

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: July 12, 2018
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location: Aberdeen Rotary Log Pavilion: 1401 Sargent Blvd, Aberdeen, WA 98520

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent July 12, 2018 Agenda Approval of June 7, 2018 Meeting Summary	Decision: Agenda approved. June 7, 2018 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Board Member Community Outreach	Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OCB Director McNamara Doyle will reach out to Board members individually to determine who their target outreach audiences are and how OCB staff can support Board member outreach efforts.OCB staff will update the outreach presentation based on Board feedback.
4. OCB Staffing Plan	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Development of 2019-2021 Budget Recommendations	Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OCB staff will develop draft 2019-2021 capital budget recommendation options based on Board feedback.OCB staff will consider a proposal for creating a group that provides

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		recommendations for large-scale flood damage reduction actions.
6. Local Project Submittal Update	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Project-level EIS for Dam/Airport Levee	Discussion	No follow-up action.
9. General Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
10. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

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
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Vickie Raines, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhart (alternate for Kris Strickler), Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission
- Tim Kramer (for Justin Allegro), Department of Fish and Wildlife

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director of Office of Chehalis Basin

- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Bob Thomas, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Darren Raines, City of Cosmopolis
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Erik Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jason Walter, Weyerhaeuser
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Jonathan Loos, American Rivers
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Luke Kelly, Trout Unlimited
- Rob Duff, Governor's Office
- Steve Schmitz, KPFF Consulting
- Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor County Conservation District
- Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the special meeting to order at 9:09 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 July 12, 2018 agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Approval of June 7, 2018 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the June 7, 2018 Meeting Summary.

BOARD DECISION: June 7, 2018 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

OCB Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that the goal for her Director's Reports is to provide brief updates highlighting noteworthy developments, accomplishments, and challenges that her and the OCB staff have been working on since previous Board meetings. Her preference is to provide brief oral reports that include interactive dialogue, but she is open to providing reports in whatever manner the Board prefers, including written reports.

Recent noteworthy meetings/outings Director McNamara Doyle has participated in since the June Board meeting include:

- Attending a Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Tribal Council meeting with Gordon White (Ecology) to provide an update on the Chehalis Basin Strategy and Office of Chehalis Basin. She also participated in a day-long tour of the reservation and nearby areas, including a tour of major floodplain restoration projects along the Quinault River and local hatcheries.
- Spending a day in Yakima with the Director of Ecology's Office of Columbia River to discuss staffing models, budgeting strategy, outreach and branding, and other operational issues.
- Participating in a two-day Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Science Review Team field tour of local sub-basins being targeted for restoration actions.

Director McNamara Doyle also noted that the OCB has recently contracted with Forterra to help develop an ASRP conservation toolbox. Forterra's scope of work is to develop a suite of conservation, preservation, and funding tools that can be tailored to the priority watershed restoration and protection areas recommended by the ASRP Steering Committee and Science Review Team, as well as development of a communications strategy.

The OCB has also contracted with the Washington Water Trust to conduct a water use pilot study in two or three sub-basins in the Chehalis watershed, identifying ways to improve instream flows while also preserving/enhancing agricultural viability. This work is intended to complement, not duplicate, the Streamflow Restoration Act ("Hirst fix" ESSB 6091) related watershed planning efforts.

Ecology applied for a NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency grant this spring for aquatic species restoration project funds, but NOAA notified applicants in April 2018 they were canceling the solicitation. OCB staff is now researching a new solicitation being put out in conjunction with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, which has a proposal due date of August 7.

Director McNamara Doyle also highlighted upcoming events and activities, including:

- Briefings for basin legislators, including Sen. Braun and Rep. DeBoldt.
- Lewis County Farm Bureau farm tour at the end of July.
- Tours of the North Shore Levee and proposed dam site in August.

- Legislative budget writers' tour of the basin in mid-September.

Board Member Community Outreach

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their commitment to provide outreach and communication to their respective constituencies over the next several months, especially before the scoping process for the SEPA/NEPA EIS begins (target is late September). OCB and Ecology staff are developing materials specific to the EIS process, in addition to other outreach materials that Board members can use during their outreach efforts.

