



“What Are Local Projects”

BACKGROUND

April 1, 2020

- A. What Are Chehalis Basin Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects?** -- In general, local projects reduce flood damage caused by floods of the Chehalis River and its major tributaries. The damage could be to public or private improvements. If a local project is proposed to reduce flood damage to private property, there must be a public benefit. Local projects are:
1. Projects that provide localized, quantifiable benefit.
 2. Often funded through discrete project phases (e.g., study project, planning project, design/engineering/permitting project, construction/implementation project).
 3. Capable of being completed typically within one or two funding cycles (all project phases).
 4. Supported by the jurisdiction within which the project is proposed.
 5. Vetted, sponsored through public entity (e.g., City, County, Conservation District, Port, Tribe).
- Local projects will not have adverse impacts to fish, wildlife, or habitat, and where possible provide multiple, quantifiable benefits.

B. What Projects Have Typically Been Good Candidates for Local Project Funding?

Generally:

1. Projects that improve emergency response.
2. Projects that protect public infrastructure from major river flooding or erosion.
3. Projects that improve local or community flood hazard reduction, including local flood planning and local flood proofing (e.g., elevations, buy-outs, foundation venting, demolitions, etc.) caused by major river flooding or erosion.
4. Projects that implement Conservation District initiated flood hazard reduction (e.g., farm pads, evacuation routes, landowner support/participation, etc.).

Additionally:

1. Projects that continue or complete project phases previously funded (if subsequent investment is warranted).
2. Projects that demonstrate innovation (e.g., thinking beyond traditional bank stabilization techniques in favor of system- or process-based techniques), partnerships, cost-sharing/leveraging resources, multiple benefits, public engagement and community planning, and proactive vetting with agencies, tribes, landowners, etc. (via advisory groups, working groups, etc.).
3. Projects that demonstrate informed decision-making through hydraulic analysis/understanding.
4. Projects that demonstrate early planning involvement and information exchange with regulatory agencies.
5. Projects typically not in excess of \$3M for the discrete project phase being funded, nor in excess of \$5-6M for the entire project (all phases).

C. What Projects Have Typically Not Been Good Candidates for Local Project Funding?

1. Projects that seek to utilize State Capitol Budget dollars for uses not typically allowed (e.g., maintenance and repair work, cost-sharing under select circumstances, etc.).
2. Projects primarily addressing problems caused by local stormwater or drainage.
3. Projects likely to increase potential for flood damage upstream or downstream or facilitate new development in flood prone areas.
4. Projects with unmitigable adverse environmental impacts, significant uncertainty regarding potential environmental impacts, or significant concerns about obtaining regulatory approval.
5. Projects not sponsored by a public entity nor likely to provide meaningful public benefit.
6. Projects not located in the Chehalis Basin.
7. Projects that do not show quantifiable flood damage reduction benefit.

D. What Differentiates A Local Project from A Large-Scale Project?

1. **Cost** -- Local project funding has historically topped out at about \$5-6M (for all phases funded through the Flood Authority's Local Projects Program). Most local projects require substantially less. Projects requiring funding in excess of \$5-6M are more appropriate for the Chehalis Basin Strategy's Large-Projects program (e.g., projects like the current Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee project) or funding approaches based on multiple funding sources (versus singular funding sources).
2. **Scale of Benefit** -- Local projects tend to have mainly localized benefit, i.e., they protect the sponsor's infrastructure or improvements, or reduce damage primarily within the sponsor's jurisdiction. Large-scale projects tend to have basin-wide or multi-jurisdictional benefit.
3. **Implementation Schedule** -- Local projects tend to be projects that can be completed (all phases) in one to two funding cycles.

E. How Are Local Projects Selected and Funded?

1. See 2019-21 Local Projects Recruitment application [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).
2. See "2021-23 Local Projects Solicitation Process, Schedule" [HERE](#).

F. What Are Roles and Responsibilities?

1. **Project Sponsor** -- Propose projects that meet the purpose and criteria for local projects, assume responsibility for design, permitting, construction/implementation and maintenance.
2. **Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Projects Committee** -- Solicit proposals for local projects in each funding cycle, review and prioritize projects based on approved funding priorities and criteria for project selection, review status of projects as they are implemented and recommend any changes to budget and scope of the project as necessary.
3. **Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority** -- Approve the funding priorities and criteria for project selection in advance of each round of solicitations, review the Projects Committee recommendations and recommend project priority order and funding levels to the Chehalis Basin Board. Review any changes to the project list and recommend shifting funds between previously approved/funded projects as needed to meet the most critical needs.
4. **Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Staff** -- Manage the overall local project selection process and periodically review the status of project implementation, support the review by regulatory agencies for project permit approval, work with RCO and OCB to prepare contract scopes and budgets and track deliverables associated with each local project, and provide periodic updates to the Chehalis Basin Board.
5. **Office of Chehalis Basin** -- Provide input into the project selection process for consideration by the Projects Committee and Flood Authority. Provide initial guidance on the available funds for each funding cycle.
6. **Chehalis Basin Board** -- Provide guidance on potentially available funding levels for each round of project solicitations, review and approve the funding priorities and criteria for project selection, approve the final ranked project list, and recommend the final overall level of funding for local projects to the Governor and Legislature each biennium.
7. **Recreation and Conservation Office** -- Manage the contracts with each local project sponsor.
8. See "2021-23 Local Projects Solicitation Process, Schedule" [HERE](#).

G. Relevant Past Presentations/Updates on Local Projects.

1. **7-12-2019** -- Local Projects Recruitment Update to CBB: [HERE](#).
2. **6-27-2019** -- 2019-21 Local Projects Recruitment Website: [HERE](#).
3. **3-15-2018** -- 2019-21 Local Projects Selection/Prioritization Process: [HERE](#).
4. **12-07-2017** -- Local Projects Presentation to Chehalis Basin Board:
 - Part I -- What Are Local Projects? [HERE](#).
 - Part II -- How Are Local Projects Selected/Funded? [HERE](#).

- H. Questions/Thoughts/Discussion Items:** Questions below are potential discussion topics between the Chehalis Basin Board and the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority at a future Board meeting.
1. Does the geographic area for local projects include the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam?
 2. What is the relationship of Flood Authority local projects to Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) Program?
 3. What is the relationship of Flood Authority local projects to Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Resilience (ASRP) Program?
 4. How should benefits and costs be used in prioritizing projects?
 5. How should phased projects be handled when early funding will lead to future phases that are likely to exceed \$5-6M total?
 6. Should projects likely to benefit (ultimately) from the CRBFCZD's Upper Chehalis Basin Water Retention Facility be funded as a local project.
 7. Should funding phased projects be further clarified along the following lines?
 - a. Approval of a discrete funding phase (or phases) is limited to that phase (or phases). No approval or endorsement is given or implied toward funding future phases.
 - b. Each phase must stand on its merits as viable or complete and is not dependent on the completion of future phases or work.
 - c. Each phase (or phases) must be submitted as a separate application.
 - d. If two or more projects are ranked equally through the evaluation process, the funding decision will give preference to a project that has had a previous phase funded.