

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: January 10, 2019
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location: Centralia Train Depot Multi-Purpose Room: 210 Railroad Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent January 10, 2019 Agenda Approval of November 1, 2018 Meeting Summary	Quorum of board members not present to approve November meeting summary.	Board will review/approve November 1, 2018 meeting summary at February 7, 2019 Board meeting.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	Board members asked staff to provide miles of habitat that would be opened under each of the ASRP scenarios. For March, Board members requested a briefing on the assumptions or policy decisions that were made to draft the ASRP scenarios.
3. Project-level SEPA/NEPA EIS	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCB staff will develop a new graphic that displays the flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration actions evaluated in the Programmatic EIS, and how the Flood Control Zone District’s proposal relates to the actions being evaluated as part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. OCB staff will develop an updated version of the Board Road Map to capture the timing of major work elements.
4. Admin/Housekeeping	Discussion	OCB staff will ask Board members for approval of the updates to the Board

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		Handbook at the February Board meeting.
5. Refresher on Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), Public Records, and Lobbying	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Flood Warning and Response in the Basin	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Legislative Session Preview & Planning	Discussion	OCB staff will send Board members a weekly email summarizing legislative updates and bills that may pertain to the Chehalis Basin Board. If deemed necessary, OCB staff will schedule a special Board meeting to discuss.
9. Next Steps and Closing	Decision	The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2019 in Aberdeen.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Tim Kramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife (alternate for Justin Allegro)
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director of Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Bob Thomas, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Dale Lewis, Office of Congresswoman Herrera-Butler
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Dave Fenn
- Denise Clifford, Department of Ecology
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Dwayne Aberle, resident
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Jan Robinson, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Linda Bentley, Department of Commerce
- Nicholas Carr, Forterra
- Rob Duff, Governor's Office
- Tanya Eison, Quinault Indian Nation

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines was unable to attend the meeting. Board member Edna Fund called the special meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Attendees provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the January 10, 2019 agenda. However, a quorum of Board members was not present at the meeting to formally approve the agenda.

Approval of November 1, 2018 Meeting Summary

Review and approval of the November 1, 2018 meeting summary was deferred until the February 7, 2019 Board meeting due to lack of a quorum.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members will review/approve the November 1, 2018 meeting summary at the February 7, 2019 Board meeting.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (WA Department Fish and Wildlife) provided an update on the Sand Creek fish passage barrier project, early action reach project design, and development of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) document.

Sand Creek fish passage barrier project

The Sand Creek fish passage barrier project was completed in fall 2018, opening 8.7 miles of habitat for multiple salmon species, including Chinook, coho, chum, steelhead, and cutthroat. Several partners contributed to the success of this project, including the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force, Grays Harbor County, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Grays Harbor Stream Team.

Early action reach project design

Five early action reach projects are in the conceptual design phase, and conceptual designs have been shared with the ASRP Steering Committee and Science Review Team. Conversations with landowners are continuing to determine landowner willingness and to design incentive structures for landowners interested in restoration projects on their property. A multi-agency permitting team is assessing permit considerations. Emelie also noted that design teams are considering how 'zero-rise' regulations in county floodplain ordinances may impact project design.

Development of the ASRP document

The basin-wide geographic prioritization process is complete for the ASRP document; information was utilized from different sources to identify areas that are priority for protection and restoration. This information was used to develop three preliminary restoration scenarios that are currently being evaluated:

- 1) Scenario 1 protects core habitats and key life histories in the face of climate change projections (approximately 200 miles of restoration)

- 2) Scenario 2 builds on Scenario 1, including the same important areas and adding prioritized restoration opportunities outside of core habitats (approximately 300 miles of restoration)
- 3) Scenario 3 builds on Scenario 2, adding actions to support additional life stages and distribution of key species throughout the Basin (approximately 450 miles of restoration)

The ASRP document is anticipated to be released in summer 2019. Preliminary modeling results for the three scenarios, including cost estimates, will be brought to the Board for discussion at the March meeting. The March Board meeting may also include an opportunity to ask questions directly from the scientists that helped develop the plan.

