

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: August 3, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Montesano City Hall: 112 N. Main Street, Montesano WA 98563

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of July 7, 2017 Meeting Summary; Consent August 3, 2017 Agenda	Decision: Both approved; no changes.	No follow-up action.
2. Overview of 2017-2019 Work Plan	Discussion	Road Map will be a living document; current version will be revised to include more milestones for the Restorative Flood Protection alternative, and to reflect the delay to the overall work plan caused by the lack of a capital budget.
3. Options for Continuing Work without New Capital Budget	Decision: Approved Option 3 - Continue most of the work program through November 2017 using Tier 1, 2, and some of Tier 3 funds.	No follow-up action.
4. Dam/Airport Levee	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Restorative Flood Protection	Discussion	Outreach and engagement report-out will be added to Board Road Map.
6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Decision: Approved ASRP Steering Committee request for \$1.1 M additional funding for science foundation and ecological corridor pilot.	ASRP Steering Committee looks forward to periodic interaction with the Board.
7. July 7, 2017 meeting Follow-up	Decision: Approved adoption of revised Board Handbook.	Voting members submit changes to phone contact info to Chrissy. Copies of the final adopted Board Handbook will be distributed to the Board.
8. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	Next Board meeting, September 7, is anticipated to include a field tour visit.

Chehalis Basin Board meeting summary

Date: August 3, 2017

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

Dave Burnett	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Steve Malloch	Office of the Governor
Edna Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Vickie Raines, Chair	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Governor
Tyson Johnston	Quinault Indian Nation		

Chehalis Basin Board Ex Officio Members Present:

Justin Allegro	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Stu Trefry	Washington State Conservation Commission
Stephen Bernath	Department of Natural Resources	Gordon White	Department of Ecology

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

Tim Abbe	Natural Systems Design	Maria Hunter	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (ASRP manager)
Pierre Augare	Quinault Indian Nation	Jim Kramer	Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
Chrissy Bailey	Department of Ecology	Bob Montgomery	Anchor QEA
Cynthia Carlstad	Carlstad Consulting	Gen McMoore	Department of Ecology (Note taker)
Dave Bingaman	Quinault Indian Nation (ASRP Steering Committee)	Jason Gillie	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (ASRP Steering Committee)
Dave Price	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (ASRP Steering Committee)		

Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

Chair Vickie Raines called the special meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Board members provided brief introductions.

Agreement letters and Statewide Payee Registration forms were passed out to the Board for their review and signature. The Letter of Agreement is to authorize Department of Ecology (Ecology) to reimburse Board

members for specific costs incurred for travel to and from board meetings. The completed and signed Statewide Payee Registration form is required with the signed Letter of Agreement so that Ecology may issue reimbursement electronically (or by check if board member chooses this option on the form). **If not submitted to Chrissy at the end of the meeting, please submit completed forms to Chrissy or Gen.**

Approval of July 7, 2017 Meeting Summary

One minor addition was made to the July 7, 2017 Meeting Summary after it was emailed to the Board on Thursday, July 27, 2017. The change was adding Gen McMoore (note taker) to the list of attendees.

BOARD DECISION: July 7, 2017 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the August 3, 2017 agenda.

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

Overview of 2017-2019 Work Plan

Chrissy highlighted several parts of the Chehalis Basin Board 2017-2019 Biennium Road Map (Draft) document: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/DraftWorkPlanSchedule.pdf>. This document was revised to address the issues and feedback the Board provided at the July 7 meeting. The new draft Road Map illustrates where and when the Board will need to provide input, recommendations, and decisions. The Board will receive informational briefings before being asked for input and/or decision.

Due to the lack of a capital budget, the timeline on the road map is already out of date. For example, Office of Chehalis Basin and Board Administration item "Review top candidates for OCB Director position and provide input to Director Bellon" is currently listed under Quarter 1: July-September; however, this is on hold until there is a capital budget.

Several Board members provided positive feedback on the new format of the draft Road Map. It illustrates the timeline, and helps the reader understand where and when decisions will need to be made. Tyson Johnston pointed out that some of the work elements had detailed steps leading to a decision, whereas others did not. Board members and staff agreed the draft Road Map is a living document and will be updated accordingly. Changes to the document will be brought before the Board.

Follow-up Action: Road Map will be revised to include more milestones, and reflect delay to the overall work plan caused by the lack of a capital budget.

Options for Continuing Work without New Capital Budget

Gordon walked through the Options for Continuing Work without New 2017-2019 Capital Budget document: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/2017-2019budgetOptionsSummary.pdf>.

