

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** June 7, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Location:** VR Lee Community Building - 221 SW 13th Street, Chehalis WA 98532

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent June 7, 2018 Agenda Approval of April 19, 2018 Meeting Summary	Decision: Agenda approved. April 19, 2018 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Local Project Selection Criteria	Decision: Board members approved the local projects recruitment form and scoring instrument, pending improvements to the scoring instrument and schedule discussed during the meeting.	Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) will update the local projects recruitment form and scoring instrument to reflect the discussed changes from the Board meeting and send out the call for 2019-21 local projects.
3. OCB Director Introduction and Board Discussion with Basin Legislators	Discussion	OCB staff will develop a graphical representation of the different groups and committees involved in the Chehalis Basin Strategy.
4. North Shore Levee Schedule and Cost Estimate Briefing	Discussion	Board members requested OCB staff work with City of Aberdeen and Hoquiam staff to clarify how design of the Aberdeen Hoquiam North Shore Levee project aligns with the most recent sea level rise scenarios for Grays Harbor.
5. Restorative Flood Protection Report Out on Landowner Outreach	Discussion	OCB staff will work explore the idea of an active channel migration zone program for the Newaukum sub-basin and develop options for following up with additional outreach.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FORMAL ACTION</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP ACTION</b>
6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Relationship to Flood Damage Reduction Projects	Decision: Board members approved the approach outlined in the memorandum by consensus with four voting member's thumbs up and one voting member's thumb sideways.	No follow-up action.
7. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on early action reach project design kick off</li> <li>• Update on ASRP landowner outreach</li> </ul>	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Next Steps and Closing	Decision: The July 5, 2018 Board meeting was rescheduled for July 12, 2018. The Board meeting on August 2, 2018 was cancelled.	No follow-up action.

## Attendees

### **Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:**

- David Burnett, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- 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
- Justin Allegro, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission

**Board Staff/Board Guests Present:**

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director of Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor County Conservation District
- Bob Johnson, Department of Natural Resources
- Brian Blake, Washington State Representative (19<sup>th</sup> District)
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Wilson, Thurston County
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Cynthia Carlstad, Carlstad Consulting
- Dale Lewis, Office of Congresswoman Herrera-Butler
- Dean Takko, Washington State Senator (19<sup>th</sup> District)
- Ed Ocrutt, Washington State Representative (20<sup>th</sup> District)
- Erik Martin, Lewis County Flood Control Zone District
- Jeffree Stewart, Department of Ecology
- Jill Anderson, City of Chehalis
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Jim Walsh, Washington State Representative (19<sup>th</sup> District)
- Kathleen Berger, Thurston County Conservation District
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Maia Bellon, Department of Ecology Director
- Nikki Atkins, Lewis County Conservation District
- Rich Osborne, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Rob Duff, Governor's Office
- Rob Hill, City of Centralia
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority staff
- Steve Schmidt, KPFF Consulting
- Steve Tharinger, Washington State Representative (24<sup>th</sup> District)
- Terry Harris, City of Chehalis
- Tim Kramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor County Conservation District
- Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis
- Vince Panesko, Panesko Tree Farms

## **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 June 7, 2018 agenda.

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

## **Approval of April 19, 2018 Meeting Summary**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the April 19, 2018 Meeting Summary.

**BOARD DECISION:** April 19, 2018 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

## **Local Project Selection Criteria Briefing**

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) provided an overview of the proposed 2019-2021 Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority local projects recruitment form and scoring instrument. The draft scoring instrument uses a weighted scoring system (where 5 = "Yes, Absolutely" to 1 = "No, Not at all) to rate all project requests from member local jurisdictions on the following criteria:

- Project Completion
- Project Doable
- Project Impacts
- Benefits Stated and Quantified, including:
  - Emergency Response Benefits
  - Essential Infrastructure Protection Benefits
  - Public Health, Safety, and Welfare Benefits
  - Residential, Commercial, and/or Agricultural Protection Benefits
  - Habitat Benefits
  - Return on Investment
  - Other Project Impacts

Scott was seeking approval from the Board to distribute the recruitment form to member jurisdictions and confirm the scoring instrument criteria and approach. When the scoring instrument is finalized and distributed, project sponsors will need to submit proposals no later than July 3, 2018.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged that while the focus of local projects is flood damage reduction, there is an interest to minimize environmental damage, and to the degree possible, achieve environmental benefit.
- Board members discussed the value of local project sponsors engaging with regulatory entities early in the process.
- Board members discussed and requested the following improvements be made to the scoring instrument:
  - Include guidance to local jurisdictions on how to respond to the “Return on Investment” question.
  - Adjust the weighting and analysis to consider non-financial project implications.
  - Acknowledge that project impacts can be positive and negative.
  - Acknowledge the value of leveraging or complementing other local projects.
  - Update the schedule so Flood Authority staff reviews/discussed the draft ranked and prioritized local project list with the Board in October 2018, not December 2018.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) will update the local projects recruitment form and scoring instrument to reflect the discussed changes from the Board meeting and send out the call for 2019-21 local projects.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board members approved the local projects recruitment form and scoring instrument by consensus with all voting member’s thumbs up, with the improvements to the scoring instrument and schedule listed above.