Emelie noted that an ASRP implementation structure will be released before the full ASRP document. The implementation structure reflects conversations with landowners, restoration practitioners, and other key community organizations and interests, related to the feasibility of implementation.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members requested an in-depth discussion of tradeoffs between each of the restoration scenarios during the March Board meeting. As part of that discussion, Board members asked for the staff briefing to include an explanation of the embedded assumptions and policy choices that fed into the development of the scenarios.
- Board members asked staff to provide more detail on the extent of new habitat that would be opened under each of the ASRP scenarios through barrier corrections, in addition to existing habitat that would be otherwise protected or restored.
- Board members requested more information on development of the implementation structure at the March meeting.
- Board members discussed the infrastructure and capacity needs to support ASRP project implementation at a higher level than ever experienced in the Basin, and the importance of all entities involved in implementation (landowners, Conservation Districts, state and federal agencies, design teams, NGOs, etc.) working together effectively.
- Stephen Bernath (DNR) suggested dividing the anticipated steps/results for ASRP implementation by future biennia, as way to understand timing and budget implications.
- Cynthia Carlstad (NHC) noted that the early action reach project process will provide proof-of-concept at a large-scale and will help determine how restoration actions can be achieved on-the-ground at scale.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members asked staff to provide miles of habitat that would be opened under each of the ASRP scenarios. For March, Board members requested a briefing on the assumptions or policy decisions that were made to draft the ASRP scenarios.

Update on landowner meetings in December

Bob Amrine (Lewis Conservation District) recently organized meetings with landowners in the Newaukum and South-Fork Chehalis basins to discuss their interests and experiences living on the river. Bob noted that it is easier to receive landowner feedback through smaller gatherings. One of the most promising aspects of the meetings was that landowners are interested in meeting again. Landowners expressed interest in learning more about fish issues and want assurance that if investments are made to restore habitat along the river, projects will result in increased fish populations. Landowners asked questions about compensation for restoration projects constructed on their land generally and it was clear that more education is needed around topics like how conservation easements work.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the importance of determining how conservation easements would be structured for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, and how that could impact riverside property owners.
 - Stephen Bernath (DNR) noted that DNR has a conservation easement program for small forest landowners.
 - OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that models for conservation easements that can be developed and tailored to the needs of Basin landowners are being evaluated.

Dave Fenn, Chehalis Basin farmer, discussed a new opportunity with the Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) to support the viability of agriculture in the Chehalis Basin. Dave noted that OCB Director McNamara Doyle has agreed to provide funding for six-months of NABC staff time, so they may provide their services in the Chehalis Basin. NABC staff intends to provide support in evaluating the potential of developing a grain storage facility in the Chehalis Basin, developing better markets for agricultural products and aggregation of products, developing local markets for beef products, and potential construction of a USDA slaughterhouse. Dave noted that the success of restoration actions throughout the Basin will require working with the local agricultural community because commercially viable farmland owners will be more likely to be open to restoration efforts than hobby farmers or commercial farmers who are struggling to remain viable.

Project-level SEPA/NEPA EIS

Update on EIS scoping summary report and next steps

Diane Butorac (Ecology) and Bob Thomas (US Army Corps of Engineers) provided an update on the SEPA and NEPA EIS scoping processes and next steps. Diane noted that the SEPA EIS scoping summary report is now available online. The report provides an overview of the project, outreach conducted for scoping, and a high-level summary of comments received. Scoping comment themes included purpose and objectives, project description, scope of EIS, project alternatives, elements of the environment,

mitigation, and the general environmental review process. The Draft SEPA EIS is on track to be released in February 2020 and Ecology is continuing coordination with the Corps on the NEPA EIS. At the February Board meeting, Diane anticipates briefing the Board on alternatives considered for the SEPA EIS and the scope of studies for elements of the environment.

