

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Meeting 1:30 P.M.

Thurston County Public Works
9605 Tilley Rd S, Olympia

April 20, 2017 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Dee Anne Shaw, City of Aberdeen; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Jim Haslett, City of Napavine.

Board Members Absent: Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner.

Others Present: Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Erik Martin, Lewis County Public Works Director; Larry Dominguez and Steve Schmitz, KPFF Engineering; Chrissy Bailey and Jessica Hausman, Ecology; Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center; J. Paul Rinehimer, WEST Consultants; J. Vander Stoep; Jill Anderson and Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Brandon Carman, Grays Harbor County Conservation District; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; Graham Perednia.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from March 16, 2017
- Committee Members
- Chehalis Basin Strategy PowerPoint/handout
- Local Projects
- Financial Report
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#April2017

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending. Chair Raines welcomed Richard Armstrong, representing Oakville, and Jim Haslett, representing Napavine.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were approved by consensus.

5. Update on Flood Authority Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Kramer reported that Mr. Boettcher had gotten signatures on the Interlocal Agreement and it has been posted on the Ezview site. Ms. Napier stated all members had signed and that Hoquiam is now officially a member.

6. Approval of 2017 Flood Authority Committee Membership

Chair Raines explained what each committee does. Mr. Vanell asked to have the alternate checked for Bucoda, asking if it was still Cindy Wilson. Mr. Kramer stated he would check. Mr. Wood asked what the committees do. Chair Raines will have staff provide information to all committee members as to their respective committees (roles, responsibilities, etc.) and stated Mr. Boettcher is the staff person for the committees.

7. Update: Next Steps for the Chehalis Basin Strategy

Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, stated her role in this project is Project Manager for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that Ecology issued last fall. She distributed a copy of the PowerPoint and summarized the strategy, work group recommendations, long term strategy and next steps.

Ms. Bailey stated there will be continued engagement: the Flood Authority will continue to work with the new Office; there will be workshops and communications regarding outreach strategy. In May 2017, Ecology staff are meeting with local and state groups involved in outreach to the public. A summary of that meeting will be brought back to the Flood Authority. This will help form prospective outreach meetings. The lessons learned from existing public outreach efforts will be used to structure interactions with the public over the next two years.

Ms. Bailey provided an schedule for the next biennium that highlighted key milestones including formal public comment on all the Chehalis Basin Strategy elements in early 2019 and a decision by the new Chehalis Board in the spring of 2019. Mr. Kramer stated there will be more details on the schedule in July 2017 once the new Chehalis Board is created. There will be scoping meetings for FEIS; restorative actions; the Newaukum project – none of these have been scheduled. There is a group involved in public outreach in different aspects of this work and the meeting in May will be to learn how to reach communities most effectively. A summary of that meeting will be brought back to the Flood Authority. This will help form prospective outreach meetings.

8. Appointment of Three Board Members for Office of Chehalis Basin

Mr. Kramer stated that the legislation that was passed in 2016 creating the Office of Chehalis Basin also created the Chehalis Board. The seven members include two from the Tribes (these positions do not need to be confirmed by the Senate); two appointed by the Governor (Steve Malloch, Western WA Futures; and J. Vander Stoep); and three will be selected by the Flood Authority. Mr. Kramer prepared ballots with the names of those who were interested. Members would vote for three and then the votes would be tallied. Dan Wood withdrew his name.

The Flood Authority members voted on the three members using paper ballots. The ballots were counted and the three Flood Authority representatives for the Office of Chehalis Basin would be Edna Fund, Jay Gordon, and Vickie Raines. No additional votes were necessary. Mr. Kramer stated the Flood Authority Board needed to take action to appoint these individuals. Mr. Averill moved to approve the three individuals; Mr. Vanell seconded. There was consensus.

9. Legislative Budgets for Chehalis Basin

Mr. Kramer stated that the Senate and House have passed their capital budgets and there should be a decision in June. There needs to be a fix for Hirst before negotiations commence. Mr. Averill explained Hirst, which is stating that someone cannot have an exempt well unless he can prove there is no adverse

effect to the water table. This onus will be on land owner. Mr. Kramer stated that Flood Authority funding is very strong; other funding was reduced dramatically in the state budget. Mr. Vander Stoep stated the capital budget is based on a fixed number. The governor had \$50 million in his budget which is unusual. This happened because of the bi-partisan support; the Flood Authority and work group are making progress for fish and flood projects. Because of this progress being made the Chehalis Basin is doing extremely well.

