

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

May 18, 2017 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen

Board Members Absent: Jim Haslett, City of Napavine

Others Present: Larry Dominguez; Tom Clingman; Gloria Rogers; Vickie Bailey; Erik Martin

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from April 20, 2017
- Local Projects Update
- Outreach Updates
- Flood Authority Gage Upgrades
- Scope for Contracts
- Financial Report
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#May2017

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

Introductions were made as attendees phoned in.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wood asked when the three members who were voted to serve on the board of the Office of Chehalis Basin would learn of their terms. Mr. Kramer stated that would occur at the June meeting.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were approved as presented by consensus.

5. Update – Local Projects: Budgets, Expenditures, Status Updates

Mr. Boettcher stated he has been working with local jurisdictions and their staff on the submittal of project invoices. Dollars that have been spent or dollars that need to be re-appropriated need to be clear as work continues with RCO and OFM. All jurisdictions need to make sure budgets and expenditures are flowing as needed.

The new biennium starts on July 1 and money not spent will need to be re-appropriated. Each jurisdiction's staff needs to talk to their consultants to see how much is being spent and to determine requests for re-appropriation. The less to re-appropriate the better; however several factors have come up that have caused substantial delays, and therefore the need for re-appropriation. (1) Permitting by the Corps of Engineers has been a challenge for China Creek. Cosmopolis has had a standing request for the Corps regarding the JARPA process and there have been delays. Chair Raines stated she has spoken with two Representatives and they are hopeful that all will be in order by June 1 (regarding the Corps and the Cosmopolis project). (2) The weather has been a problem for China Creek, the airport, and farm pads/evacuation routes and as such will need to have funds carried forward. (3) Also, some appropriation decisions were made midway through the biennium and in some cases there was not enough time to complete all of the work.

Mr. Koski stated it is likely that Fry Creek will have design and permitting by December, and Hoquiam is hoping to construct in the fall. Mr. Shay stated the bid has been awarded for the Hoquiam pump station project and will start in June. Mr. Kramer stated re-appropriation may be an issue when working with the legislators. The message to send is the money is being shifted so a project can be completed. The Flood Authority members' proactive approach with shifting funds where savings on other projects have occurred is an attribute that the Flood Authority should highlight. There have been some thoughts that the money is not being spent.

Mr. Boettcher stated the Flood Authority and jurisdictions have a history of sharing resources and working beyond their borders. Table 1 in the Staff Report shows the Wishkah Road Flood Study had unspent funds that they transferred to the Lewis County structure demolition and the Montesano wastewater (WWTP) protection study.

The Projects Committee has reviewed some other scenarios, shown in Table 2 in the Staff Report. The Lewis County Conservation District is coming in under budget and Chehalis needs funding for the demolition of their old WWTP to initiate the beginnings of flood storage. The Wishkah flood levee project could help out Cosmopolis with the Mill Creek Dam project. Chehalis has unspent monies from the Dillenbaugh Creek study and Montesano's culvert project also has leftover funding. Both can go towards the replacement of radio transmitters that the Flood Authority discussed at a previous meeting.

Mr. Averill moved to approve the reallocation funding; Mr. Wood seconded. Mr. Boettcher spoke to the radio transmitters. The stream gages installed in 2010 had Generation 1 radio transmitters which are not repairable. They are being discontinued in favor of Generation 2. He has spoken with Jen at OFM and she wants to wait until Myra returns at the end of the month. Jen thinks this is a logical thing to do but is not in a position to give the authorization.

Mr. Kramer recommended that the Flood Authority authorizes the purchase of the gages if OFM decides this is an eligible expense. If the Authority agrees, then Mr. Boettcher will work with Lewis County and RCO to get an amendment in place to work with Lewis County and the Flood Authority to get the purchase agreement with WEST. Mr. Averill stated this was discussed at the last meeting and the position was that we might have to extend the gages over a period of years. With this option all of the gages can be done at the same time if the money is available. The Projects Committee thought this was best. He amended his motion to include pending approval from OFM on the gages. Mr. Kramer reminded the Board that they do not do motions and seconds. He asked if there were any objections to the proposal. There were none and it was approved by consensus.

Mr. Boettcher stated there are 30 active projects. Bucoda will soon have a proposal for the Burlington Northern right-of-way to be used as an escape route in the event of a major flood. The Chehalis WWTP flood storage; gage inventory (WEST has uncovered 1800 sensors in the Basin and are trying to determine which ones are best for the flood warning system); Montesano WWTP; Oakville, Napavine, and the lower Satsop project are a few of the active projects.

