

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: June 4, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 12:45 pm
Location: Zoom online meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent June 4 Agenda; Approval of May 7, 2020 meeting summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; May 7 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will review Board member comments on goals for a local actions alternative and will propose potential elements of local actions for the Board's consideration.
3. SEPA EIS	Discussion	No follow up action.
4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow up action.
5. Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee	Discussion	No follow up action.
6. Director's Report		No follow-up action.
7. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Vickie Raines, Chair, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (alternate for Chairman Harry Pickernell)

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Board members and attendees provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [June 4, 2020 Meeting Agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of May 7, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [May 7, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: May 7, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Long-term Strategy Assessment

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reminded members Board of their guidance at the May Board meeting to identify how additional work could be incorporated into the long-term strategy assessment (LTSA). This included (1) evaluating an alternative to the flood retention facility for large-scale, basin-wide flood damage reduction, and (2) review and input to the Flood Control Zone District for potential opportunities to mitigate for the fish and wildlife and water quality impacts identified in the draft SEPA EIS.

Since the May Board meeting, OCB staff have worked with interested Board members, agency, and contractor staff to identify how this proposed additional work can be completed alongside the existing work plan to ensure a draft long-term strategy assessment can still be presented to the Board in fall of 2020. Staff work has been initiated to review technical analyses of flood damage reduction alternatives to the dam that have previously considered as well as new elements proposed in the Quinault Indian Nation EIS comment letter. OCB staff are also reviewing ~50 comments on the draft SEPA EIS that specifically address the Local Action Alternative (LAA). These comments fell into three categories; (1) general support for a LAA, (2) general reference to actions that were encompassed within the LAA, or (3) other actions and details that were not specifically described in the EIS's LAA but could be, including those provided through a technical memo from the Quinault Indian Nation.

Below is a link to the LTSA presentation materials:

- [Flood damage reduction alternatives](#)
- [Quinault Indian Nation Local Actions Alternative Technical Analyses Review](#)

LTSA - Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) briefed the Board on the relationship of the Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR) program to the long-term strategy, and revisited previously discussed CFAR investment priorities, key assumptions, and potential measures of success. Through ongoing conversations with local governments, responses and feedback from the solicitation for technical assistance to residents and businesses, and examination of existing data, OCB will be able to formulate reasonable and transparent assumptions about estimated CFAR project costs and at what pace projects and activities could be implemented across the basin.

Below is a link to the CFAR presentation:

- [CFAR Presentation](#)

CFAR comments/discussion included:

1. Board members are interested in understanding what the projected results would be at different levels of investment for the CFAR Program.
2. Board members were reminded that the 2016 Programmatic EIS assumed 75% of structures could be flood proofed with varying ranges of cost depending on the structure type.
3. Board members agreed many of the actions included in the draft SEPA EIS LAA and additional actions proposed by the Quinault Indian Nation could be addressed through the CFAR program.

LTSA Break Out-Groups

Board members were divided into three breakout groups to discuss potential goals for an alternative basin-wide approach to flood damage reduction. Below are the two questions they considered and a high-level summary of responses.

1. How would you describe “success” of a non-dam alternative to flood-damage reduction in the Chehalis Basin?
 - An alternative that is comparable in cost or costs less than the flood retention facility, including associated costs like long-term maintenance and mitigation.
 - To the extent possible, use non-structural actions, and if needed, smaller-scale structural actions to achieve flood damage reduction benefits that are comparable to the flood retention facility.
 - Flood damage reduction benefits that are basin-wide and comprehensive, including protecting structures in areas that do not currently flood given potential future flooding conditions and extents.
 - Measurable goals and targets that consider the unique flooding issues geographically across the basin.
 - Understanding the difference between regular (seasonal) flooding, major flooding, and catastrophic flooding so goals can be established around each type of flood event.
 - Determine the degree to which structures can be moved out of harm’s way to achieve flood damage reduction for each of the various flood events.
 - Goals need to be consistent and compatible with the ASRP and acknowledge and address climate change impacts.

- Metrics for success should consider how many people could be removed from the floodplain.
 - Metrics for success should consider the total ecological benefit of actions beyond flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration, e.g., benefits to forestry, habitat connectivity, resiliency, and climate change.
 - Ensuring public safety and reducing damage to residential, agricultural, and commercial properties and infrastructure.
2. As you consider what outcomes are within the Board's control or sphere of influence, who else needs to be part of the conversation to achieve the desired success?
- Local governments
 - Residents
 - Agricultural communities
 - Federal delegation
 - WA State Legislature
 - Local interest groups
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Outside experts not currently involved in the Chehalis Basin

FOLLOW UP ACTION: OCB staff will review Board member comments on goals for a local actions alternative and will begin to define the potential elements of local actions to meet these goals.

SEPA EIS

Diane Butorac (Department of Ecology) provided a preliminary summary of public comments received on the Draft SEPA EIS. A total of 4,839 comments were received. 996 comment submissions were received from tribes, agencies, organizations, businesses, and the public. This includes individual letters, online submissions, and comments received at two public webinars. 3,843 comments were received as form letters or petitions.