Bob Thomas (Corps) noted that while the Corps and Ecology continue coordinating, the NEPA and SEPA processes are different. The Corps is in the process of developing its NEPA scoping summary report and is on a slightly later timeline for release of the Draft NEPA EIS, likely in the spring 2020 timeframe. Bob also noted that the ongoing partial federal government shutdown has not impacted the Corps' work on the NEPA EIS. However, the Corps will eventually need to work with other federal agencies, which may have been affected by the federal government shut down.

Relationship of EIS to Chehalis Basin Strategy

OCB Director McNamara Doyle presented an overview of the relationship of the SEPA and NEPA EISs to the Chehalis Basin Strategy. She noted that the Chehalis Basin Strategy Programmatic EIS (PEIS) evaluated potential alternatives and actions for *both* basin-wide flood damage reduction *and* aquatic species habitat restoration. These dual-purpose objectives were also reflected in the legislation that created the Office of Chehalis Basin and Chehalis Basin Board, which aims to achieve consensus on a comprehensive, integrated strategy for aggressively pursuing flood damage reduction and aquatic species habitat restoration over the long-term.

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis. The FCZD's proposal requires its own separate SEPA and NEPA environmental review, which will evaluate any other reasonable alternatives that can meet the objectives of the FCZD's proposal. OCB Director McNamara Doyle clarified that the scope of the FCZD's proposed project is limited to flood damage reduction for a particular geographic portion of the Chehalis Basin. It is only one of several flood damage reduction projects being evaluated as part of the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy (e.g., Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee, local flood damage reduction projects, Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program). The FCZD's proposal does not include aquatic species restoration actions.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that the Chehalis Basin Board will need to consider and answer a number of key questions in order to achieve consensus by fall 2020 on the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy, including:

- What is the feasibility, including detailed options for mitigation, of a flood retention facility?
- What is the relationship of the proposed flood retention facility to ASRP projects and results?
- What is the overall level of investment and sequencing of actions for the Chehalis Basin Strategy?

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members noted that many of the EIS scoping comments are more relevant to the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy, which reflects a misunderstanding of the scope of the FCZD’s proposed project.
 - Some Board members suggested reaching out to the commenters that did not understand the relationship of the project-level SEPA and NEPA EISs to the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy.
- Board members suggested the SEPA and NEPA EISs continually place the proposed flood retention facility project in the context of the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy.
- Board members requested OCB staff develop a new graphic that displays the different flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration actions evaluated in the PEIS, and how the FCZD’s proposal for a flood retention facility and levee improvements relates to the actions being evaluated for the Chehalis Basin Strategy.
- Board members requested OCB staff develop an updated version of the Board Road Map document to understand the timing of all the major work elements.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will develop a graphic displaying different flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration actions evaluated in the Programmatic EIS, and how the Flood Control Zone District’s proposal fits in as far as evaluation of the long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy. OCB staff will develop an updated version of the Board Road Map document to capture the timelines for major work elements.

Admin/Housekeeping

Cindy Bradley (OCB) provided an overview of revisions to the Board Handbook. The updates to the Board Handbook were provided in ‘track changes’ and include updates regarding public records, public disclosure requests, and reporting to the Public Disclosure Commission, as well as other updates to contact information, organizational charts, regular meeting times, and compensation and travel reimbursement procedures.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will ask Board members for approval of the updates to the Board Handbook at the February Board meeting.

Refresher on Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), Public Records, and Lobbying

Stephanie Duvall (Assistant Attorney General, Ecology) provided the Board a refresher on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), public records, and lobbying. Key points and discussion topics from the presentation included:

- Public records can include records of agency business when created or retained by agency employees or officials on home computers or devices, or in non-agency email accounts or files.