## **OCB Director Introduction and Board Discussion with Basin Legislators**

Ecology Director Maia Bellon introduced the new Director of the Office of Chehalis Basin, Andrea McNamara Doyle. Ecology Director Bellon noted the diverse skillset that OCB Director McNamara Doyle brings to her new position, and the shared commitment she brings to Ecology and the Board to meet the Chehalis Basin Strategy’s dual objectives of flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration. Director Bellon thanked the Washington State Legislators in attendance for their continued engagement and support and noted that she will personally stay engaged in this effort moving forward, delegating to Andrea to be her eyes and ears and keep her apprised of emerging issues.

### **Director’s Report**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle thanked Director Bellon and welcomed the Washington State Legislators in attendance. She began by acknowledging the need to aggressively pursue an integrated strategy and funding for long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration in the Basin, and recognized that expectations are high. OCB Director McNamara Doyle has spent the first few weeks of her job meeting directly with Board members, ex-officio members, local landowners, community groups, and legislative staff; making several trips to different parts of the Basin; and familiarizing herself

with the different work groups, task forces, and organizations involved in different aspects of the strategy to understand their priority values and objectives. Her initial observations included:

- Passionate individuals, committed for the long-haul
- Dozens of local entities/organizations dedicated to doing the right thing for the basin
- Exceptional team of partners with technical expertise to offer various working groups
- The need to provide information that helps individuals and groups to track and engage in overall effort

OCB Director McNamara Doyle then presented a graphical representation of the different aquatic species restoration and large-scale and local flood damage reduction actions being considered as part of the strategy. The intent was to show there are any number of different combinations possible, and the task of the Board is to determine the best way to achieve both objectives of the strategy while meeting the broader needs of the Chehalis Basin community.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle also highlighted two key transition issues she is working on: (1) transitioning from a consultant driven effort to an OCB led staff team, and (2) transitioning from a biennial budgeting process led by the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group to one led by the Ecology/OCB budget process.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Representative Steve Tharinger asked how the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority fits into the transition to the OCB. OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that several Board members are also Flood Authority members, and that the Flood Authority will continue primary oversight of local flood damage reduction projects and integrated early flood warning systems, with the Board's oversight.
- Rob Duff (Governor's Office) acknowledged the value of highlighting different flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration projects that have been completed on-the-ground, to show that the effort is not simply about studying potential alternatives.
- OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that she plans to put together a graphical representation of the different groups and committees involved in the Chehalis Basin Strategy so those less familiar with the effort can understand the overall landscape.

### **Updated Chehalis Basin Strategy Road Map**

Chrissy Bailey (Ecology) provided a summary of recent updates to the Board's 2017-2019 Road Map. Chrissy began by highlighting impacts to the work plan resulting from the delay in passage of a 2017-2019 capital budget, including:

- Delay staffing the Office of Chehalis Basin

- Delayed aquatic species habitat restoration and local flood damage reduction projects
- Delayed initiation of the Environmental Impact Statement for Dam/Airport Levee
- Increased administrative costs

Chrissy then highlighted what will be accomplished on various work elements this biennium, including:

- Design and construction of 17 fish passage barrier projects to open 32.5 miles of quality stream habitat
- Design of five aquatic species habitat reach restoration projects for construction in 2020
- Implementation of the Flood Authority's priority local flood damage reduction projects
- Construction of priority farm pads
- Development of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (public review summer 2019)
- Completion of feasibility analyses for restorative flood protection in the Newaukum sub-basin
- Final design of the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee
- Development of a draft basin-wide floodproofing program strategy
- Completion of SEPA/NEPA EIS scoping and supporting technical studies for the potential dam and Chehalis/Centralia Airport Levee improvements

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will develop a graphical representation of the different groups and committees involved in the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

### **North Shore Levee Schedule and Cost Estimate Briefing**

Kris Koski (City of Aberdeen) provided an overview of the Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee project. The Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee project aims to provide flood protection for low-lying parts of the cities between the Wishkah and Hoquiam Rivers north of the Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Estuary. The project will provide coastal flood protection to as many areas as is feasible, improve the storm drainage systems in Aberdeen and Hoquiam so that they more effectively collect and convey runoff from intense storm events, and significantly reduce the economic burden on the community caused by flooding. The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) mapping revisions associated with the Levee will remove approximately 3,100 properties between the Wishkah and Hoquiam Rivers from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and place them into a Zone X, eliminating current Federal flood insurance requirements on mortgages. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the proposed North Shore Levee.

