

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: September 5, 2019
Time: 9:00 am to 3:15 pm
Location: Rotary Log Pavilion - 1401 Sargent Blvd., Aberdeen WA 98520

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent September 5, 2019 Agenda; Approval of July 11, 2019 Meeting Summary.	Decision: Agenda approved. July 11, 2019 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. 2020 Board Meeting Schedule	Decision: The November 7, 2019 Board meeting will be canceled due to a number of Board members and OCB staff planning to attend Centennial Accord meetings that same day.	OCB staff will develop a memo for Board approval at the October 3, 2019 meeting with specific dates and meeting locations for 2020 Board meetings.
4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion/Direction	No follow-up action.
5. Basin Perspectives: Lewis County Community	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Flood Control Zone District Project Proposal	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. SEPA and NEPA EIS Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Partner Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
9. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will develop a list of individuals that have been involved in similar watershed-scale efforts that could be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide their perspectives.
10. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2019. The November 7, 2019 Board meeting will be canceled.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- 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
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 5, 2019 agenda](#).

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

Approval of July 11, 2019 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [July 11, 2019 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: July 11, 2019 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates, including:

- OCB Director McNamara Doyle has participated in a number of outreach efforts since the July Board meeting, including participating in a WDFW organized tour for Congressional Office staff and meetings with Basin legislators and new State House Capital Budget Committee staff.
- Chris Davis has been assigned to OCB/Chehalis Basin Strategy issues by the Governor's Office, taking over duties of Rob Duff.
- Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff have continued to provide OCB support in fiscal administration of Chehalis Basin Strategy funds and is supporting development of funding guidelines to memorialize how Chehalis Basin Strategy funds are managed over the long-term.
- Phase 1 of the Lower Satsop project is complete. Phase 2 of the project is slated for construction next summer and has been fully funded and permitted with a budget of \$1.4M. The work includes efforts to address bank erosion, channel migration, and potential flooding of nearby infrastructure and properties. Project partners are now focused on Phase 3 of the project, which would protect Keys Road and a well owned by the Port of Chehalis, as well as include further floodplain restoration work. The Phase 3 cost estimate is approximately \$4.5 - 5M, and over \$1M has already been secured. Project partners continue to look for additional funding.
- OCB Director McNamara Doyle has approved additional funding for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) to complete activities related to the SEPA and NEPA EISs. This includes data collection and analysis related to the Centralia-Chehalis Airport Levee design, preparation of a draft biological assessment, additional work on a reservoir vegetation management plan to avoid/minimize/reduce impacts of the original proposal as outlined in the Programmatic EIS, public information and outreach efforts to explain the project proposal to the public, and additional support to keep pace with Board and agency requests for information.

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed a draft memo with the proposed 2020 Board meeting schedule. OCB staff propose to continue holding regular Chehalis Basin Board meetings on the first Thursday of each month during 2020, unless coinciding with holidays. Staff also proposes to continue alternating meeting locations between public facilities in the upper and lower portions of the Chehalis Basin in order to maximize opportunities for public engagement in the board's work.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle also reviewed potential options for additional meetings in the late summer/early fall 2020 timeframe for the Board to review, digest, and deliberate on the many work products scheduled for release in the summer and fall of 2020, receive and incorporate public comment

on how those work products should inform the long-term strategy, and to do so in the timeframe needed to prepare its 2021-2023 budget recommendation to the Governor by the fall of 2020.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board member Pickernell will explore the potential of securing an additional meeting location near the Chehalis Tribe Reservation to alternate with facilities in the upper and lower Basin.
- Board members suggested meeting at the Veteran's Museum in Chehalis instead of the Centralia Train Depot room, given that the space is more favorable for breakout and small group discussions.
- Board members discussed the value of scheduling potential additional meetings in the summer and fall of 2020 timeframe now, to hold the times and have options available. Meetings could be canceled as needed as the dates approach.
- Board members were supportive of holding a two-day workshop on the day before or after the October 1 board meeting (September 30-October 1 or October 1-2, 2020).
- Board members agreed that the November 7, 2019 Board meeting should be canceled due to a number of Board members and OCB staff planning to attend Centennial Accord meetings that same day.

Below is a link to the draft 2020 Board meeting schedule memo:

- [2020 Board Meeting Schedule Memo](#)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will develop a memo for Board approval at the October 3, 2019 meeting with specific dates and meeting locations for 2020 Board meetings.