Director McNamara Doyle presented a new animated PowerPoint that describes the overall, integrated nature of the Strategy and the different potential aquatic species restoration and flood damage reduction elements. The presentation is intended to be easily understandable to the different partner organizations and general public who may not have an in-depth understanding of the Strategy.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members provided several suggestions to improve the PowerPoint, including updates regarding transportation protection, and inclusion of more information on on-the-ground accomplishments through local flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration projects.
- Board members discussed the value of creating a narrated version of the PowerPoint that could be used for outreach and posting on the Strategy website and other websites.
- Trent Lougheed (City of Chehalis) suggested the Board and staff prepare a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Chehalis Basin Strategy that could be shared with key local government contacts.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB Director McNamara Doyle will reach out to Board members individually to determine who their target outreach audiences are and how OCB staff can support Board outreach efforts. OCB staff will update the animated PowerPoint based on Board feedback.

OCB Staffing Plan

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an overview of the OCB staffing plan. She noted the legislation that created the OCB instructed Ecology to replicate the Office of Columbia River's operational and staffing model to the degree possible. The OCB will have four core staff funded through the State Operating budget: the Director, two program managers, and an administration/office manager; a portion of a budget/fiscal position is also proposed to be funded through the state operating budget. Additional adjunct staff will be funded through the State Capital budget to engage in the project and provide technical expertise, as well as support for consultants working on various parts of the Strategy. Director McNamara Doyle noted that the Ruckelshaus Center's involvement in the Strategy is transitioning out this biennium, and dedicated project management work will shift to OCB staff. The

OCB is currently launching the recruitment process for the office manager position, and will then recruit for the additional program manager position.

Development of 2019-2021 Budget Recommendations

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an overview of the process for the Board to develop a 2019-2021 capital budget recommendation. She noted the budget development process is now led by the OCB/Chehalis Basin Board and occurs through Ecology, in contrast to past biennia where the Governor's Work Group submitted budget recommendations directly to OFM. There is an assumption that the Board will continue to support a mix of "on-the-ground" actions and other activities advancing the long-term strategy.

OCB staff are currently in the process of working with the Project Management Team, ASRP Steering Committee, Flood Authority, tribes, and contractors to obtain refined budget estimates for different major work elements related to advancing the long-term strategy and on-the-ground actions, including:

- *Advancing the Long-Term Strategy*
 - Overall Participation
 - Development of Long-Term Strategy
 - ASRP Management and Studies
 - Restorative Flood Protection
 - SEPA/NEPA EIS for Dam/Airport Levee
 - Forest Practices Study
- *On-the-Ground Actions*
 - ASRP Implementation
 - Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee
 - Floodproofing/Floodplain Management
 - Local Projects

Based on the budget estimates received, OCB staff will prepare draft budget recommendation options for Board review at its September 6 meeting. Based on feedback received at the September meeting, OCB staff will prepare 2019-2021 capital budget recommendations for Board approval at its October 4 meeting.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle asked the Board for feedback on the proposed budget development process, and engaged them in specific questions (for example, would the Board like to invest more in on-the-ground projects than in previous biennia). Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members agreed on the desirability of investing more in on-the-ground projects than in previous biennia, but cautioned that it will need to align with the overall amount of funding

requested for next biennium. Board members also noted the need to demonstrate there will be the capacity to implement an increased level of on the ground projects.

- Board members requested OCB staff clarify how all the different budget elements fit together and complement each other or where there may be conflicts when developing draft budget options for Board review.
- Board members requested OCB staff include draft budget estimates for the Strategy beyond the 2019-2021 biennium, to provide the Board context for their budget recommendation decision in consideration of sequencing and staging activities and projects over time.
- Board members requested OCB staff provide refined estimates of carryover funds from the current biennium.
- Board members discussed the idea of creating a sub-group that could provide the Board budget recommendations for large-scale flood damage reduction actions, similar to how the ASRP Steering Committee provides recommendations for aquatic species restoration actions.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will develop draft 2019-2021 capital budget recommendation options based on Board feedback. OCB staff will consider a proposal for creating a sub-group that provides the Board budget recommendations for large-scale flood damage reduction actions.

