

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: December 7, 2017

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Rotary Log Pavilion, 1401 Sargent Blvd., Aberdeen, WA 98520

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent December 6, 2017 Agenda Approval of November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary	Decision: Agenda approved. November 2 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Land Use in the Chehalis Basin	Discussion	OCB staff will complete new land use analyses requested by Board members, and present the findings at an upcoming Board meeting.
3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Board members agreed to reschedule the February 1, 2018 Board meeting for February 8, 2018. Comments on the Phase 1 ASRP are still due February 2, 2018.	Board members requested OCB staff revisit the federal funding strategy for the ASRP, and what potential grant programs and other sources of federal funding may be available for restoration in the Chehalis Basin.
4. Perspectives in the Basin: Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Fishers	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Project-level EIS for a Dam	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Legislative Communication	Discussion	Board members requested OCB staff develop an updated PPT presentation and handout that can be shared with Board members in advance of future legislative briefings, and look at calendars to identify and schedule future briefings with legislative committees, Basin legislators, and select legislators.

7. Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority - Local Flood Damage Reduction Project List Development and Criteria	Discussion	Board members requested OCB staff develop a recommendation for the Board to consider on the future Flood Authority local project selection/ ranking process.
		Board members requested that Flood Authority staff provide the QIN the SEPA documentation for the Wishkah Road flood relief local project.
8. Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee	Discussion	No follow-up action.
9. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	Next Board meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2018. There will not be a Board meeting in January 2018.

Chehalis Basin Board meeting summary

Date: December 7, 2017

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Dave Burnett, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation [left after lunch]
- 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, Chair, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Chehalis Basin Board Ex Officio Members Present:

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

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- Andrea Halstead, Quinault Indian Nation
- Betsy Dillin, Lewis County Public Works
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Brandon Carman, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Brian Cochrane, Washington State Conservation Commission
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Dan Maughan, Lewis County Flood Control Zone District (Citizen Representative)
- Danielle Dan, Quinault Indian Nation
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation (ASRP Steering Committee)
- David Martin, Quinault Indian Nation
- Erik Martin, Lewis County Flood Control Zone District
- Francis Rosander, Quinault Indian Nation
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- John Hendrickson, Lewis County Flood Control Zone District (Citizen Representative)
- Jonathon Loos, American Rivers
- Kathy Mai, OTAK Engineering
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kiki Rosander, Quinault Indian Nation

- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Linda Orgel, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Patrice Kent, City of Aberdeen
- Paula Swedeen, Conservation Northwest
- Rich Osborne, Washington Coast Salmon Partnership
- Ron Landon, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority Staff
- Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the special meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Chair Raines also thanked the City of Aberdeen for hosting the meeting, and the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) for providing lunch and inviting tribal members to participate. Board members, staff, and guests/participants provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the December 7, 2017 agenda.

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

Approval of November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary.

BOARD DECISION: November 2, 2017 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member’s thumbs up.

Land Use in the Chehalis Basin

At the November 2, 2017 Board meeting, OCB staff provided a presentation on land use and land cover in the upper Chehalis Basin to help create a common understanding among Board members regarding land use and land cover patterns. Community Development Directors from Lewis County, Chehalis, and Centralia also provided the Board briefings on plans for potential future land uses in their respective communities. Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center, Facilitator) noted that the presentations at the November Board meeting focused on the upper Basin because this is where concerns and questions regarding development have primarily been focused, and is where urban development along I-5 is the most visible.

As follow-up to the November Board meeting, OCB staff asked Board members to consider if there are other questions they would like answered about land use. For example, Jim noted that the Phase 1 ASRP does not include any assumptions about future changes in land use, though it does account for potential climate change. In addition, questions have been raised about the potential for new development in the current floodplain if a dam were constructed. Jim noted that work elements such as the ASRP, restorative flood protection, and project-level EIS for a dam will include assumptions regarding future land use, and the Board should weigh in on any additional analyses that would help them determine the assumptions they would like included for these work elements.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed and requested a number of new analyses regarding land use, including:
 - Developing floodplain maps that estimate what the 100-year floodplain would look like with climate change.
 - Developing floodplain maps that show the spatial changes to the existing 100-year floodplain if a dam were constructed, in both with- and without-climate change scenarios.
 - Identifying what land use exists in the floodplain in areas that would be protected by a dam, and how that may change future land use planning.
- Trent Loughheed (Community Development Director, City of Chehalis) let Board members know he is available to answer any of their questions specific to the City of Chehalis.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will complete the new land use analyses requested by Board members (listed above), and present the findings at an upcoming Board meeting.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Update

The ASRP Steering Committee recently sent a draft of the Phase 1 ASRP to the Chehalis Basin Board, Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Council, and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Business Committee for review. The document was sent via email from Tim Kramer (WDFW), and reviewers were asked to address the following questions when submitting feedback:

1. What do you like about the estimated outcomes for aquatic species? What questions/concerns do you have about the outcomes? What recommendations do you have for the outcomes?
2. What questions/concerns do you have regarding the costs and magnitude of actions needed to achieve the outcomes? What recommendations do you have for the investment needed?
3. What questions/recommendations do you have for increasing the likelihood of implementation?
4. Are there additional issues that should be addressed in the next phase for development of the full ASRP beyond those identified in this initial document?