- Text messages can be considered a public record, even on a public cell phone, depending on the content of the message.
- Board members do not need to register as a lobbyist when advocating for the budget or providing testimony, but they should always notify Cindy Bradley (OCB) so those activities are noted in the OCB's records.
- If Board members ever have questions about whether they should report an interaction or conversation, they should err on the side of "over-reporting."
- OPMA applies to Board meetings, and serial meetings can trigger application of OPMA.

Flood Warning and Response in the Basin

Kevin Farrell (Washington Conservation Corps) provided an overview of the WCC. The WCC was established in 1983 and became an AmeriCorps Program in 1994. WCC members must be 18-25, with exceptions for disability status, military veterans, military reservists, and active duty dependents. The WCC has 53 full-time year-round crews, and provides field experience, networking opportunities, training, and hands on experience, and addresses natural resource, recreational assets, and disaster services. The WCC has been involved in response efforts for several natural disasters, including significant support and involvement in the December 2007 Chehalis Basin flood event.

Steve Mansfield (Lewis County Emergency Management) and Scott Boettcher (staff to Flood Authority) provided an overview of the key flood warning and response actions taken since the December 2007 and January 2009 catastrophic flood events, including:

- Replacing and installing new gages to inform new Flood Warning and Alert Systems that provide real-time tracking, monitoring, and alert systems enabling early action by citizens and emergency responders in the case of a flood event.
- Updates to the National Weather Service's Doppler Radar to track coastal storms.
- Replacements to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee pump that failed during the 2007 flood event.
- Development of the Lewis County Public Information Program that identifies key messages and ready-to-go flood response projects for Lewis County, Centralia, and Chehalis.

Steve and Scott stressed that today Basin residents are substantially more aware and better prepared for catastrophic flooding than ever before. The Basin has moved from being reactive (2007) to proactive (2019), and citizens, property owners, emergency managers, first responders, and the communities of the Basin all benefit from these efforts.

Community Flood Assistance & Resilience

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided an update on next steps for the Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR) program, FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant application, and OCB Floodplain Management Coordinator job posting. At the October 2018 Chehalis Basin Board meeting, Board

members agreed with the proposed approach and schedule for advancing the CFAR program. OCB staff committed to providing regular updates on the approach and work plan over the coming months.

OCB staff have begun researching existing, established floodproofing or channel migration zone (CMZ) programs. Regarding floodproofing, most of the programs found are outside of Washington State, although there are some within. For CMZs, the research has primarily included counties in Western WA with CMZ programs. Early themes from the floodproofing and CMZ research include:

- The importance of effective and early public outreach.
- Approaches and incentive structures for elevations, retrofits, and buyouts vary by program.
- Different approaches exist for establishing program criteria.
- Perceived level of risk influences landowner interest/participation in floodproofing and the approach to mapping and regulating CMZs.

OCB staff have identified a number of next steps for floodproofing and CMZ efforts. For floodproofing, OCB staff will:

- Schedule a meeting with basin local governments to:
 - Discuss draft program criteria for Chehalis Basin floodproofing program
 - Gauge local jurisdiction willingness to participate in a program
 - Identify jurisdictions where floodproofing opportunities are ripe
- Consider a process to identify eligible actions and geographic focus
- Develop draft program criteria using other floodproofing programs as examples
- Draft recommended public outreach milestones and timelines

For CMZs, OCB staff will:

- Continue research on how other CMZ programs determined:
 - “Level of risk” e.g. severe vs. moderate
 - Geography covered through CMZ mapping
 - Mapping approach, e.g. coarse vs. detailed
- Schedule a meeting with local jurisdictions with CMZ programs, planners, and technical staff to discuss different approaches to mapping CMZ and implications for CFAR program
- Develop options for identifying CMZs and options for reducing landowner risk

Regarding the FEMA FMA grant application, the goal of the program is reducing or eliminating claims under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The highest priority for this program in this grant round is mitigation of Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) properties. OCB staff has worked with staff from Grays Harbor and Lewis counties, and Chehalis, Centralia, Aberdeen and Hoquiam to narrow a list of potentially eligible properties. OCB staff submitted a preliminary sub-

application to the WA Emergency Management Department (EMD) in mid-December, and EMD will review and rank applications for final submittal to FEMA at the end of January.

