandenberg, Cindy Wilson, Dale Lewis, Jessica Hausman, Rick Sangder, J Vander Stoep, Frank Kersch, Don Wood, Dennis Osborn, Larry Karpack, Lee Napier

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from January 21, 2016
- Financial Report
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Feb2016

1. Call to Order:

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Introductions:

Attendees were identified as they called in. Chair Raines stated Commissioner Fund was at the Legislature and would not be attending.

3. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes from January 21, 2016:

The meeting notes were approved as presented by consensus.

7. Financial Report:

Chair Raines stated the Financial Report would be moved out of order to allow Ms. Napier to attend another meeting.

Ms. Napier stated the expenditures for January were \$18,414.89 and that the budget does not include the RCO grant agreement which she would explain later in her report. She stated all payments are issued by the Lewis County Auditor's office and recorded into the BOCC meeting notes. There had been discussion about providing warrants to the Flood Authority but that would require more time in getting the warrants paid. Mr. Averill stated the audit was not covered under the goods and services budget. Ms. Napier stated that after this report was issued the BOCC took action to approve an RCO amendment contract. We are to increase the budget by \$129,287 for a new amount of \$502,619.19 to cover repair to Flood Warning System gage and the increased cost by WEST. Also budgeted was money for the State

audit and an increased scope for French and Associates. Those items for the RCO contract was approved through Resolution 16-056 on February 8. That same day the BOCC passed a 4th supplement for French and Associates, Resolution 16-057, which increased the budget by \$115,687, and increased the scope for retrofitting and identifying properties. Those actions will be reflected in the next report.

5. Update on Local Projects:

Mr. Boettcher reported that the Boistfort Valley Water project is still outstanding. This is a non-profit association and as such contracting the inter-agency funding agreement with RCO has been a challenge. Mr. Boettcher has pursued working with Lewis County Public Works to oversee the project; however a recent loss of two engineering staff has made this route no longer feasible. Mr. Boettcher will be pursuing an option with the State Health Department, who is enthusiastic about the project, to provide the oversight RCO needs. Mr. Averill stated that this project must be done during the fish window and hopefully it can get done this summer.

Mr. Boettcher spoke to funding. It is assumed that there will be approval of the re-scoped Aberdeen project and two re-scoped Wishkah Road projects. Mr. Averill, as Project Committee Chair, thought there would be value in reaching out to Basin communities to see if there are some projects on which to start preliminary work. Mr. Averill stated that initially there was major construction planned/funded for this biennium, but because of redesign and re-scoping some construction money will not be used. That leaves extra money. He knows of several projects that could benefit from that money: China Creek, Phase 2; Chehalis Airport pump project; Dillenbaugh creek; etc. There are probably others out there as well. If the small project money is not used then it needs to be re-distributed. The Governor's work group will look at that.

Mr. Boettcher stated that the Projects Committee will put together a budget and proposal about canvassing the Basin again for additional projects for the remainder of this biennium.

Mr. Boettcher stated there are two projects that need major re-scoping: Aberdeen and Wishkah Rd. There needs to be Flood Authority approval to move forward on those. The Aberdeen North Shore Levee project needs to be more comprehensive than before. The project was originally limited to Aberdeen city limits but now extends into Hoquiam. It needs to be fully designed and the design must be submitted to FEMA to get a CLOMR (Conditional Letter of Map Revision). If FEMA approves the design and it is built to that design then flood insurance reduction will occur. This project will substantially lower the amount people are paying for flood insurance, plus it will provide flooding protection to those communities.

Ms. Hoder thanked the Flood Authority and Chair Raines for this project. She stated that getting insurance rates down will encourage people to build.

Mr. Sangder was also very appreciative of the Flood Authority. He stated Aberdeen is approaching other funding sources. There must be a levee design approved by FEMA and that design is running along with the CLOMR for the overall project. The two projects will work together to address all of the issues.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated that Chair Raines, Jay Gordon and himself pushed to add this project to the programmatic EIS for the Chehalis Basin that is under way and headed by WA Department of Ecology. The EIS is picking up on the Governor's work group recommendation for Basin-wide strategy as well as a habitat restoration plan for fish across the Basin, and now the Hoquiam/Aberdeen levee is being

included in that process. Other options are being evaluated and if the work group's alternative is the preferred alternative then that levee will be considered part of it.