The Levee is now in the final stages of design, and environmental review and permitting work are beginning. Design is scheduled to be complete in June of 2019 and the cities are requesting construction funding in the State's 2019-2021 capital budget. The current construction costs are estimated at \$75 million, which includes the levees and storm drainage and pump station improvements.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Kris Koski clarified that, in general, the design of the South Shore Levee provides higher levels of flood protection than the North Shore Levee design.
- Representative Steve Tharinger encouraged Kris to look into alternative sources of funding for construction besides the State capital budget, including a levee district, federal sources, or existing stormwater utilities.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** Board members requested OCB staff work with City of Aberdeen and Hoquiam staff to clarify how design of the Aberdeen Hoquiam North Shore Levee project aligns with the most recent sea level rise scenarios for Grays Harbor.

### **Restorative Flood Protection Report Out on Landowner Outreach**

Cynthia Carlstad (Carlstad Consulting) and Andrea Petzel (Broadview Planning) provided a summary of their structured interview process for landowners in the Newaukum sub-basin regarding the Restorative Flood Protection concept. The goal of the effort was to build community awareness and support for the Chehalis Basin Strategy and assess landowner support for the Restorative Flood Protection concept. The outreach approach included one-on-one interviews, postcard mailing, open houses, website updates, and a dedicated phone line. Cynthia and Andrea spoke to 44 people total, 25 through interviews and 19 via conversations at open houses.

Key findings from the outreach included:

- This is a remarkably resilient and adaptable community that does not feel heard or valued.
- Responses ranged from tolerant to enthusiastic regarding landowner compensation for impacts from more flooding and restorative flood protection treatments. Nearly all individuals wanted more information.
- Everybody has experienced flood impacts, mostly from loss of property and land from channel migration.
- There is skepticism that wood and plantings will stabilize the river, and subsequent outreach efforts will need to incorporate a strong educational component.
- There is an overwhelming desire to have fish back in the river.
- There is an overall distrust of government, and some concern that rural landowners would be making sacrifices for the Centralia/Chehalis areas or would not receive fair market value for any voluntary buyouts or easements undertaken as part of the effort.
- The river defines the community, and questions about whether the Restorative Flood Protection approach would mean the end of Onalaska.

Cynthia and Andrea provided the following conclusions and next steps:

- Develop a strategy to help people in the Newaukum deal with the flood hazards of channel migration.

- Do not squander the momentum and goodwill generated by this effort.
- Consider combining Restorative Flood Protection and Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) outreach.
- Outreach must be face-to-face.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will work explore the idea of an active channel migration zone program for the Newaukum sub-basin and develop options for following up with additional outreach.

## **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Relationship to Flood Damage Reduction Projects**

Chrissy Bailey (Ecology) summarized a memorandum regarding the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan's (ASRP) relationship to flood damage reduction actions.

The ASRP Steering Committee on May 16, 2018 considered a draft description for how the ASRP is being developed regarding the possibility of implementation of the large scale flood damage reduction actions being considered for the Chehalis Basin Strategy (dam in the upper Chehalis, Restorative Flood Protection action, levees, etc.). It included:

1. The ASRP is not mitigation for aquatic species impacts associated with any of the large-scale flood damage reduction actions being considered for the Chehalis Basin Strategy.
2. The process envisioned for developing the ASRP in light of the possibility of large scale flood damage reduction actions:
  - A. The ASRP is being developed based on the existing conditions in the basin. Strategic prioritization for protection and restoration actions will include the areas of the basin that could be affected by large scale flood damage reduction actions.
  - B. The work plan for the Steering Committee and Science and Review Team (SRT) includes an assessment of how the identified impacts and mitigation for large scale flood damage reduction actions will affect the ASRP.
  - C. When the Chehalis Basin Board recommends advancing specific large-scale flood damage reduction actions, then the ASRP will need to be reexamined to determine any strategies and actions pre-empted or no longer beneficial. Alternate strategies, actions, and locations may need to be developed.
3. There are many questions yet to be answered, but the above process describes the general intent to keep the ASRP clearly separate from any mitigation associated with potential large-scale flood damage reduction actions.

