



January 18, 2017

**TO:** Flood Authority Members  
**FROM:** Scott Boettcher, Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Using Unobligated Funds (Placeholder Ideas)

The purpose of this memo is to seek Flood Authority approval to authorize the Projects Committee to further review and prioritize possible projects, allocate remaining unobligated 2015-17 Projects funds (~\$155K), and report back at the next Flood Authority meeting. We will discuss this at tomorrow's 1/19/2017 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)).

#### **A. Background**

1. RCO (WA Recreation and Conservation Office) maintains and regularly updates a master tracking document for Chehalis Basin State Capital Budget obligations and expenditures. This document covers 2011-13, 2013-15, and 2015-17 biennia.
2. RCO's latest update of the master tracking document (1-13-2017) details an unobligated figure for local small projects of \$155,354. This figure is the result of reconciling bottom line balances because of projects closing, projects returning funds and new projects being initiated. See current reconciliation here – [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1492/images/Master%20Budget%20Tracking%20Table%201-17-2017.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Master%20Budget%20Tracking%20Table%201-17-2017.pdf).

#### **B. Placeholder Ideas for Using Remaining Unobligated Funds**

Upon learning of the \$155K positive unobligated balance a quick canvassing yielded several possible expenditure ideas/placeholders, namely:

1. **Initiate (Early) Design Teams for Reach-Scale Restoration Projects** -- The Chehalis Aquatic Species Restoration Steering Committee (DFW, Quinault Indian Nation and Chehalis Tribe) are recommending the initiation of up to five large reach-scale restoration projects to be funded in the 2017-2019 biennium. This recommendation is supported by the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group and the funds are included in the Governor's biennium budget proposal. The Steering Committee would like to initiate the design process for these projects in the first half of 2017 in order to increase the potential for their construction in the next biennium. Cost: TBD.
2. **Acquire Data from Off-Line "Chehalis River above Mahaffey Creek Near Pe Ell" Stream Gage** ([https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=12019310&PARAMeter\\_cd=00060,00065](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=12019310&PARAMeter_cd=00060,00065)) – This stream gage went off-line 10/01/2016 due to lack of available USGS funding. Data from this gage could be helpful for



updating and refining the Chehalis River hydraulic model in anticipation of further dam site project-level environmental review (per 2017-19 State Capital Budget request). Options are: (1) Find way to fund gage operations and maintenance; or (2) Retrieve data that likely has been collected and is still at the gage site since the gage went off-line. An issue is the State Capital Budget does not fund operations and maintenance. Cost: O&M = \$19K/year; Data retrieval = TBD.

3. **Create an Emergency Landowner Assistance Fund (non-ASRP properties)** -- Currently the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) is the primary funding mechanism through which landowners may be able to receive assistance to address bank erosion and infrastructure risk. However, there are many landowners who have infrastructure at risk but whom will be unable to receive assistance from the ASRP (at least in this biennium) for any number of reasons, such as they don't live in one of the priority sub-watersheds, their properties don't offer adequate habitat restoration benefits, or quite simply, there isn't sufficient funding to go around. Among these examples there are a handful of landowners that face a significant threat of infrastructure loss in the near-term. The Conservation District proposes that an emergency fund be set up to assist landowners (basin-wide) who have infrastructure in imminent danger of flood-related damage. Cost: TBD.
4. **Collect New LIDAR (Satsop and Wynoochee Drainages)** -- Conservation District proposes that funds be allocated to complete LIDAR in targeted areas of the Satsop and Wynoochee Rivers where infrastructure is at significant risk. A 7-mile stretch of the Satsop and Wynoochee river valleys would cost an estimated \$30,000. This information would provide valuable data for understanding the channel migration zone and the river dynamics, which could then be used to assist in assessing landowner risk and design strategies as well as serving as a basis for future early action reaches. Cost: \$30K.

### C. Recommendation/Decision

Staff recommends the Flood Authority authorize its Projects Committee to:

1. Further seek expenditure ideas, and then review, refine, and prioritize those ideas.
2. Allocate remaining resources as appropriate.
3. Report back on its allocation decisions at the February 2017 Flood Authority meeting.