Regarding the OCB Floodplain Management Coordinator job posting, another round of outreach for the position has begun to identify the broadest pool of potential candidates. There is not a definitive date for when the position will start.

By the March 7 Board meeting, OCB staff will update the Board on:

- OCB Floodplain Management Coordinator position
- Draft criteria and procedures for floodproofing program
- Findings from research/conversations with other CMZ programs

Legislative Session Preview & Planning

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an overview of the Board's 2019-2021 Capital Budget recommendations, the Governor's 2019-2021 proposed Capital Budget, and a preview of the Board's legislative session planning and procedures.

The Board recommended \$73.2 million in capital budget funding for the 2019-2021 biennium. Additionally, the Department of Ecology requested \$1.46 million in state general fund appropriations to support the operations of the new Office of Chehalis Basin. In December, Governor Inslee released his capital and operating budget proposals for the 2019-2021 biennium. In those budgets, he included \$50 million of capital budget funding for the Chehalis Basin Strategy and \$1.46 million of state general funds for the operations of the Office of Chehalis Basin.

The distribution between on-the-ground funding and long-term strategy funding in the Governor's proposed capital budget is similar to but not the same as what the Board considered when evaluating a level-funding scenario for next biennium. Governor's budget staff has confirmed that the \$19 million and \$31 million allocations specified in the Governor's proposed budget were pro rata reductions taken from the Board's \$73.2 million request. This reduction was not intended to prescribe a direction or preference for which specific elements or projects of the Board's recommended investments should be funded next biennium.

The Board's decision to recommend the \$73.2 million capital appropriation was based on the Board's desire to invest more aggressively next biennium in constructing the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) early action reach projects and provide \$10 million for the first phase of construction of the Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee project.

Board members discussed key messages they would like to communicate about the difference between the \$50M and \$73.2M capital budget appropriations. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed how the charge of the Board is to “aggressively pursue” implementation of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, and that the \$73.2M budget is reflective of that charge.
- Board members discussed how the additional funding to design and construct aquatic species restoration projects in the \$73.2M budget provides certainty to riverside landowners that the Chehalis Basin Strategy is a serious effort that can benefit them directly. The aggressive budget also facilitates continuing design work so the pace of construction of restoration projects can continue into the 2021-2023 biennium.
- Rob Duff (Governor’s Office) suggested highlighting how restoration projects will improve salmon populations, including spring Chinook, which are the major food source for the Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- Board members discussed the importance of highlighting the successes already achieved in the Basin and how the aggressive \$73.2M budget is reflective of this, i.e., “success breeds success.”
- Board members discussed the value in highlighting the increase in spending for on-the-ground projects each biennium.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an overview of preparations for the upcoming legislative session and discussed key issues that require additional Board consideration to develop a legislative strategy with the best chance of obtaining necessary legislative support for Chehalis Basin Strategy priorities. OCB staff are preparing materials in support of the Board’s budget recommendation, collecting letters or resolutions of support for the Board’s budget recommendation, briefing key legislative staff members, scheduling legislator meetings for the Director and Board members, and reviewing all pre-filed bills and new bills introduced throughout session to identify legislation that may impact the Chehalis Basin Strategy. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Denise Clifford (Ecology) clarified that Ecology staff cannot advocate for additional funding beyond what is in the Governor’s proposed budget.
- Board members requested OCB staff send a weekly email summarizing legislative updates and potential bills that pertain to the Chehalis Basin Board. If necessary, a special Board meeting could be scheduled to discuss time-sensitive legislative matters.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB Director McNamara Doyle will send Board members a weekly email summarizing legislative updates and potential bills that pertain to the Chehalis Basin Board. If deemed necessary, OCB staff will schedule a special Board meeting.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2019 in Aberdeen at the Rotary Log Pavilion.