

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Telephone Meeting 9:00 A.M.

June 16, 2016 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Dan Wood, City of Montesano
Others Present: Lee Napier, Director of Community Development; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Rob Hill, City of Centralia; Jessica Hausman, Department of Ecology; Dale Lewis, Congresswoman Herrera-Buetler's office; Doris Small, WDFW, Scott Boettcher, Staff to Flood Authority; Jim Kramer, Facilitator; Kim Smith, Grays Harbor Conservation District.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from May 19, 2016
- Projects Tracking Sheet
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#June2016

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:03.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Approval of agenda

There were no changes to agenda.

4. Approval of meeting notes

There were no corrections to the meeting notes of May 19 and were approved by consensus.

5. Update Status of Local Projects

Mr. Boettcher reported that the tracking sheet shows local projects are at nearly 100%. The Dillenbaugh Creek Culvert project is waiting to hire a contractor. Mr. Lougheed stated that should be done next week.

Mr. Boettcher urged jurisdictions to get their expenditure information to RCO on a regular basis. Some projects have not submitted – China Creek has not. Mr. Averill stated that the Centralia City Council approved expenditures on Tuesday.

Mr. Boettcher reported that the Projects Committee met last week via phone to begin preparations for the 2017-19 local projects funding process. On the call, Projects Committee members mentioned their surprise with the number of private landowners submitting requests for additional local projects funds under the recent additional funds effort. It is challenging to provide state funds directly to private

landowners for projects on their property. The state funding needs to go to public, such as the Conservation District, state agencies, etc.

The Projects Committee will bring 2017-19 project solicitation processes to the next meeting. Process is starting earlier, this allows for more time for vetting with regulatory agencies, especially with DOE now heading the Office of Chehalis Basin. There will be more communication with the Quinault Indian Nation and Chehalis Tribe. In July the Flood Authority will approve the local projects solicitation process. In August there will be an update on projects received and where they are. Through September the Projects Committee will work with project proposers to secure any remaining additional information needed on proposed projects. In October there will be a draft of ranked and prioritized projects. The Committee suggested modifying the Flood Authority schedule and meeting in person in October rather than via phone. In November the Flood Authority will approve the final list to go to Governor's Work Group and Office of Chehalis Basin.

Mr. Averill stated a lot of the projects funded in the last year are design or study projects. Even though they have been already been vetted, for the next phase they will still need to be re-submitted to the Projects Committee. Projects Committee will likely give priority to projects that have already been vetted and designed. In the last biennium the Project Committee submitted the small projects and those went to the Governor's Work Group for approval. He asked if the same process will be followed this year since DOE is not in operation yet. Mr. Kramer stated, yes, the Work Group will look at needs that have been identified and recommend an allocation amount for local projects.

Mr. Chestnut stated the Flood Authority has a good road map as to how to get to projects in the future.

Mr. Wood asked who is on the Project Committee. The Committee is made up of Ron Averill, Chair; Alan Vanell, Frank Chestnut and Bud Blake. DOE will also be participating, probably through Jessica Hausman.

6. Additional local project – Lower Satsop Relic Channel Reopening

Mr. Boettcher reported six streambank erosion proposals were received for recent additional local projects funding. Projects Committee chose not to fund those projects as WDFW, Conservation Districts, and Anchor QEA were doing pilot projects for bank stabilization and developing bank protection tools/approaches. One project resurfaced last month that WDFW and DOE identified for reconsideration. That was the Lower Satsop "relic channel reopening" project. Mr. Boettcher explained that sometimes rivers leave their historic channels and if we could get the river back into the historic channel it would reduce some erosion effects in high flows on river banks and farm lands. The Projects Committee thought this was a good opportunity to develop an additional tool/approach for bank protection. In addition, we heard from WDFW that they have reached out to regulatory agencies and have had favorable responses. The timeline for this project is slated for mid-summer and fall of 2016. The Project Committee supported the notion of seeking \$75,000 to \$150,000 to do this work. We know that likely the money is there because one of the earlier projects in Aberdeen has closed yielding surplus funding. DOE is also looking to contribute up to \$75,000. This could be a good WDFW, DOE, Flood Authority cooperative project with the results applicable elsewhere in the Basin.

Mr. Averill stated that the Lower Satsop is a project that has been worked on for some time and money was provided two biennial ago. Sponsorship moved around, from Grays Harbor County to WDFW. This is part of a follow-up of the original design to help provide immediate relief to the farms on the Lower Satsop. This is a pilot project and does not replace the original (larger) project (that project is still on the books). Additionally, we will still be looking for the Conservation District to give an inventory of our

needs regarding bank erosion problems in the Basin. We know there are a number out there but we need an inventory.

Mr. Chestnut stated the relic channel was dredged for years but the State came down on landowners and said they can't do that any longer so the erosion has come back.

Ms. Small stated WDFW is working with Grays Harbor Conservation District and they will be a WDFW partner, perhaps the lead. Construction access is being staked today and WDFW is moving forward as quickly as possible.

Dan Wood asked for location of this project and was informed it is upstream from the confluence of the Satsop and the Chehalis. Mr. Wood stated there is a problem at the boat launch at Highway 12. Ms. Small stated that is not included. This is the most effective area to open the relic channel. WDFW is looking at other projects but this is the immediate need. There are a lot of approaches when we look at bank erosion and there is a balance between economics and full bank protection. It will be dependent on the situation but this site makes sense and it is the right balance.

Mr. Kramer asked if there was consensus to proceed with this project. There was no objection to this project.

7. Update community outreach

Mr. Boettcher stated booth spots have been reserved at the Grays Harbor County and Southwest Washington fairs. There is a document on web to download – materials from last year are posted and he would like to get sense if the poster is valuable. By July the updated materials will be ready. Any thoughts about posters, computer displays, etc. please send to Scott.

Mr. Averill suggested two posters for local capital projects: one with history and one that shows current projects for this biennium.

Dan Wood asked if volunteers are needed at the booth. Mr. Boettcher stated he would build a list of times the fairs are covered. Dan Thompson pulls long shifts at Grays Harbor County and he volunteered again this year. Last year at Farm Bureau had a computer screen that was donated. If anyone has ideas about something for the Flood Authority booths, please let Scott know.

8. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the expenditure period is from May 1 to May 31, with \$20,511.22 expended. All vouchers are entered into the BOCC meeting minutes per the State Auditor's requirement.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Reports

a. Chair's report

The Chair had no report.

Mr. Kramer stated photo contest was a lot of fun. Chair Raines stated three winner of the photo contest were from Grays Harbor as well as three of the honorable mentions. All of the photos were gorgeous. The winner received \$500 from Anchor QEA.

b. Member reports

Oakville - Dan Thompson reported on the flood relief project. The scope of work is complete and the contract is being signed this week. There is survey work to be done, as well as putting together some options to help with the high water problem.

Centralia – Mr. Averill stated the China Creek project has slowed down because of permitting; most are done but the City is waiting for the Corps' approval for Phase I. Hopefully that approval will come this summer but it may go into 2017.

Ms. Balmelli-Powe stated the Flood Authority may want to consider some public outreach at Sportsman's Show in September. The dates will be confirmed.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team

There was no State Team Report

11. Confirm Next meeting

The next meeting will be an in-person meeting on July 21 in Thurston County; location to be announced. Mr. Kramer had been asked to schedule the Director of Agriculture to speak in July but he is out of the country. Chair Raines will also be out on the 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.