Not having a capital budget is an unprecedented situation for our state government. The lack of a capital budget has created problems across the state, delaying many needed projects from construction of schools to mental health facilities. For the Chehalis Basin Integrated Strategy, lack of a capital budget delays important projects and actions, and decisions identified as critical for the strategy to move forward.

The legislature passed a carryover budget, which includes \$20 million in carryover (left over) funds from the 2015-2017 biennium for the Chehalis Basin Strategy. About \$15 million of the 20 is already obligated to specific projects.

The state supports the Chehalis Basin Strategy effort with capital budget funds. In order to sustain a critical path forward on major elements of the 2017-19 work program, the Project Management team (PM Team) has developed options for the Board to consider.

Capital budgets usually come in two pieces:

1. **Funds left over from the previous biennium.** Generally, these can be carried over into the new biennium. The legislature adopted the budget for the carry-forward of 2015-2017 capital funds. For the Chehalis Basin Strategy, the final amount in 2015-2017 carry-forward will be known when all billings are processed.
2. **New funding appropriated for the new biennium.** The legislature has not yet adopted this budget.

We have the opportunity to use 2015-2017 carry-forward funds to support the critical Chehalis Basin Strategy development work before the 2017-2019 capital budget is adopted, by repurposing project funds to support long term work in the interim.

The PM Team identified three tiers of carry-forward funding sources, based on the level of impact associated with repurposing the funds:

- Tier 1: Money available, not currently allocated.
 - No impact.
- Tier 2: Money from projects not on track to be constructed this summer: Moving funds temporarily does not delay project, and funding would be replaced if new capital budget is approved before next spring.
 - Minimal impact from “borrowing” from projects until the budget is adopted.
- Tier 3: Money from projects potentially on track to be designed or constructed this fall: Moving funds would delay the project.
 - Projects where “borrowing” 15-17 carryover funds to support long-term strategy work would result in delay.

Options provided to the Board for continuing work in the absence of a 2017-19 capital budget assume a capital budget will be adopted by either the end of September or November of 2017, or February 2018. If these assumptions are wrong and a capital budget is not adopted by the target date, most or all of the Chehalis Basin Strategy work would cease until a capital budget is passed and 17-19 funds become available.

As detailed in the handout, the PM Team identified various options that could potentially allow work on the long-term strategy to continue in the absence of a capital budget. Between \$1.7 million and \$4.5 million could potentially be available for various options:

Option 1: Wrap Up: Complete work under existing agreements and contracts.
Estimated 15-17 Funding Needed: \$0

Option 2: Continue most of work program through September 2017 using Tier 1 funds.
Estimated 15-17 Funding Needed: \$1.7 million

Option 3: Continue most of the work program through November 2017 using Tier 1, 2, and some of Tier 3 funds.

Estimated 15-17 Funding Needed: \$3.82 million

Option 4: Scaled down work program through November 2017 using Tier 1 funds.

Estimated 15-17 Funding Needed: \$1.7 million

Option 5: Scaled down work program through February 2018 using all Tier 1, 2, and 3 funds.

Estimated 15-17 Funding Needed: \$4.57 million

Gordon recommended “Option 3: Continue most of the work program through November 2017 using Tier 1, 2, and some of Tier 3 funds” for the Board’s consideration. Option 3 gets us to a strong place in November 2017, and some elements can be paused.

If the Board chooses Option 3 and the situation changes where the capital budget is approved before November, we have the ability to reverse the action quickly. The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is the contracting agent for Ecology, and they are ready to quickly move forward (or reverse) based on the Board’s decisions.

Some project sponsors were in attendance and informed the Board about the effects of delaying projects:

- Aberdeen Fry Creek: Currently on schedule. Operating under a tight timeline. A delay would push back the project by a year. Not yet shovel-ready, but gearing up for the 2018 construction season.
- Lower Satsop River Relic Channel: Mitigation for this project has not been identified and there needs to be agreement between the involved parties before the project can move forward. In addition, construction budget is tied up in the capital budget. Project will not be able to move forward to construction until applications have been formally submitted. Currently tied up in coordination challenges.
- General observations: Consultants may not stay onboard through November. They may look for other work and we would lose considerable expertise.

BOARD DECISION: Option 3 was approved by consensus with all voting member’s thumbs up. Continue most of the work program through November 2017 using Tier 1, 2, and some of Tier 3 funds.

Dam/Airport Levee

Chrissy with Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA, presented on this topic. See PowerPoint:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/damAirportLeveePresentation.pdf>

The airport levee is located in the City of Chehalis and surrounds the Chehalis Centralia airport.

