

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** September 3, 2020  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom online meeting

| ITEM  | FORMAL ACTION   | FOLLOW-UP ACTION   |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Consent September 3 Agenda; Approval of August 6, 2020 meeting summary | Decision: Current agenda approved; August 6 meeting summary approved. | Board members will review for approval an addendum to the August 6 Meeting summary that includes public comments provided during small group discussions.  |
| 2. Next Steps for Development of Local Actions Program                    | Direction   | <p>OCB staff will revise the set of outcomes for a Local Actions Program and send a revised draft to Board members before the September 15, 2020 special meeting, where they will be asked to approve the outcomes.</p> <p>OCB staff will develop a revised process and organizational structure proposal for Board consideration at the September 15 Board meeting.</p> <p>OCB staff will connect with individuals that may participate in the technical or implementation advisory groups to gauge their willingness and ability to participate in an advisory capacity.</p> |
| 3. Mitigation Strategy Development  | Discussion/Direction  | OCB staff will distribute the FCZD's draft Mitigation Opportunities Assessment.  |
| 4. 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

### **Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:**

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

### **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.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 3, 2020 Meeting Agenda](#).

**BOARD DECISION:** Agenda approved by consensus.

### **Approval of August 6, 2020 Meeting Summary**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [August 6, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

**BOARD DECISION:** August 6, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** Board members will review for approval an addendum to the August 6 meeting summary that includes public comments provided during small group discussions.

### **Outcomes for Potential Chehalis Basin Local Actions Program**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle outlined a draft set of outcomes for a basin-wide non-dam alternative (Local Actions Program) for flood damage reduction. The draft outcomes had been revised based on feedback received from voting Board members and Ecology staff subject matter experts. The measurable outcomes should first be considered and agreed to by the Board and will then be used in the design of the process requested by the Governor in his letter.

Jennifer Hennessey (Office of the Governor) provided the Board additional clarification on the intention of the Governor's requested timeline for recommendations, highlighting that by early 2021 the Governor is expecting the Board to decide on two things:

1. Which actions does the Board agree should be implemented as part of the long-term strategy?
2. Which actions does the Board agree need further investigation? This would include a detailed description of what elements of those actions need further investigation and at what time horizon.

*Recommendations for Local Actions Program Outcomes*

Board members were reminded of the previous discussion at the August board meeting where they provided direction on what should be included in the potential outcomes for a Local Actions Program. OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed the three recommended outcomes developed by OCB staff including:

- The Board considers a timeframe of 20 years to implement the actions necessary to achieve the draft outcomes.
- The Board utilizes future flood conditions that are predicted for the late-century when considering the outcomes and actions to include in a Local Actions Program.
- The Board requires that any projects funded through the Local Actions Program must be designed, implemented, and mitigated to avoid making downstream flood damage worse.

#### Potential Measurable Flood Damage Reduction Outcomes

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reviewed staff suggested options for potential measurable flood damage reduction outcomes to be achieved within a given timeframe decided by the Board. An additional tool that has been developed for the Board's consideration is a draft Flood-Focused Subareas Map, which could be used as a resource to help match outcomes within sub-basin areas and align with ASRP related activities.

Staff developed potential measurable flood damage reduction outcomes related to:

1. Valuable structures protected from mainstem, catastrophic flooding
2. Homes & businesses protected from seasonal urban flooding
3. Lower basin properties & businesses protected from coastal storm surges
4. Farmland and rural structures protected
5. Critical facilities protected
6. Transportation routes protected
7. Environmental justice advanced
8. Prevent new at-risk development

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the importance of understanding the magnitude of a late century flood (i.e., 100-year flood in 2080) and being able to clearly communicate to the public what that looks like compared to historical flood events.
- Board members suggested, to the degree possible, to have flood damage reduction outcomes align with ASRP implementation actions.
- Board members discussed the draft Flood-Focused Subareas Map, which was developed based on on-the-ground knowledge and basin modeling. Board members were reminded that this is a conceptual map, and was developed to provide an additional resource for thinking about the basin's various flooding challenges.

Below is a link to the Local Actions Program presentation materials:

- [Potential Outcomes for Local Actions Program Memo](#)
- [Potential Outcomes for Local Actions Program PowerPoint](#)
- [Draft Flood-Focused Subareas Map](#)

## Potential Local Actions Program Outcomes Break Out-Groups

Board members were divided into two breakout groups for one 30-minute breakout session. The breakout session was intended to further the conversation about the potential measurable flood damage reduction outcomes.