Additional feedback beyond the questions above is also welcome. Comments are requested by the end of the day on Friday, February 2, 2018, and will help guide any adjustments or refinements to be considered during development of the Phase 2 ASRP. The Phase 2 ASRP will be completed in spring/summer 2018 (pending a capital budget), and will include specific information on reaches targeted for restoration, types of projects, refinement of costs, adaptive management principles, and phasing and planning for implementation. The Phase 2 ASRP work will also consider modeled results for impacts to fish and the effectiveness of the ASRP scenarios resulting from implementation of different large-scale flood damage reduction actions, like a potential dam and restorative flood protection.

Jim Kramer noted that at the November 2, 2017 Board meeting, Board members were asked to think through what it will take to review the Phase 1 document with their respective constituencies, what the timing of review will be, and when they will be ready to have a discussion with the Board on their initial thinking. This will help inform how to time the discussion of the Phase 1 ASRP with the Board before feedback goes to the ASRP Steering Committee.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Tyson Johnston noted that internal review of the Phase 1 ASRP is already underway by QIN staff. QIN is prepared to have finalized comments by the February 2 deadline, and initial impressions are that the draft is very strong.
- Vickie Raines noted that the Grays Harbor Board of County Commissioners has regular meetings, and will likely request WDFW staff and/or ASRP Steering Committee members attend a future meeting to provide a briefing on the Phase 1 ASRP.
- Edna Fund noted that she would like WDFW staff and/or ASRP Steering Committee members to attend a future Lewis County Flood Control Zone District meeting to provide a briefing on the Phase 1 ASRP.
- J Vander Stoep noted that he would like briefings provided to other Lewis County groups and citizens, and suggested a briefing for Basin legislators and the two US Congressional offices.
- Steve Malloch noted that he plans to share the draft Phase 1 ASRP with roughly six organizations with an interest in the Chehalis Basin fishery and may request support from WDFW staff and/or ASRP Steering Committee members to provide briefings.
- Stu Trefry (SCC) noted that he will brief SCC staff and Conservation Districts, and expressed interest in finding integration between the ASRP and development of local Voluntary Stewardship Plans.
- Board members agreed to reschedule the February 1, 2019 Board meeting for February 8, 2019. This will provide OCB staff time to compile and summarize individual Board member comments before the Board develops their own formal comments. Comments on the Phase 1 ASRP are still due February 2, 2019.
- Board members requested OCB staff revisit the federal funding strategy for the ASRP, and what potential grant programs and other sources of federal funding may be available for restoration in the Chehalis Basin.

BOARD DECISION: Board members agreed to reschedule the February 1, 2018 Board meeting for February 8, 2018. Comments on the Phase 1 ASRP are still due February 2, 2018.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members requested OCB staff revisit the federal funding strategy for the ASRP, and what potential grant programs and other sources of federal funding may be available for restoration in the Chehalis Basin.

Perspectives in the Basin: Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Fishers

On behalf of the QIN, Tyson Johnston thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Tyson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to hear different perspectives from the Basin in previous Board meetings, and introduced Francis Rosander, David Martin, and Andrea Halstead to provide QIN Tribal Treaty Fishers perspectives at this meeting. Francis Rosander is a historian, judge, and was on the QIN tribal leadership during the Boldt era. He was also part of the first cohort of QIN fishers to fish after the Boldt decision. David Martin is the Chief Creative Officer with the QIN Enterprise Board, former QIN Vice Chair, and tribal fisher. Andrea Halstead is the Chief Operating Officer for the QIN, and a treaty fisher. Tyson also thanked the QIN head cook for offering salmon harvested from the nearby area for our lunch, which represents much more than just a meal for the QIN. He also acknowledged that QIN approaches Board meetings on a nation-to-nation basis, as a sovereign treaty-tribe through the Boldt Decision.

Francis Rosander began his sharing by stating that he was born in Aberdeen in 1933. Aberdeen is where the QIN had their first treaty gathering. Francis has been an advocate and leader for establishing and maintaining QIN fishing rights for many years. His many roles and responsibilities have included working for a local hatchery, representing the QIN perspectives in deliberations with state and federal officials, serving as a judge, and being a tribal fisher. Francis shared many stories of his experiences fishing on the Chehalis River and his passion and love for fishing, as well as the tremendous importance of fishing for the QIN people.