Multiple locations for flood retention facilities have been evaluated. Based on favorable topography and maximum drainage area, a site upstream of Pe Ell on the upper Chehalis River and a site on the South Fork Chehalis River for a dam were initially carried forward. Based on additional studies and a technical workshop in 2012, it was determined that a single flood retention facility on the mainstem would provide the greatest reduction of flooding Basin-wide.

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed last biennium evaluated two different types of dams in this location on the upper Chehalis. Another action evaluated was raising the existing airport levee around the Chehalis Centralia airport. Last month, the Lewis County Flood Control Zone District passed a resolution to act as a sponsor for review of a water retention facility combined with raising the airport levee. With regard to the work plan discussed earlier, this is one of the first points of input for the Board (providing input to the FCZD regarding project and objectives).

The presentation addressed details related to the airport levee as well as the following dam options:

- Flood Retention Only (FRO)
- Flood Retention Flow Augmentation (FRFA)
- Hybrid Dam Option (FRX)

Please see the presentation for details.

Questions raised by audience members:

Who is responsible for paying for the dam? How is it going to be funded? Who will maintain the proposed dam? Will Chehalis Basin citizens pay taxes to help build and maintain the dam? Is there any information about the budget for construction and maintenance?

Gordon informed the audience that the Lewis County Flood Control Zone District is the project sponsor, and the decision on how to fund comes later as part of next steps. We are currently going through the process right now; we do not know if we can permit a dam at this point. Next steps will follow and there will be public meetings.

Restorative Flood Protection (RFP)

Cynthia Carlstad, Carlstad Consulting, and Tim Abbe, Natural Systems Design presented on this topic. See PowerPoint:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/restorativeFloodProtectionPresentation.pdf>

In contrast to the dam option, the Restorative Flood Protection (RFP) concept is a relatively new in the Chehalis Basin. The idea resulted from the Programmatic EIS scoping process. Some comments indicated many resources had been dedicated to the study of a dam, and requested similar emphasis to be placed on quantifying flood damage reduction and ecological benefits from implementing non-structural actions and land use measures.

At the end of last biennium, the Governor's Work Group recommended funding in 17-19 for detailed modeling and pre-permit design for one priority sub-basin to determine if there are willing landowners, establish proof of concept in a priority area, and understand if the approach is feasible in broader treatment areas.

The RFP is based on the premise that over time, significant areas of channel incision (down-cutting of the river) and loss of floodplain storage occurred and contributed to flooding in the Chehalis Basin. This can result in more rapid downstream conveyance of high flows, which directly affects the magnitude and timing of downstream flooding. The flood stage of extreme floods in the Chehalis-Centralia area can be reduced by restoring some of the lost floodplain functions upstream.

The RFP works by using natural features such as vegetation, wood debris, and engineering structures (log jams) to store and slow the flow of water, thereby reducing downstream flood stage. Restorative flood protection involves a large area and would be beneficial in restoring fish and wildlife habitat, improving water quality and habitat for many native species.

Advanced feasibility evaluation in will be conducted in Newaukum as pilot; the Newaukum River basin is not protected in proposed dam alternatives.

Working with Conservation District and others for public outreach and engagement. We are meeting with many people as possible, providing them with factual information, and getting their comments. The feedback will be used to shape conceptual design. Consultants will also work with willing landowners to develop a hypothetical site plan, creating different alternatives and how treatments will be incorporated.

Follow-up Actions: Outreach and engagement report-out to the Board will be added to the Road Map.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Maria Hunter, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented on this topic. See PowerPoint: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/ASRPpresentation.pdf>

The ASRP is intended to provide a comprehensive approach for addressing the needs of aquatic species in the Basin, now and into the future. Historically, habitat in the Chehalis Basin has experienced a lack of attention and limited investment in comparison to other large basins in the state. The current habitat is estimated to be 54% impaired for fall-run Chinook salmon, 56% impaired for winter-run steelhead, 72% impaired for coho salmon, and 87% impaired for spring-run Chinook salmon.

Climate change will severely impact future salmon runs. Other species would also be significantly reduced, severely impacting tribal fisheries, treaty rights, and non-tribal fisheries in the Chehalis.

Governor's objectives for ASRP include:

- Significant improvements for salmon and other aquatic species in the face of climate change
- Strong support by the tribes and the state
- Engaged with the public
- Real and measurable results

The Steering Committee is composed of voting members (WDFW, Quinault Indian Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation), and ex officio members (Department of Natural Resources, Ecology, and the Chehalis Basin Salmon Recovery Lead Entity). The role of the Steering Committee is to guide the development of the ASRP as well as the implementation of the early action projects.