Below is a summary of the Board member discussion on the three breakout session questions:

*Do you support the three staff recommendations as presented or with modifications? What are your thoughts on OCB's role and the Board's role in leading development of the Local Actions Program?*

- Board members were generally supportive of the three staff recommendations, with minor modifications.
- Board members requested that the timeframe to implement the actions necessary to achieve the draft outcomes should be 30 years, recognizing that different actions may take longer or shorter to implement, and ensure synergy with implementation of the ASRP and other planning efforts.

*Should the outcomes be focused on the 100-year flood, major flood, or both?*

- Board members discussed the importance of planning for future flooding conditions and clearly communicating what future flood conditions would look like. They also acknowledged that planning for future flood conditions runs counter to FEMA and other regulatory approaches.
- Board members expressed interest in focusing outcomes on the 100-year flood in 2080, rather than focus on the more frequent major flood levels.

*Do you support the eight measurable outcomes as presented or with modifications?*

- Board members were generally supportive of the eight outcomes, with minor modifications.
- Board members discussed the need to modify outcome #3 (Lower basin properties & businesses protected from coastal storm surges), so that it adds language related to implementation of the West Segment North Shore Levee.
- Board members discussed the need to modify outcome #4 (Farmland and rural structures protected), so that it ensures protective measures are put in place to prevent flood damage from increasing above the damage to commercial agricultural operations that occurred in the 1990 flood, while protecting ecological processes.
- Board members discussed outcome #7 (Environmental Justice advanced), and noted that the EJ populations should not be economically disadvantaged by displacement or otherwise disproportionately adversely affected by actions to reduce flood damage, and would be improved by flood solutions.

*Public comment:*

- Dr. John Henrikson (OneVoice) – Shared One Voice's full support for the mission that has evolved through the work of the Office, and for the points of the Governor's recent letter . He encouraged the Office to keep the benefits of projects for both fisheries and flooding clearly delineated even while recognizing the possible interrelationships between the two, and to focus

on economically feasible options. He also applauded the sustained progress that has been made and encouraged the Board to continue its important work and not give up.

- Ron Averill (City of Centralia) – Suggested that major floods outside the 100-year floodplain should not be disregarded, because the Flood Authority’s small projects have addressed many flooding problems that would not meet the 100-year event situation, and they are still valuable and in need of state financial support.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** OCB staff will revise the set of outcomes for a Local Actions Program and send a revised draft to Board members before the September 15, 2020 special meeting, where they will be asked to approve the outcomes.

## **Proposed Organizational Structure for Local Actions Program**

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented the Board a draft process and organizational structure to develop and evaluate a Local Actions Program in response to the Governor’s letter. To achieve key Board milestones and process details, OCB proposed an organizational structure that would include:

- *Technical Advisory Group:* provide input on technical aspects of evaluation of Local Actions Program, including approach, schedule, technical assumptions, and data; focus on state consultants’ evaluation of past work relevant to Local Actions Program and options for additional analyses; and identify pros/cons of potential technical approaches and review the conclusions of analyses.
- *Implementation Advisory Group:* provide policy input to Board on potential feasibility of implementing different approaches to reducing flood damage, including strengths and limitations of actions; large focus on potential changes to land use; and where pertinent, review Technical Advisory Group’s findings of potential actions to achieve Board approved outcomes.
- *Board Sub-Committee or Steering Committee (Optional):* A sub-committee of up to three Board members, or a steering committee of non-Board members, available to provide guidance to staff for policy and technical work to resolve issues regarding the process or elevate to Board.

OCB staff also proposed holding public workshops to provide opportunities for interested parties (Board, local jurisdictions, communities, etc.) to learn about Advisory Group findings, engage and provide input at key milestones.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members suggested the organizational structure should ensure OCB is responsible for the oversight and management of both the technical and implementation advisory groups and then report directly to the Board.
- Board members did not see a need for Board sub-committee or steering committee.
- Board Members confirmed that the technical advisory group members should be technical experts that have experience in relevant topic areas.
- Board members were interested in seeing planning directors from each county engage in the implementation advisory group due to their expertise.