6. Update – Outreach: Events, Activities looking forward

Mr. Boettcher stated that Dan Wood is the new chair of the Education and Outreach Committee. He and Mr. Wood thought it might be worth thinking about an acknowledgement of the 10-year anniversary of the 2007 flood. Personal stories resonate well with people, but how are these stories captured? It will also be a good way to remind people of the flood and what the Flood Authority has accomplished in the last ten years. The Committee will meet after the Memorial Day holiday to talk about participation at the county fairs, the 10-year anniversary, Education and Outreach priorities and how to dovetail with others, such as the Chehalis Basin Partnership. These ideas can be discussed at the June meeting.

Mr. Chestnut suggested using a comparative: refreshing people's memories and subsequent projects done by the Flood Authority. Mr. Wood stated it was discussed having information available with what happened in 2007 and what has been done to minimize impacts and what is yet to be done: a potential retention dam, restoration projects, etc.

Mr. Kramer stated there will be additional work to coordinate, such as the scoping meeting on the DEIS on the retention dam. Ecology is planning to issue the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement FPEIS on June 2nd and the Governor is touring the Basin on June 1. There will be some press coverage. Ecology is sending out postcards to people in the Basin highlighting the FPEIS and what the Basin strategy is and what has been accomplished, along with next steps.

8. Update – 2017-19 Capital Budget

Mr. Kramer stated nothing has changed regarding the capital budget; there have been no new significant discussions. The Senate budget for the next biennium is \$42.5 million from State and \$10 million from federal sources. The House budget has a total of \$60 million, which is the same as it was. The legislators are waiting for the revenue forecast in June to finish the negotiations. Commissioner Fund stated things are quiet during negotiations and a second extended session will likely occur. Chair Raines stated she has not heard anything different. There will be a public meeting on the Wishkah Rd study about where the flood wall will be placed. Representatives Tharinger and Blake attended the meeting, as well as Ms. Shaw and Mr. Wood.

9. Update – Process to Approve Scope and Contracts

Mr. Kramer stated Ms. Napier informed him that there needs to be a recommendation on scopes and contract budgets by the June meeting. There will be continuing contracts for staff, French and Associates and for WEST which will all need to go through the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Boettcher stated that Ms. Napier is looking for authorization to start working on that now. Ms. Napier stated that the Flood Authority members were given a memo on Ezview and that Mr. Boettcher did a great job giving the members what needs to occur, so action may be taken in June. Mr. Boettcher asked for the Flood Authority to approve recommendations so Lewis County could move forward. There was consensus.

10. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the expenditures from April 1 through April 30 were \$53,559.49, which includes typical bills, salaries, wages, and some progress on the new gage study from WEST. Mr. Averill stated it appears there will be money left over from French and WEST and asked if there will be additional expenditures at the end of the month. Mr. Kramer stated he did not know about French and he would check on that. Mr. Boettcher stated WEST will complete their gage study. He will check to see if there will be other expenses on the flood warning system. There is also the purchase of two new gages from the National Weather Service which is in the works now. There will be an update in June since everyone will be current with their invoices at that time. Chair Raines stated that funds associated with French will not be expended by the end of June. She asked if those could be rolled over to the next biennium or could they be encumbered. Mr. Kramer stated the French contract is to be extended and funds that are not expended for the Chehalis Basin strategy is available to roll over. Chair Raines stated she did not think French was aware of that.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chair Raines stated the Wishkah Rd project still needs some gages and the bid for the Wishkah flood wall will be awarded next Monday. There might be some cost savings on that project.

b. Member Reports

Mr. Averill likes the addition of Skype to the phone meetings.

Aberdeen – Mr. Koski stated the North Shore levee project is close to submitting. The Fry Creek project is engaged in meetings with property owners.

Lewis County – Erik Martin stated there was a meeting earlier in the week regarding the Lewis County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD). Monthly meetings will continue and they are open to the public in the BOCC hearing room. The Board of Supervisors for the FCZD is acting supervisor for the district; Mr. Martin is the administrator of the FCZD. All are in the process of accepting the sponsorship for a water retention facility on the Chehalis River. On Monday the BOCC asked the supervisors to be the sponsors with certain stipulations. They might take action on that at the next meeting. There are two entities working: the BOCC and the FCZD with separate meetings, budgets and actions. There will be more to talk about as this is moved along. It is a fledgling process as to what the organization will look like.

Montesano – Mr. Wood stated he appreciates the support on the WWTP. Montesano is looking at the possibility of moving the WWTP as opposed to saving it where it is now located. There is sinking and destabilization of the structure and the city is trying to avoid a public emergency.

Cosmopolis – Mr. Chestnut thanked the other jurisdictions/projects for sharing the \$200,000 which will help their project.

13. Confirm Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 15, starting at 9:00 a.m. in Hoquiam. Location will be announced.

Adjournment was at 9:56 a.m.