Francis acknowledged the difficulties related to flooding on the Chehalis River. He provided examples such as overflow from local wastewater treatment plants, impacts to the estuary, and increasingly high tides. Francis expressed his appreciation for the QIN having a seat at the table and his hopes that all interested parties are able to work and address issues together, rather than fighting with each other and making things worse.

David Martin began his sharing by acknowledging his father, Phillip Martin Sr., who ran a hatchery for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). David noted that his family has been fishing in these waters since the Boldt decision. David's family was able to secure a spot in the fishery rotation for the QIN, and fishing has always been a part of his family, including for his daughter who he is very proud of. The QIN fishery is strictly self-regulated, which means working closely with state and federal agencies. Last year, many QIN tribal fishers, including himself and Andrea Halstead, opted not to harvest King Salmon because of concerns about poor returns, recognizing that it's a resource that they and many others live off of. David stressed the value of fishing in his family's lives, and for the QIN people. Fishing is a commercial venture, but it's also a family and cultural act that has been going on for many years. Fishing is very important from a generational and cultural perspective, in that it is a practice that is passed down to each other that is of the utmost importance.

When developing a long-term strategy for the Chehalis Basin, David said it will be important to understand all potential impacts to the fishery and people, and determine how to compensate for those impacts. For example, if a dam is constructed then different restoration and enhancement measures need to be included to maintain the commercial and cultural viability of the fishery for both tribal and non-tribal fishers. He also expressed his appreciation for having a seat at the table for this process. The QIN has been here for generations, and they have a voice that will be heard.

Andrea Halstead began her sharing by stating she has been a QIN tribal fisher for over 35 years. Her first experiences of fishing were when she was 7-8 years old, spending time with her father. Her father has fished the Chehalis River since the late 1970s, and she remembered fishing being very good in the 1980s and 1990s, although it was "feast or famine." She recalled being "rich in the fall and winter, and poor by spring and summer." Andrea expressed that the QIN people have fished since time immemorial, and fishing defines who the QIN are. The closest analogy she could come up with is that the fish are like their children.

Andrea spoke of how the fishers look out for each other, spend quality time with each other, and act as good stewards of the environment. For example, Andrea's father and other QIN fishers spend their spare time collecting derelict gear from the river system. She feels privileged to fish the Chehalis River and to have treaty rights. With 3,000 QIN people enrolled to fish, but only 50 people allowed to fish at any given time, she takes pride in being able to exercise her treaty right, and acknowledged that it comes with the responsibility to follow the rules and be good stewards. It is important to Andrea to leave this legacy for her children so they have the same opportunities she does.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members expressed their thanks and appreciation for the depth and breadth of experiences shared by the QIN tribal fishers, and acknowledged the deep personal, familial, cultural, spiritual, and economic value that the fishery provides for the QIN people.
- Edna Fund asked Francis, David, and Andrea what they attribute the changes in the fishery over the last 30 years to? QIN tribal fisher responses included climate change, human impacts, logging practices, flooding, and the general encroachment of the ocean onto the shoreline. They also stressed the importance of learning more about what may be causing these changes, and working to make improvements.
- David Martin noted that, as a self-regulating fishery, QIN tracks the economic value of their fishery. Tyson noted that analyses done for the Grays Harbor Crude-by-Rail project includes detailed economic information that is publicly available.
- Board members acknowledged that when they are ready to make a decision on a long-term strategy for the Chehalis Basin it must provide significant benefits for both flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

Project-level EIS for Dam

Gordon White (Ecology) noted that work on the project-level EIS for a dam continues to move slowly due to the delay in passing a 2017-2019 capital budget. Gordon recently spoke with US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) staff, who said they are still behind in reviewing a draft Determination of Significance, which will determine whether the project's potential impacts are significant enough to entail the Corps moving straight into a NEPA EIS, in contrast to going through a public review process to determine if the impacts would be significant. Corps staff is also moving forward on establishing a Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) 214 agreement, which would allow the Corps to have dedicated staff support on the dam NEPA EIS.

The Corps recently held a Government-to-Government consultation with the Quinault Indian Nation, and is in the process of scheduling a similar consultation with the Chehalis Tribe. After the consultation with the Chehalis Tribe, Corps staff noted they will likely move forward with a decision on the Determination of Significance and the WRRDA 214 agreement.

Key comments included:

- Tyson Johnston affirmed that the QIN did have a Government-to-Government consultation with the Corps, and that their concerns regarding language related to the WRRDA 214 agreement were adequately addressed.