Below is a link to the Local Actions Program process and organizational structure presentation:

- [Local Actions Program Process](#)

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** OCB staff will develop a revised process and organizational structure proposal for Board consideration at the September 15 Board meeting. OCB staff will also begin reaching out to individuals that may participate in the technical or implementation advisory groups to gauge their willingness and ability to participate in an advisory capacity.

## **Mitigation Strategy Development**

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) introduced Erik Martin (Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District) and Shane Cherry (HydroGeoLogic) to provide new information since the release of the Draft SEPA EIS on aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland mitigation opportunities and progress made on avoidance and minimization plans for the proposed flood retention facility (FRE). The Draft SEPA EIS identified significant unavoidable impacts that will require mitigation. The FCZD is now analyzing: the types, locations, and quantities of mitigation likely to be required to address project impacts; if there are sufficient mitigation opportunities available to address the anticipated mitigation requirements; and approximate mitigation costs. To summarize, the draft Mitigation Opportunities Assessment report found that sufficient opportunities exist for aquatic and wetland mitigation; adaptive management and durable mitigation are needed; preliminary estimated mitigation costs are \$45-90 million; and impact avoidance and minimization will reduce both impacts and costs.

Erik Martin also noted that the FCZD continues to develop and evaluate means to avoid and minimize project impacts, including:

- Inundation Analysis
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Air Quality Impact Analysis
- Draft Biological Assessment
- Pe Ell Water Supply System
- Construction/Operations Phase BMPs
- Fish Passage During Construction

The FCZD offered to make future progress updates to the Board at upcoming monthly meetings and continue work on avoidance and minimization efforts. OCB and the FCZD will broadly distribute the draft Mitigation Opportunities Assessment report for feedback. Separately, the US Army Corps of Engineers will issue their draft NEPA EIS in September.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were reminded that the draft Mitigation Opportunities Assessment considered the full aquatic and wetlands impacts from the Draft SEPA EIS, minus removal of the bump out for the Airport Levee.
- Shane Cherry (HydroGeoLogic) clarified that limiting factors for specific salmon species (e.g., spring Chinook and steelhead) were not incorporated into this phase of the mitigation assessment.
- Shane Cherry (HydroGeoLogic) noted that mitigation plans should be durable under climate change impacts, and that their work to date assumed that would be the case.
- Board members were interested in understating what mitigation options were evaluated to compensate for the loss of or change to channel-forming flows from major flood events, which naturally maintain and restore important habitat for salmon, fish and other aquatic species.

- Shane Cherry (HydroGeoLogic) noted that their consultant team was not tasked with analyzing how the mitigation proposal would address impacts to tribal treaty rights.

Below is a link to the Mitigation Presentation:

- [Draft Mitigation Opportunities PPT](#)

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** OCB staff will distribute the FCZD draft Mitigation Opportunities Assessment report.

## **Next Steps and Closing**

Gordon White (Ecology ex-officio) let the Board know that he will be retiring from Ecology in December 2020. Board members were informed that Director Laura Watson has appointed Rich Doenges (Ecology SWRO Director) as the new Ecology ex-officio Board member on her behalf beginning October 1, 2020.

Jim Kramer (facilitator) reminded the Board of additional September special Board meetings, including:

- September 15, 2020 from 8-10 am.
- September 30, 2020 at 9 am, where US Army Corps of Engineers staff will present findings from the Draft NEPA EIS.

Chrissy Bailey (Ecology, OCB Staff) announced upcoming online Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR) program workshops on October 15 and November 2, 2020.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 as an online special meeting webinar.

## Attachment A

### **Board Staff/Board Guests:**

- Alexei Calambokidis, Trout Unlimited
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Washington Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Arthur Gurunbaum
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- C Schultze
- Celina Abercrombie, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Charles Coddington
- Chrissy Bailey, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Hansen, Orca Network
- Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Emelie McKain, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Erikc Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Frank Corbin
- Gardner Johnston, Inter-Fluve
- Glen DeWillie, Kleinschmidt
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Izabella Zucker, Pyramid Communications
- Jade Smith
- Jennifer Hennessey, Governor's OfficeOV
- Jessica Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jim Waldo, Consultant to Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone DistrictFCZD
- John Dr. Henricksen, OneVoice
- Jon Ladd, DeVaul Publishing
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- 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
- Ron Averill, City of Centralia
- Rona Spellecay, HDR

- Sarah Kohout
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Scotty Ireland, Parametrix
- Shane Cherry, HydroGeoLogic
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Trent Lougheed, – City of Chehalis