A science and review team is also on board to advise the Steering Committee on science and technical issues.

Feedback from the Steering Committee members in the audience:

- Chehalis internal basin is the least studied in the state. Funding from the state enabled data collection which are valuable for modeling ecological process in the basin.
- Concerned about the decline in aquatic species. Decades of human activity degraded the habitat which caused a decline in salmon and other aquatic species.

Steve Malloch asked if the Steering Committee has discussed water rights acquisition – they have not. However, a draft scope of work for a study of water use and methods to increase flows for in-stream uses has been developed. The Steering Committee has recently solicited expert knowledge regarding acquisition, and are gathering information from landowners.

Board members advised that the Steering Committee should not be blind to other options (dam options, etc.), and should be encouraged to think about existing processes/system in place in order to implement projects.

The Steering Committee identified additional costs to provide the quality necessary for the ASRP:

- Establishment of a science and review team
 - Drafting the scientific foundation for the ASRP
 - Providing expert knowledge and review of sections of the ASRP as they are drafted
 - Developing a robust monitoring and adaptive management plan
- Ecological corridor pilot

- This is an area associated with the river that allows for natural riverine processes, such as channel migration or the recruitment of large wood, to develop and generate self-sustaining habitat for aquatic species. The ecological corridor would allow natural systems to build over time to improve and sustain the habitat.
- This is valuable to the ASRP as it provides more specific detail on the long-term needs for reach restoration, against which we can measure success. It also ensures that restoration projects are resilient and self-sustaining. It provides more focused direction to restoration partners.
- This shows you where on the ground you can implement projects in order to benefit aquatic habitat.

The Steering Committee is asking the Board to support their approach for the ASRP development in the 17-19 biennium, which includes additional funding for the science team and the ecological corridor pilot. Moving forward, it is anticipated that the Steering Committee will need periodic integration with the Board. If the pilot ecological corridor starts this month, we could get results within three to four months. The Steering Committee is ready to go with the science team starting next week, and then the ecological pilot can start.

Additional money will buy the pilot of the program; GIS data with ground-truthing, surveying, and enrollment of experts. The data will provide information that can inform the value of the approach across the whole basin.

BOARD DECISION: The additional funds for the ASRP including the pilot for ecological corridor was approved by consensus with six voting member's thumbs up and one sideways (Jay Gordon). Jay Gordon expressed concern that the ASRP needed to provide scientifically sound and practical recommendations for getting habitat improved efficiently and effectively. He was concerned that a lot of time could be spent on theoretical issues and not get to an actionable plan.

Follow-up Action: ASRP Steering Committee requested feedback on how they may accommodate periodic interaction with the Board. Please submit any input/comments to Chrissy.

Follow Up: July 7, 2017 Meeting

The Attorney General's Office is engaged in ongoing analysis and consideration regarding the questions and answers raised during the July 7, 2017 meeting related to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and the Public Records Act. The "AAG follow up and Handbook revisions memo" document remains in draft format and will be modified and/or supplemented at a later date. AAG Stephanie Duvall and Senior AAG for the Quinalt Indian Nation Karen Allston are working together on this.

Revisions made to the draft Board handbook:

- Ex officio members will continue to use their state agency email addresses. Voting Board members will be issued Ecology email addresses to conduct official Board business.
- Updated organizational chart to include Ecology Shorelands Program Communications Manager, Curt Hart, as he will spend part of his time supporting the Office of Chehalis Basin and the Board.
- Language has been added to reflect the approved decision making process per July 7 meeting.
- Corrected key laws and rules language.

BOARD DECISION: The revised Board Handbook was approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Follow-up Actions: We need to include a contact phone number for the voting Board members in the handbook. Please let Chrissy know which phone number you wish to add; the handbook will be shared with the public. Ex-officio members' state office numbers are listed in the handbook. Copies of the final adopted

Board Handbook will be distributed to the Board. Additional considerations resulting from the ongoing AAG analysis of OPMA and PMA will be brought back to the Board at future meetings.

Other Notes:

Youth from the Quinault Indian Nation Youth Opportunity Program attended the meeting.

A producer from TVW recorded a portion of the meeting to include as part of their 10-year anniversary documentary.

Closing and Next Steps

It was suggested that other stakeholders should be invited to future Board meetings so the Board may learn and understand different perspectives.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2017; location will likely be in Oakville (exact location will be confirmed and announced soon). The next meeting will also include a field tour visit.