Mr. Vander Stoep also stated that the work group testified in the last session during the senate hearings.

10 – Update on Local Projects

Mr. Boettcher had provided an update on the project list. Mr. Averill stated the Projects Committee first looked at the \$155,000 to redistribute and received nominations. In the meantime, more money has shown up because the Wishkah Comprehensive Flood Study project came in less than anticipated. We may be able to draw in other projects (beyond recent new projects regarding replacing the two gages in Centralia and razing the old meat packing house along Airport Way and I-5 which is in the floodway and has a septic).

The City of Chehalis is looking at a study for a retention project at the site of their old waste water treatment plant. Tearing down the old structure is on a secondary list. Bucoda's project is going to be a lot more expensive – but an alternative is to use a BNSF track to get out of town during flooding could be an alternative option. Conversations with the railroad indicate that it might be doable; it may need additional funding.

Further down the list is the Montesano wastewater treatment plant. The Wynoochee River is hitting the plant and water may start hitting Hwy SR107. Oakville and Napavine had projects in the Priority 2 list which are still out there. Oakville's project may be a storm drain project rather than flooding project.

Napavine is flooding in the Rush Rd area. The city has had an engineer look at improving culverts and drainage ditches; there are some citizen comments on those projects and we are continuing to look at them. A river restoration project in the Newaukum is also something that is being looked at.

Mr. Kramer asked if there are sufficient funds to do sheet pile on the Wynoochee. Chair Raines thought there was probably enough money left over from other projects. Cosmopolis is looking at additional money for contingency.

Mr. Haslett thanked Mr. Averill and Mr. Boettcher for attending Napavine's council meeting – they brought a list of things that have already been accomplished and people were very impressed. They want to see completed projects, not just studies.

Mr. Vanell stated that Bucoda still has septic tanks and there are cesspools. Bucoda doesn't have the ability to build its own waste water treatment plant and if it ties in with Tenino it is going to be a \$4-7 million project. He has heard that there are pressurized waste water treatment plants that cost \$3-4 million and asked about getting some money to move forward on that. Would this involve the Flood Authority or Ecology? Mr. Kramer suggested Mr. Vanell get in contact with Ms. Bailey or Ms. Hausman with Ecology.

11. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated there are a couple of changes to the Financial Report. In the Details it shows expenses at \$28,170.42 which includes salaries and benefits, consulting services, and the Chehalis gage study. This has increased the budget amount. The Board of County Commissioners approved two resolutions: one with RCO and one with WEST. Another change is to the flood warning system: the gage repair increases the number from \$10,050 to \$71,645 and consulting services has increased for approval of work with WEST and RCO. Lewis County has executed three amendments which brings the bottom line up to \$121,595.

Community Development has a new office manager; he is learning things and may make some changes. Mr. Averill stated another change next month will be money going to the demolition of the building. Ms. Napier stated money for that will be a separate contract between RCO and Lewis County.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

b. Member Reports

Lewis County - Commissioner Fund stated the Washington Transportation Commission will be holding a workshop at Centralia City Hall, looking at developing transportation for the State of Washington. The Commission asked to have a tour and briefing of flooding issues in the basin.

Montesano – Mr. Wood stated that the work from Mr. Boettcher has been extraordinary. Work came to standstill and it is now on track and moving quickly. The culvert replacement project is on track and might even come in under budget. Mr. Boettcher has given a lot of time to the mayor, council and staff. He has seen all interests addressed and everyone is seeing a culture of coming in under budget and giving money back to get another project done. Mr. Wood stated this is why the Flood Authority is receiving favorable treatment from the legislature.

Mr. Kramer stated it might be nice to have a communications group develop a piece as to what is happening here. It would be good documentation for this group.

Mr. Wood stated the mill has started up again also.

Cosmopolis – Mr. Chestnut stated total rain fall in Cosmopolis for 2016 was 108" on the hill and at the river, 122". The first quarter of 2017 may reach 50".

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team report.

14. Confirm Next meeting

The next meeting will be on May 18, a phone meeting. Time will be announced.