BOARD DECISION: Board members agreed to cancel the November 7, 2019 Board meeting due to a number of Board members and OCB staff planning to attend Centennial Accord meetings that same day.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (Department of Fish and Wildlife) provided a status update on development of the ASRP Phase 1 document, public outreach, and on-the-ground project implementation. Pre-ASRP Phase 1 publication outreach will occur summer-fall 2019, the document will be published mid-November 2019, and post-publication outreach will occur late fall-winter 2020. Pre-publication outreach is meant to build awareness of plan strategies and obtain targeted feedback from local governments, restoration/conservation focused groups, landowners and the agricultural community, and Board member organizations.

Emelie also reviewed ASRP implementation priorities for the 2019-2021 biennium, including early action reach construction, native aquatic species restoration, continued implementation of fish barrier removal projects, and continued landowner relationship development.

Below is a link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP Presentation](#)

Key comments included:

- Emelie (WDFW) clarified that the Phase 1 ASRP will include anticipated ecological benefits for the different ASRP scenarios.
- Emelie (WDFW) clarified that land use maps are available for each ecological diversity region (EDR) in the Basin, which includes land ownership.
- OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that the October Board meeting will include a discussion on the fish passage barrier prioritization approaches in the ASRP and how they relate to other existing barrier correction prioritization approaches.
- Board members suggested a future presentation on how ASRP staff and the Steering Committee are considering cost effectiveness in the ASRP.

Basin Perspectives: Lewis County Community

Barry Panush, long-time Lewis County resident and Boistfort Valley Fire Chief during the 2007 flood, provided his perspective on flooding in the Chehalis Basin. Barry noted that he and his wife's family have deep roots in the Boistfort Valley. He is proud of the tight-knit community of people that live in the Basin, and how they and many others from outside the Basin came together to address the devastation the 2007 flood caused to people and property. He was shocked at the magnitude of the 2007 event and the speed at which the event occurred. The home Barry lived in during the 2007 flood had over 6 inches of mud in it. He has since moved farther upstream but noted that many others do not have that luxury. Barry expressed his desire to find a solution to reduce damages from extreme floods.

Board member J Vander Stoep also provided the Board a presentation summarizing some of the data that he and the former Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group considered when they made the recommendation to move forward with project-level SEPA and NEPA EISs for the proposed flood retention facility and airport levee improvements. Board member Vander Stoep clarified that he was only providing his personal perspective and not speaking on behalf of the Board, former Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group, Lewis County, or any other entity. The goal of his presentation was to address the question he has heard posed by others, about why the Chehalis Basin Strategy would continue to explore the potential construction of a flood retention facility at a time when other water retention structures in the region are being removed or considered for removal. His main points included that of all the alternatives considered over the past several decades, the flood retention facility provides the greatest flood damage reduction and can provide benefits downstream to Grays Harbor. The Programmatic EIS contained information stating that the ASRP can have a significant net-benefit to the fisheries even in the face of climate change and the impacts of the flood retention facility. Based on

this information the Governor's Work Group recommended proceeding to a project-level EIS for the flood retention facility.

Below is a link to Board member Vander Stoep's presentation:

- [Lewis County flooding perspectives](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board member Edna Fund provided her perspectives on flooding in the Chehalis Basin, expressing her desire to find a solution to reduce damage from major floods and restore aquatic species habitat.
- ASRP Steering Committee member Dave Bingaman (Quinault Indian Nation), noted that the spring Chinook fishery was shut down for the QIN this year, highlighting some of the direct impacts that the QIN faces with regard to a declining fishery in the Basin.
- Michael Garrity (WDFW) noted that broader work is needed to improve messaging for reporters or other media outlets that perceive the Chehalis Basin Strategy in terms of either flood damage reduction or aquatic species restoration, rather than both elements being part of an integrated strategy.

Flood Control Zone District Project Proposal

Jim Waldo, consultant to the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD), provided a brief update on the activities of the Flood Control Zone District related to the SEPA and NEPA EISs. Jim noted that the FCZD is currently working on efforts to refine the flood retention facility and airport levee improvement project proposal to minimize and avoid impacts. Examples included an analysis related to improving the design of the Centralia-Chehalis Airport Levee and the possibility of groundwater recharge projects.