Legislative Communication

In previous biennia, the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group provided briefings on the Chehalis Basin Strategy to State legislative committees, individual legislators, and planned a lunch briefing for Basin legislators. Jim Kramer noted that with the ASRP Phase 1 document going out for review, and scoping on the project-level EIS for a dam anticipated to occur in early 2018, there may be value in the Chehalis Basin Board providing briefings to legislators at the beginning of the new legislative session in January 2018.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members agreed that providing legislative briefings for select committees, Basin legislators, and individual legislators is a good idea.
- Some Board members stressed the importance of communicating both objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy during briefings.
- Board members noted that the message conveyed to legislators may need to be adjusted depending on the anticipated timing and status of passing a 2017-2019 capital budget.
- Tyson Johnston noted that the QIN will be discussing the Chehalis Basin Strategy with legislators during their lobby day the first week of February 2018.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members requested OCB staff develop an updated PPT presentation and handout that can be shared with Board members in advance of future legislative briefings, and look at calendars to identify and schedule future briefings with legislative committees, Basin legislators, and select legislators.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority - Local Flood Damage Reduction Project List Development and Selection

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff), provided an overview of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's local flood damage reduction project list development and selection process. Local projects typically take ~2-3 years to design, permit, and construct, and are intended to protect people, property, and infrastructure. Examples include protection of wastewater treatment plants, improving flood warning system infrastructure, protection of critical infrastructure, farm pads, and livestock evacuation routes. Local projects typically cost \$250K-3M.

Scott reviewed the local flood project list development and selection process, which in the past has included the following steps:

1. Flood Authority Projects Committee develops/approves FINAL solicitation instrument, timeline, and selection criteria to send to local jurisdictions for future biennial projects
2. Flood Authority Projects Committee receives proposals, seek additional information from local sponsors
3. Flood Authority Projects Committee reviews/ranks/prioritizes proposals against selection criteria
4. Flood Authority Projects Committee prepares DRAFT recommended funding package for broad review/discussion by Flood Authority
5. Flood Authority prepares FINAL recommended funding package for distribution/elevation to Chehalis Basin Work Group (now Chehalis Basin Board)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Dave Bingaman (QIN, ASRP Steering Committee) suggested the Flood Authority engage the ASRP Steering Committee during the local project selection process to determine if the projects are complementary to the ASRP or if they have the opportunity to provide multiple benefits.
- Scott Boettcher clarified that all local projects are subject to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements.

- Dave Bingaman (QIN) requested that Flood Authority staff provide SEPA documentation for the Wishkah Road flood relief local project.
- Board members encouraged the Flood Authority to consider local projects in the future that provide multiple benefits, e.g., flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members requested OCB staff develop a recommendation for the Board to consider on the future Flood Authority local project selection/ranking process. Board members also requested that Flood Authority staff provide the QIN the SEPA documentation for the Wishkah Road flood relief local project.

Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee / Fry Creek Restoration and Flood Reduction

Kris Koski (City of Aberdeen) provided an overview of the Aberdeen/Hoquiam North Shore Levee project and Fry Creek Restoration and Flood Reduction 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 FIRM mapping revisions associated with the Levee will remove approximately 3,500 properties between the Wishkah and Hoquiam Rivers from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and place them into a Zone X, eliminating 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 next step in this process is to finalize the design of the Levee and go through the local permitting process.

Fry Creek passes through developed urban areas of Aberdeen and Hoquiam before discharging to Grays Harbor. The creek channel has been filled in and constricted over time as the cities have developed, and today it is generally a narrow channel passing through many culverts and under roadway crossings. During high rainfall events, the flow exceeds the capacity of the channel and the creek floods adjacent urban residential and commercial areas, affecting homes, businesses, and roadways. Aberdeen is working to restore Fry Creek and reduce flooding by improving conveyance, storage, and outfall conditions in the creek system. Additional goals include habitat restoration and improved public access to Fry Creek. The Preliminary Design Report for the Fry Creek Restoration and Flood Reduction project was completed in August 2017. The Report identifies design and phasing alternatives for the lower creek system. Based on the Report's findings, the first phase of the project was selected to be the creek between Simpson Avenue and the railroad tracks. Final design of the first phase is currently underway.

Key comments included:

- Kris Koski clarified that the North Shore Levee project is being designed to provide protection in a 500-year coastal flood event, while FEMA only requires projects to be designed to provide protection in a 100-year coastal flood event.
- Kris Koski clarified that flood damage reduction is the primary purpose of the Fry Creek project, not restoration. However, the project does also include removal of invasive species and garbage from Fry Creek, and replanting with native vegetation.

Closing and Next Steps

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2018. A meeting location has not yet been identified. There will not be a Board meeting in January 2018.