

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: March 4, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom online meeting

| ITEM | FORMAL ACTION | FOLLOW-UP ACTION |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Consent March 4 meeting agenda; Approval of February 4 and February 18 Meeting Summaries | Decision: Current agenda approved; February 4 and February 18 Meeting Summaries Approved | No follow-up actions |
| 2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan | Direction | WDFW staff will provide the Board information on current spending levels and anticipated reappropriation for the ASRP this biennium. |
| 3. Approach to Board Report on Long-Term Strategy | Decisions: See Attachment A | OCB will invite Aberdeen and Hoquiam staff to a future Board meeting to present funding options for the North Shore Levee to be included in the Board's 2021-23 budget recommendations. OCB will invite Flood Authority staff to a future Board meeting to present local project funding options to be included in the Board's 2021-23 budget recommendations. |
| 4. Next Steps and Closing | Discussion/ Decision: Board approved by consensus the cancelation of both March 18, 2021 and March 25, 2021 Chehalis Basin Board meetings | OCB staff will conduct individual Board member outreach to schedule additional Board meetings in May 2021. |

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Vickie Raines, 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
- Harry Pickernell Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Rich Doenges, 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 B

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [March 4, 2021 Meeting Agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of February 4, 2021 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [February 4, 2021 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: February 4, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Approval of February 18, 2021 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [February 18, 2021 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: February 18, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Jim Kramer (facilitator) introduced Emelie McKain (WDFW), who reminded the Board of the three Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) long-term program options previously presented for Board consideration.

1. Full-Level Option-totaling 550 miles of habitat restoration in priority rivers and streams with an implementation period of 30 years. The estimated cost is \$610 million to \$1.3 billion.
2. Mid-Level Option -totaling 230 miles of habitat restoration in priority rivers and streams with an implementation period of 30 years. The estimated cost is \$300-600 million.
3. No-Action Option -Other existing local, state and federal programs would still operate outside of the Strategy. This option would not include ASRP program implementation and aquatic habitats would likely continue to degrade or be lost in the Chehalis Basin.

For the 2021-23 biennium, the ASRP Steering Committee recommended to the Board an ASRP budget of \$33 million. The \$33 million budget would be consistent with the Governor's proposed budget, achieve almost level funding for the ASRP from 2019-21 biennium. The recommendation does not differ with long-term program options #1 or #2, or any of the proposed 6-year funding strategies.

Emelie described three options for the next three biennia for investment in the ASRP. Over the six-year period three options were: level funding \$100M, "slow ramp-up" \$125M and "fast" \$150M. The Steering Committee recommended the Board strive for full ASRP implementation over a 30-year implementation period, using 5-year program evaluations to help determine a feasible pace of implementation. They also recommended a "slow ramp-up" strategy as the best option to scale up the program at a feasible and responsible pace in early years of implementation.

After the presentation, Steering Committee members provided the following input:

- Steering Committee members highlighted the science-driven nature of the ASRP.
- Steering Committee members highlighted the need for a steady funding stream to achieve long-term success.
- Steering Committee members spoke to the importance of understanding the limitations of a phased approach for ASRP projects. Most projects will span multiple biennia and will be limited by the windows of opportunity for seasonal that work can be accomplished within a single biennium.
- Steering Committee members explained the importance of identifying 6-year spending plans because it provides project sponsors and landowners the certainty needed to obtain contractors and resources allocated to work on the ground.
- Steering Committee members described the importance of looking ahead; the funding being proposed is based largely on tangible projects that are already earmarked for the implementation phases.
- Steering Committee members are interested in understanding what types of information the Board needs to advocate for the ASRP as part of the broader Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Board members were divided into breakout rooms to discuss the ASRP material presented. Highlights of their discussion are below:

- Board members discussed the need for succinct communication materials that the Board can use for legislative briefings and broader outreach that address the problem, approach, and specific focus of the ASRP, including for critical aquatic species like spring Chinook.
- Board members are interested in seeing how much of the 2021-23 biennium ASRP funding has been spent to-date and the estimated amount that is likely to be reappropriated at the end of the biennium.
- Board members want to ensure there is equitable distribution of funding for both habitat restoration and flood damage reduction projects.
- Board members discussed their interest in understanding project outcomes and how long it will take to see project benefits.
- Board members are interested in seeing a prioritized project list in the event that there are limitations in funding.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: WDFW staff will provide the Board information on current spending levels and anticipated reappropriation for the ASRP this biennium.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Info for LTS and 21-23 Budget Recommendations](#)
- [CBB ASRP Presentation](#)

Approach to Board Report on Long-Term Strategy

Jim Kramer (facilitator) reviewed the objectives and issues to be discussed regarding recommended pathways for the Board's 2021-23 biennium budget and long-term strategy work plan.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle highlighted the major process adjustments that have occurred in 2020, and invited Jennifer Hennessey (Governor's office) to speak on behalf of the Governor's office. Jennifer offered to help communicate with the legislature both the need for, and value of, the current process adjustments given the sensitive nature of the Board's ongoing deliberations, including the need for more time to confer with the tribes on the 2021-23 budget recommendations.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle and others presented the Board with the preliminary options for funding the implementation of several projects next biennium and continuing to develop the scientific and programmatic information needed in the near-term for the Board to make longer-range decisions. Andrea then presented a preliminary outline of a future report that will support the Board's deliberations and recommendations for the long-term strategy and the 2021-23 budget recommendations. More detail on the potential pathways presented can be found in the link to the meeting presentation.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members requested that the language be modified in the Governor's current proposed 2021-23 budget to include language that would require at least six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions and that funds be spent equally between flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

BOARD DECISIONS:

- Board approved by consensus the Governor's proposed \$70M, 2021-2023 biennium budget with the modification in language requiring at least six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions.
- Board approved by consensus additional information is needed to determine what combination of actions can meet the Board's outcomes for flood damage reduction.
- Board approved by consensus the process to recommend 2021-2023 funding allocations and project lists by June 3, 2021.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Board LTS Presentation](#)
- [LTS report outline](#)

Crosscutting/Integrated Work

Skookumchuck Dam Analysis

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of a previous presentation on the potential opportunities associated with the Skookumchuck Dam for advancing both aquatic species habitat and flood damage reduction objectives. Board members expressed interest in understanding more about what could be learned through a more detailed analysis of the dam and potential operational or structural changes.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in initiating conversations with TransAlta to explore possible alternatives for near-term actions.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Skookumchuck Dam Analysis Proposal](#)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will determine options to engage with TransAlta to explore possible alternatives for near-term actions.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget for Skookumchuck dam analyses.

Bank Erosion Management

Marri Martz reminded the Board that the OCB team is completing an assessment in March of historical channel migration for 100 miles of high priority erosion areas.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget for the development of a pilot technical assistance program for landowners with relative cost and staffing needed for a program, and a work plan and budget for possible completion of erosion hazard delineations in high priority areas.

Floodplain Acquisition Program Design

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented potential pathways for development of a Floodplain Acquisition Program.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding how water rights issues would be addressed or considered in a floodplain acquisition program.
- Board members are interested in seeing specific sideboards on the type of activities being considered for a potential floodplain acquisition program.
- Board members discussed the importance of coordinating with local authorities and understanding their perspectives and lessons learned from their related efforts.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget for a Floodplain Acquisition Program.

Floodplain Management and Modeling

Jim Kramer presented on floodplain management and modeling considerations, providing potential pathways for 2021-23.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding opportunities for additional floodplain storage benefits along tributaries, especially smaller tributaries.
- Board members would like to see specific examples of what types of projects would be considered in an analysis for flood damage from more frequent events.
- Board members are interested in more detail on potential synergies and alignment with ASRP goals and projects.
- Board members discussed the importance of coordinating with local floodplain managers when developing these options.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of options for additional floodplain management and modeling in the 2021-23 biennium.