Local Project Selection Criteria Briefing

Ken Ghalambor (Ruckelshaus Center) provided a summary of the 2019-2021 local project submittals to the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority from local basin entities. A total of 17 proposals were received for projects distributed across the Basin, totaling \$10.2M, with \$7.8M for construction projects and \$2.4M for development of plans/studies. A Local Project Reviewers Group made up of Flood Authority members and state agency and tribal technical staff will review and rank the project proposals in late July. Board members will consider the draft list of ranked/prioritized local projects as they approve final 2019-2021 capital budget recommendations for submittal to the Governor at their October 4 meeting.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Update on Science Review Team Field Tours

Tim Kramer (Department of Fish and Wildlife) provided a summary of recent ASRP Science Review Team field tours. The purpose of the field tours is to: view aquatic conditions within each of the Basin's ecological diversity regions; identify restoration needs, strategies, and priorities for each region; and, ensure the ASRP is grounded in and focused on local needs. A total of four field tours are planned for this summer, three of which have been completed. Each tour visits 2-3 ecological diversity regions and consists of two-days of site visits and a one-day work session and discussion on needs, strategies, and priorities.

Weyerhaeuser Presentation on Effect of Flooding on Fish and Streams in Upper Chehalis Basin

Jason Walter (Weyerhaeuser) provided a summary of a Weyerhaeuser-led assessment of fish recolonization in stream systems where fish were (largely) extirpated by catastrophic debris flows from the 2007 flood. The study covered 17 basins (2 reference basins not impacted by a debris flow) along 29 km of streams. The preliminary findings show that fish returned to all 15 stream systems impacted by catastrophic debris flows by the 2009 sampling period, which was only 1.5 years after the 2007 storm. Fish have now fully recolonized pre-storm occupied habitats in 10 of 15 streams impacted by debris flows. Cutthroat trout are the uppermost fish in all sites, but there is an expansion in the range of anadromous fish as well. Where fish have not recolonized pre-storm occupied habitats, there is typically some 'feature' associated with a stopping point, such as a blockage/barrier or stream gradient.

DNR Time-Series on Fish Barrier Removal Projects Completed on Forest Lands in Chehalis Basin

Stephen Bernath (Department of Natural Resources) provided a presentation on fish barrier removal projects completed on forest lands in the Chehalis Basin since the Forests and Fish Agreement in 1999. When the Agreement was negotiated, it was determined that large forest landowners were required to improve their roads to specification and remove any fish passage barriers. This included work on state lands and large industrial forests, but not county land. This work has represented an over \$300M investment statewide by the timber industry (without any public money), and has opened up roughly 4-5K miles of streams statewide.

Update on ASRP landowner outreach

Tom Kollasch (Grays Harbor Conservation District) provided an update on recent landowner meetings in the Wynoochee and Satsop sub-basins. Conservation District and ASRP Science Review Team staff met with local landowners in each of these sub-basins, and Tom noted landowners are interested and willing to engage in the process. Landowners were knowledgeable about river dynamics, and their problems in this part of the watershed are more focused on erosion than flooding.

Project-Level EIS for Dam/Airport Levee

Bob Thomas (US Army Corps of Engineers) noted that the Corps is working closely with Ecology to move the process forward such that it achieves objective and defensible NEPA and SEPA EISs. Bob acknowledged that there will not be a joint SEPA/NEPA document, but the documents will hopefully align with each other.

Gordon White (Ecology) introduced Diane Butorac, the new EIS project manager for Ecology. Diane has significant experience working on SEPA and with the Corps on NEPA. Gordon also noted that Ecology and the Corps have made progress on a cooperative approach for the NEPA and SEPA EISs, and have a goal date for scoping in late September.

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided some reminders about the scoping process and what constitutes a helpful scoping comment. She stressed to the Board that the purpose of the scoping process is to obtain input on what should be studied in the EIS – it is not a decision point on the viability of the proposal.

General Updates

Gage Conversion and Flood Warning System

Chrissy Bailey (Ecology) provided an update on work the Flood Authority, US Geological Survey, and Ecology are conducting to update local flood gages to improve the accuracy of flood warning information regarding reported river height during storm events. Updates to the reported water elevations on some local flood gages may generate confusion, because the survey datum is changing. In anticipation, the Flood Authority will launch a Chehalis Basin Gage Height Conversion Project website in August 2018 as an information resource to help Basin interests better understand the new gage heights. See the draft project information webpage at:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1492/37257/chehalis-basin-gage-height-conversion-project.aspx . Please provide Scott Boettcher, staff to the Flood Authority, any feedback on the draft project information webpage.

Drought Conditions

Curt Hart (Ecology) noted that the State of Washington has not formally declared a drought locally or across the State, but there have been some water rights curtailments in the Basin, and USGS gages in the Basin show some of the lowest water conditions on record.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2018. There will be no Board meeting in August.