SEPA and NEPA EIS Updates

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided an update on the SEPA EIS for the FCZD's proposed flood damage reduction project. The SEPA EIS is on track for the release of a draft document on February 27, 2020 for public review and comment. Diane provided an overview of what the SEPA EIS will and will not do. For example, the SEPA EIS will evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, including a No Action Alternative, but it will not approve or deny the proposed project or include a cost-benefit analysis. The geographic scope of study is based on where probable, significant environmental impacts from the proposed project could occur. The study will look at the entire life-cycle of salmon and impacts that could affect southern resident killer whales. Diane reviewed the alternatives that will be evaluated in the SEPA EIS – which includes the Proposed Project (flood retention facility and levee), No Action Alternative, and Local Actions Alternative – and its approach to modeling and discipline report development. She also reviewed key messages for stakeholders interested in knowing more about the SEPA EIS, which included:

- The draft state Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released on February 27, 2020 for review and comment.
- Ecology's goal for the draft SEPA EIS is to be an objective, thorough, and science-based document.
- Ecology is looking forward to hearing your comments on the draft environmental review. Please sign up for email updates.

Below is a link to the SEPA EIS update presentation:

- [SEPA EIS Update Presentation](#)

Bob Thomas (US Army Corps of Engineers) provided an update on the NEPA EIS for the FCZD's proposed flood damage reduction project. The draft NEPA EIS document is scheduled for publication on September 15, 2020. Bob noted that the USACE have NEPA EIS alternatives selected, are currently writing NEPA EIS chapters, and are in the process of evaluating potential impacts. While there are likely to be a number of similarities between the SEPA and NEPA EISs, Bob noted that the NEPA EIS may include different alternatives and analyses and will hold its own public meetings after release of the draft NEPA EIS.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members requested that as soon as dates are confirmed for the draft SEPA and/or NEPA EIS public meetings they be notified, so they can hold the dates on their calendars.
- OCB staff clarified that while the SEPA EIS will not include a benefit-cost analysis, a separate benefit-cost analysis and/or comparative ecosystem services analysis of the different flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration actions being evaluated will be prepared to inform the Board's recommendations on a long-term strategy.

Partner Updates

Mike Peroni (Northwest Agricultural Business Center) provided an update on the NABC's work in the Chehalis Basin, including the regional agricultural development collaborative. The NABC is working on three main projects in the Basin: (1) Southwest Washington Grain Project; (2) Southwest Washington Agricultural Business and Innovation Park; and (3) Food Hub Services.

Below is a link to the NABC presentation:

- [Northwest Agricultural Business Center & Regional Agricultural Development Collaborative](#)

Kris Koski (City of Aberdeen) provided an update on the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee. The project is currently in final design and consultants are in the process of defining the full suite of easements and property acquisitions necessary for the project. The public continues to be updated on the project primarily through utility bill inserts. For the Fry Creek Pump Station portion of the project,

Aberdeen and Hoquiam are continuing coordination on rerouting rail lines during construction and the final negotiation is occurring for the sole property purchase needed for the pump station. They are targeting early 2020 for advertising the bid package for the Fry Creek Pump Station and starting construction in summer 2020. Kris noted that he could bring the Board an update on the overall cost of the North Shore Levee project at their October meeting.

Long-term Strategy

OCB Director McNamara Doyle asked the Board to consider a series of questions related to the kinds of assurances and structure needed to ensure sustained support as the Strategy is implemented over the long term. The questions included:

- How might a long-term state bond authorization for Chehalis address:
 - Cost allocations between state and non-state funding sources?
 - Time horizons for achieving balanced progress between two prongs of the strategy? (e.g., 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-years, etc...)?
 - Use of pre-determined decision points or automatic triggers?
 - Frequency of periodic progress reports and updated cost estimates from Board to Legislature?
 - Relationship of strategy to existing rights, powers, and authorities?

Below is a link to the Long-term Strategy Assessment presentation:

- [Long Term Strategy Assessment presentation](#)

Board members were split into three breakout groups to explore these questions and then asked to report out on their discussions. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- For cost allocations between state and non-state funding sources, Board members noted that cost allocations should likely include a larger portion of state funds than a project like the Yakima Integrated Plan, but should still include some federal, local, and/or private cost sharing.
- For time horizons to achieve balanced progress on both prongs of the strategy, Board members estimated an approximately 15-20-year timeframe would be appropriate.
- For pre-determined decision points or triggers, Board members noted that in an ideal scenario mitigation would be complete prior to groundbreaking for a large flood damage reduction structure. It would also ensure that sufficient restoration is complete, and that habitat is improved significantly over any negative impacts of the structure.
- Board members stressed the need for a long-term financing plan as opposed to biennial allocations.
- Some Board members noted there are federal mechanisms that could be tapped into to support financing of the broader Strategy, such as fisheries disaster funding or natural disaster funding.

- Once the ASRP is complete it should be brought to the federal agencies for a pre-ESA listing agreement.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will develop a list of individuals that have been involved in similar watershed-scale efforts that could be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide their perspectives.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2019. The November 7, 2019 Board meeting will be canceled.