Land Use

Jim Kramer presented the current status of potential land use recommendations and the potential pathways for 2021-23.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding what the role for building code within the floodplain, specifically for lots that have already been approved and/or subdivided.
- Board members discussed the importance of coordinating with local planning officials when developing land use recommendations.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of options to refine and implement land use recommendations for Board consideration.

Community Outreach and Engagement

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented community outreach and engagement options for consideration.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members highlighted the existing outreach efforts that are already occurring through the strategy.
- Board members discussed the importance of coordinating with local partners to reduce overlap in communication efforts.
- Board members acknowledged the importance of engaging with the community.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of options for community outreach and engagement strategies.

Flood Damage Reduction

Flood Retention Facility

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented three potential pathways for additional work on the flood retention facility.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members want to ensure there is clear messaging if the Flood Control Zone District begins preparations of their preliminary permit application materials to ensure the public understands this is not indication that the project has received Board support.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget for the flood retention facility pathways.

Priority Areas for Structural Flood Protection (Levees)

Marri Martz presented potential pathways for priority areas for structural flood protection (levees).

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in better understanding community needs and interests in levee construction options.
- Board members want to ensure any action does not only benefit one community and disproportionately affect another.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget for consideration of structural flood protection options.

Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (Office of Chehalis Basin) presented potential pathways for the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) program.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget to maintain and/or expand the CFAR technical and financial assistance program.

North Shore Levee

OCB Director McNamara Doyle presented funding options for the North Shore Levee that have been proposed as part of OCB's 2021-2023 budget recommendations.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members encouraged exploration of the federal infrastructure bill that is currently being proposed in the legislature.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB will invite Aberdeen and Hoquiam staff to a future Board meeting to present funding options for the North Shore Levee to be included in the Board's 2021-23 budget recommendations.

Flood Authority Local Projects

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented potential project options for Flood Authority local flood damage reduction projects that have been proposed as part of OCB's 2021-2023 budget recommendations.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will invite Flood Authority members and staff to a future Board meeting to present 2021-23 local project funding options.

Next Steps and Closing

Chair Vickie Raines proposed the Board cancel the March 18, 2021 and March 25, 2021 meetings and reconvene at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 1, 2021. There will also be an additional Office of Chehalis Basin Public Meeting on March 9, 2021.

BOARD DECISIONS: Board approved by consensus the cancelation of both March 18, 2021 and March 25, 2021 Chehalis Basin Board meetings.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will conduct individual Board member outreach to schedule additional Board meetings in May 2021.

Attachment A

BOARD DECISIONS

- Board approved by consensus the Governor's proposed \$70M, 2021-2023 biennium budget with the modification in language requiring at least six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions.
- Board approved by consensus additional information is needed to determine what combination of actions can meet the Board's outcomes for flood damage reduction.
- Board approved by consensus the process to recommend 2021-2023 funding allocations and project lists by June 3, 2021.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for Skookumchuck dam analyses.
- Board approved by consensus the development of a 2021-23 work plan and budget options for the development of a pilot technical assistance program for landowners with relative cost and staffing needed for a program and completion of erosion hazard delineations in high priority areas.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for a Floodplain Acquisition Program.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for additional floodplain modeling.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options to refine and implement land use recommendations for Board consideration.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for community outreach and engagement strategies.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for the flood retention facility.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for consideration of structural flood protection options.
- Board approved by consensus the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget options for maintaining and/or expanding the CFAR technical and financial assistance program.

Attachment B

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Christina Riley, LECET/LIUNA
- Col Ron Averill, City of Centralia

- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe, ASRP Steering Committee
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Frank Corbin
- Glen Connelly, Chehalis Tribe
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jessica Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- John Robinson, Consultant to Flood Control Zone District
- John Henricksen, Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Mara Zimmerman, Costal Salmon Partnership
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Nic Kela
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tom Gorman, Department of Natural Resources