

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Telephone Meeting 12:00 P.M.

June 18, 2015 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Kathi Hoder, City of Aberdeen; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Cindy Wilson, Town of Bucoda; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner

Board Members Absent: Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Ken Estes, City of Montesano

Others Present: Jim Kramer, Facilitator; Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority staff; Frank Kersch; Deana Zieseke; Jessica Hausman, Department of Ecology; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Chronicle reporter

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from May 21, 2015
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings_2013-15.aspx#June2015

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

2. Introductions

Members introduced themselves as they called in.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no corrections or additions and the agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes from May 21, 2015

There were no corrections or additions and the meeting notes were approved.

5. Update – 2015 Legislature

Mr. Kramer reported that there are no changes to the Chehalis River Basin budget since the last meeting. Mr. Averill stated the state transportation budget proposal is still under negotiation. If the gas tax is passed then part of what the Senate is asking is for \$78 million to come to the Chehalis Basin for flood mitigation. These could include the raising of the airport levee, the SR 6 project and Highway 12 near Black Lake.

6. Update – Recreation and Conservation Office Administration of Contracts

Mr. Boettcher stated the legislature funding identified language that would move the contract administration to Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for a fee of 1%. It will be better for the RCO to take that over and they want to help. With the RCO administering contracts they can do reports outlining budgets on a quarterly basis which will allow transparency of how the contracts are going. Right now that is in a holding pattern until the legislature includes their work. Hopefully this budget will pass.

Mr. Averill asked if new MOUs will be required for projects. Mr. Boettcher stated if a jurisdiction has a new project that has not been worked on then a new interagency agreement will be drawn up to transfer the money. If it is a project that is moving forward it will require an amendment.

7. Update – Projects Committee quarterly meeting

Mr. Averill stated that the Projects Committee met on June 15 and the update is on the ezview site. An important item that came out of the meeting is that until there is a clearer picture of how the money will be distributed in the operating budget, and any other budget, we don't know what the priorities will be. They will be dictated by the money that is available. The Committee is optimistic that the Flood Authority will get around \$20 million on the capital budget side for small projects such as raising houses and fish projects. The Committee needs to negotiate how that money will be distributed and then work on the small projects to be funded for the entire Basin. That goal is for the July meeting.

Mr. Boettcher stated that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Projects Committee would bring back recommendations for the total funding package because by then there will be information on the capital budget and the transportation budget. Mr. Boettcher will follow up with the jurisdictions who have not gotten back with their updated funding needs.

Mr. Boettcher stated the members talked about doing a story map for local projects. A story map will show that projects are occurring and getting down and that will be a very powerful message. The Outreach Committee thought the project signs as they exist will be fine for the 2015-17 biennium. He stated the airport levee project is on the list. If the transportation budget comes through then that project might be funded by the transportation budget increasing the budget for other projects. The Committee is optimistic that more might get done that originally thought.

8. Update – Outreach Committee quarterly meeting

Ms. Hoder stated the Outreach Committee met on the 15th and discussed the county fairs. Commissioner Fund will be hosting the SWW fair; Ms. Hoder and Mr. Thompson will be hosting the Grays Harbor County fair. The Grays Harbor County fair will showcase farm pads and small projects – before and after. In September she would like to invite the Flood Authority to a City Council meeting in Aberdeen. She would also like to attend the Hoquiam City Council meeting. She has invited French Wetmore to attend the August 12 council meeting.

Mr. Boettcher stated he would be developing a roster for anyone interested in participating in a booth for either fair. Grays Harbor County fair is August 5 through 9 and Mr. Thompson will be there every day. He will need a respite from time to time. The SWW fair is August 18 through 23; the Flood Authority will be there only on the 21st from 10am to 10pm. A roster will go out for that, also.

Commissioner Fund stated she would like to show when a flood occurred and what the Flood Authority has done in that same place on the same slide. Mr. Thompson stated he can get pictures of the Sickman Ford overflow bridge for the 1996 flood and he knows people who are willing to give testimony as to how the bridge has helped them.

Ms. Zieseke asked what size screen would be used. She was concerned that if it was too small people would not notice it. Mr. Boettcher stated there will be 3x5 posters on easels. These will be static visuals. There will be a laptop and projector so people who stop and engage in a conversation can see a story map for a specific project. The fairs will be discussed more at the July meeting. The Outreach Committee has discussed what it would like to communicate with the story maps. One theme is the

notion of “neighborly-ness.” All the folks in the Basin are gaining by this because projects are getting done; the committee wants to get this message across. Ms. Hoder stated this information needs to be brought forward to the citizens. A lot of people don’t realize what the Flood Authority has done in the Basin.

9. Decision – Extension of French and Associates Contract

Mr. Kramer stated the extended contract would be allowed continuation under the budget that was approved previously. Mr. Averill stated there is \$87,000 in the account for French and Associates. He asked if that money would go back into the pot. Mr. Kramer stated the money is available if the legislature passes the capital budget; it is contingent on that. The Capital Budget includes carryover funding. There were thumbs up all around for the extension of the contract.

10. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the expenses from May 19, 2015 through June 17, 2015 were \$12,957.72. On the Flood Authority agenda is extending the contracts for SBGH Partners and for Mr. Kramer for two years. Mr. Kramer stated Ms. Napier is working with the Commissioners to sign contracts if the capital budget is approved. Mr. Averill asked if the \$10,000 for the inundation maps can be taken off. Ms. Napier stated that amount comes from OFM.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12. Reports

There were no reports from the Chair or members.

13. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Montesano Library on July 16 starting at 9 a.m. Information and materials will be sent out prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.