



April 17, 2019

**TO:** Flood Authority Members  
**FROM:** Scott Boettcher, Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Flood Authority Wins Award!

The purpose of this memo is to acknowledge the Flood Authority's recent winning of the Association of State Floodplain Managers' James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management. We will discuss this at tomorrow's 4-18-2019 Flood Authority meeting. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com)).

### **Background**

1. The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority was recently selected as winner of the ASFPM's James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management. This national award is provided annually to recognize outstanding programs or activities on the front lines of floodplain management. Read more about the award here <https://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=429&firstlevelmenuid=179&siteid=1#la>.
2. French Wetmore (French and Associates) nominated the Flood Authority for the award in February 2019 with support from Dave Curtis (WEST Consultants) and Scott Boettcher (Staff).
  - *Nomination Summary* → Over the past decade, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority has led an aggressive program to mitigate flood risk, reduce flood damage, and increase flood threat awareness in order to transform floodplain management in the Basin from a reactive to a proactive culture. Program highlights include unique loss reduction projects such as: retrofitting homes with effective flood vents; constructing "Farm Pads" at numerous rural locations to save livestock, farm equipment, and feed; and mitigating flood risk with fish friendly engineered log jams and permit-friendly log-jacks. While the Flood Authority has had numerous effective basin initiatives, this submittal focuses on two of them: adoption of improved regulatory standards; and implementation of an innovative flood warning system. Because of these initiatives, communities and residents in the Chehalis River Basin are now substantially more aware and better prepared for flooding than ever before.
  - *Nomination Full Text* → [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1492/images/Tom%20Lee%20Award%20Text%20-%20Chehalis%20Basin%20Flood%20Authority.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Tom%20Lee%20Award%20Text%20-%20Chehalis%20Basin%20Flood%20Authority.pdf)

### **Congratulations Flood Authority!!**

James Lee Witt Local Award recognizes programs or activities that "epitomize the best in floodplain management."