Comments were summarized by resource area in the order they appear in the draft EIS. Comments will be reviewed and considered for the final EIS, and all comments will be valued equally. Responses to comments will be included in the final EIS.

Below is a link to the preliminary summary of draft SEPS EIS comments from the Board meeting:

- [Chehalis SEPA Draft EIS Comment Summary](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed how the local actions alternative in the draft SEPA EIS was more limited in scope and geographic scale than a potential basin-wide local actions program.
- Board members reiterated their interest that the long-term strategy assessment evaluate the potential benefits of all actions being considered for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, not just negative impacts.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (Department of Fish and Wildlife) provided an update on the ASRP 2020 grant round. The ASRP Steering Committee designed an adaptable grant round to ensure they could identify opportunities that already exist in priority areas and promote interest in developing new projects for

ASRP implementation. There were 28 total project proposals (16 on-the-ground; 12 project development) submitted, totaling \$7,657,965. Of those 28 proposals, 20 total projects (10 on-the-ground; 10 project development) received funding, totaling \$4,781,376. Collectively, the projects will provide jobs for up to 60 FTEs and will produce over 800 hours of volunteer time on projects within the basin. By the end of this biennium (June 2021), the following deliverables are expected through project development funding:

- 20+ miles of ASRP Scenario 1 reach scale projects will be initiated
- Diverse project sponsorship will be engaged in management of new projects
- Additional project focused capacity will be secured
- Experimental restoration questions will be answered

Below is a link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP 2020 grant round results](#)

Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee

Kris Koski (City of Aberdeen) provided a status report for the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee, which is intended to provide flood protection for low-lying parts of the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam between the Wishkah and Hoquiam Rivers, north of the Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Estuary. The project is in the final design, permitting, and acquisition phase. The preferred levee alignment along the north shore has been adjusted and now falls on property owned by the Port of Grays Harbor and other industrial property owners. By shifting the levee location, the project anticipates a net-savings in construction costs of \$5 million. The project's funding strategy includes heavy blending of federal, state, county, and city sources.

Brian Shay (City of Hoquiam) provided an update on the West Segment of the North Shore Levee. As part of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's local project funding, the City of Hoquiam received \$650,000 for preliminary design and engineering of the 4.7-mile west segment. This levee project aims to protect local residents and build resiliency in the face of future flood events, as well as retain existing businesses, jobs and residents which have been on the decline in this community. The project is now in final design and the City of Hoquiam is exploring opportunities for future construction funding, estimated at \$35 million.

Below is a link to the North Shore Levee presentation:

- [Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were interested in understanding the efforts taken by Aberdeen and Hoquiam to obtain Water Quality Assistance Program grant funding. Kris Koski noted that Aberdeen has received some funding through the Water Quality Assistance Program for pump stations and continues to look at other funding opportunities.
- Board members were interested in understanding the potential environmental impact of the new levee alignment due to the proximity to the shoreline. Kris Koski noted that the levee will remain above the high-water mark and the City does not consider it to have any adverse environmental impacts.

Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided the Director's report on various topics, including:

- The Flood Control Zone District is still working with the Kleinschmidt contractor team to determine the feasibility of potential mitigation opportunities for the proposed flood retention facility. OCB anticipates that an assessment of potential mitigation strategies will be available in summer 2020 to share with the Board.
- OCB was notified by the Governor's office and Office of Financial Management (OFM) that they have implemented a hiring and contract services freeze for state agencies, to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the State's economy and financial outlook. The contract services freeze does not apply to capital budget funded professional service contracts such as those funded for the Chehalis Basin Strategy. An exemption process is being developed for the hiring freeze and OCB is currently working through this process to hire an ASRP Project Manager.
- OCB is currently developing a preliminary 2021-23 capital budget placeholder recommendation in the \$50-73.2 million range, per the provisions of SHB 1154. In light of potential economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, OCB/Ecology were also advised to prepare a range of funding level placeholders and be ready with a more conservative request than in previous biennia.
- COVID-19 status update: OCB will continue with an online only Board meeting for the July 9th meeting. Depending on State directives, OCB will explore potential options for mixed virtual and in-person Board meetings after July.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2020 as an online webinar.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Washington Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anne Van Sweringen
- Barbara Cairns, Pyramid Communications
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Betsy Dillin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carson Coates, Office of Congresswoman Herrera-Butler
- Celina Abercrombie, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chrissy Bailey, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Hansen
- Colleen Granberg, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Colton Dodgson, Lewis County Chronicle
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Washington Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Frank Corbin
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Izabella Zucker, Pyramid Communications
- Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- John Robinson, Consultant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- John Hoyte
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keepers
- Linda Orgel, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Mark Glyde, Consultant to Quinault Indian Nation
- Nicole Czarnomski, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Scotty Ireland, Parametrix
- Steve Lyle
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic

- Tess Wendel, Ross Strategic
- Thomasina Cooper