Chair Raines stated that a grant application through .09 funding was received in the amount of \$250,000 for the master plan for Aberdeen and Hoquiam. She would like to get the study done so additional funding can be requested.

Mr. Averill asked about the Southside Levee/Dike. Mr. Boettcher stated that in 2012 funds were allocated to re-certify that levee. Because of the North Shore Levee moving forward, and that levee being reviewed by FEMA, Aberdeen wants to find out about the freeboard, construction materials, etc. so they slowed down on the Southside Levee/Dike until they know what the current standard is. Mr. Sangder stated it appeared that there would be two freeboard elevations and he wanted to avoid that. He stated he is taking what he is learning on the North Shore Levee and when he gets a CLOMR there will be a base elevation and that will also be submitted for the Southside Levee/Dike.

Mr. Boettcher stated that the Aberdeen North Shore Levee scope of work will include the latest model information to be sure they are considered in the process.

Mr. Boettcher continued with the Wishkah Rd project. There are two funding agreements. The first takes a comprehensive look at Wishkah Rd, not just the first area of flooding, but the whole corridor. The study would go from MP 2.2 to MP 7.6 and include five areas that frequently flood. The study would look at hydrology and come up with alternatives and costs and a selected project for each of those five areas.

Ms. Samuel stated that the legislature approved capital funds through June 2017. She asked if that jeopardizes the funding that has already been set aside. Mr. Averill explained that the Flood Authority has the authority. The original bill was provided by the Governor's work group to tell where money would go but we have the authority to make changes. Chair Raines stated that we are able to shift money from one project to another. We have gone back to the legislature to have items added and so far they have been accepted.

Mr. Boettcher stated the second project is to move forward with final design for the floodwall project. This has been challenging in that the property acquisitions have not moved forward in the past. At this time there is an accelerated effort to do those acquisitions and final design through permitting applications for the next biennium.

Chair Raines stated she has spoken to the property owners to negotiate a price. Although WSDOT has no funding to assist in that way, they did provide information on how they do acquisitions. Chair Raines is moving forward to obtain those two parcels.

Mr. Boettcher stated those are the three projects that have been re-scoped. He asked for approval on the projects. Chair Raines asked if there were any issues with any of the projects. Ms. Samuel was concerned about the Wishkah Road project and asked if it should be vetted through the Representatives. Chair Raines stated Representatives Blake, Hargrove and Tharinger all approve the project. Mr. Vander Stoep stated the legislators from the upper basin support it also.

Mr. Averill asked to approve all three projects. There was consensus on those three projects to move forward as presented.

6. Committee Assignments:

Mr. Boettcher stated potential committees were:

Executive Committee

- Vickie Raines
- Edna Fund
- Julie Balmelli-Powe
- Dan Thompson

Project Committee

- Ron Averill, Chair
- Alan Vanell
- Frank Chestnut
- Bud Blake

Outreach and Education Committee

- Kathi Hoder, Chair
- Lonnie Willey
- Vini Samuel
- Jenifer Slemp
- Edna Fund

There was consensus for the 2016 committees.

8. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

9. Reports:

a. Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

b. Member Reports

Mr. Averill asked if anyone had information on HB 2856 establishing flood risk reduction. Mr. Vander Stoep stated the programmatic EIS has one option which is no action, meaning all activity stops. Another option is to put walls and levees along I-5 and the rest of the Basin continues to flood. Or there will be approval of a basin-wide effort to address fish and flooding. This bill would create a driver for moving all of this forward. Mr. Averill asked if RCO would still be involved for small projects. Mr. Vander Stoep stated it would not diminish the role of the Flood Authority. Mr. Boettcher stated he would find the HB and forward it on to everyone.

c. Correspondence

Mr. Boettcher stated he posted the final State audit to the website.

d. State Team Report

There were no reports.

Ms. Balmelli-Powe asked if anyone knew about a new gage on the Newaukum River. Mr. Boettcher stated Tim Elsea has been talking with USGS and he will find out about the gage. Ms. Hausman stated DOE has also put out some new gages.

10. Confirm Next Regular Meeting:

The next meeting will be March 17 in Montesano, location to be announced.

The business before the Flood Authority concluded and the meeting adjourned at 9:58.

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