In addition to the Steering Committee recommendation, OCB staff believe it is possible that mitigation proposals for aquatic species impacts resulting from large scale flood damage reduction actions (particularly the dam and airport levee) may include projects recommended in the ASRP. If ASRP

restoration or protection projects are included as mitigation for impacts from flood damage reduction actions, they should no longer be counted towards ASRP “results”. In such cases, alternative ASRP projects may need to be identified to compensate for the reduction in anticipated benefits.

Key comments included:

- Some Board members suggested, to the degree possible, that the ASRP not prioritize projects in areas of proposed large-scale flood damage reduction actions, e.g., the proposed dam site.
- The Board requested staff clarify how ASRP “results” will be measured; for example, is it number of fish, escapement/returns, river miles restored, etc.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board members approved the approach outlined in the memorandum by consensus with four voting member’s thumbs up and one voting member’s thumb sideways.

## **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)**

### **Update on early action reach project design kick off**

Tim Kramer (WDFW) provided an update on the early action reach project design effort. Five sub-basins were selected for early action reach restoration efforts, and a Design Team has been established in each sub-basin which team includes Conservation District, Lead Entity/Coast Salmon Partnership, WDFW, and design firm (InterFluve, NSD) staff.

Each design team has been tasked to:

- Drive design development
- Evaluate design options based on landowner and habitat needs
- Identify lessons learned
- Produce design documents
- Coordinate with Permitting Team

The Design Teams will determine which reaches to move into the conceptual design phase, for which criteria has been developed to evaluate the reaches. Next steps include:

- Identify two (or one) reaches per sub-basin for detailed evaluation
- Conservation Districts lead outreach to landowners
- Meet with landowners to discuss needs and restoration alternatives
- Goal to identify one final reach per sub-basin for conceptual design (Fall 2018)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Tim Kramer clarified that there is likely to be variability within the schedule for each sub-basin, given their unique conditions.
- Justin Allegro (WDFW) noted that the lessons learned from this effort will help with refinement of costs and assumptions from the Phase 1 ASRP.
- Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center) clarified that the Winter 2018-2019 timeframe is when preliminary design would begin and landowners would be contacted to negotiate different treatment options, e.g., easements, buyouts, etc.
- Stephen Bernath (DNR) noted that there is a relevant Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) report regarding different regulatory versus voluntary acquisition strategies for protecting habitat.

### **Update on ASRP landowner outreach**

Staff from the Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor Conservation Districts (CDs) summarized findings from five meetings with landowners in Spring 2018 in locations throughout the Chehalis Basin. The purpose of the meetings was to understand the experience, perspectives, and concerns of landowners throughout the Chehalis Basin regarding: living and farming along the Chehalis River or its tributaries; how the State could help agriculture be prosperous in the future; and initial thoughts on habitat projects.

Understanding local agricultural needs and concerns can help ensure farming and farmers are supported as part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and considered during ASRP development.

Regarding agricultural viability, landowners expressed concerns about: farmland succession, costs for farmland for new farmers, being less competitive than eastern WA farmers, and a need for improved market access. Restoration can also be seen as a threat to agricultural viability, and there was caution that restoration would make things harder for farmers. Landowners also expressed concerns about stability of large woody debris in rivers and banks, riparian buffer sizes and banks, and the maintenance and viability of restoration projects on their land. That said, most were open to more information regarding restoration. They also expressed interesting ideas for agricultural incentives in the basin, such as a USDA certified slaughterhouse for animals. The CD staff also noted that landowners have seen a significant decline in fish populations along the river, and they want accurate information on what has contributed to the degraded fish habitat. They are open to the idea of compromise, but not demise (i.e., they are willing to work with the environment but not at the cost of losing the ability to farm).

The CDs plan to reconvene the landowner focus groups in Fall 2018 to discuss specific ideas for habitat actions and priority sub-basins identified by the Science Review Team during summer field efforts and other issues raised during the initial meetings.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the benefit of considering ways to incentivize farmers to participate in the strategy. They acknowledged that while the ASRP Steering Committee will hear about the direct relationship between agriculture and restoration, the Steering Committee lacks direct agricultural expertise and so it may be valuable to include that expertise at the committee or Board level as the Board makes decisions on the strategy.
- Julie Balmelli-Powe (Basin farmer) suggested that water quantity for farmers should be factored into the Board's decision making on a long-term strategy.

### **Next Steps and Closing**

The next two Board meetings were scheduled for July 5 and August 2, 2018, which some Board members and staff would not be able to attend. Given summer vacations and scheduling constraints, OCB staff suggested the July 5, 2018 meeting be rescheduled for July 12, 2018 and the August 2, 2018 meeting be cancelled.

**BOARD DECISION:** The July 5, 2018 Board meeting was rescheduled for July 12, 2018. The Board meeting on August 2, 2018 was cancelled.