

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: April 1, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 12:45 pm
Location: Zoom online meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent April 1, 2021 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; April 1 and March 4 Meeting Summary Approved	No follow-up action.
2. Environmental Justice Considerations	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Basin Perspectives: Affordable Housing Advocates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Additional May 2021 Special Board Meeting Dates	Board approved by consensus the addition of a Board Meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021.	OCB staff will send out a calendar invitation to the new Board meeting on May 17, 2021.
5. Long-Term Strategy Pathways and 2021-23 Budget Planning	Direction: 1) Board members agreed that additional analyses to look at flood damage from more frequent events should focus on erosion hazards and transportation closures; 2) Board members supported the development of a scope of work and budget for the 2021-2023 budget to initiate the development of an integrated fisheries strategy for the Chehalis Basin.	OCB staff will develop draft 2021-23 scope and budget estimates for local scale structural flood damage reduction actions in different areas. WDFW staff will incorporate Board comments on the ASRP outreach flyer and distribute it to the Board for further review and use.
6. Director's Report and Legislative Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.

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
- Glen Connelly (alternate to Harry Pickernell), Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- 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 9:03 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [April 1, 2021 Meeting Agenda](#)

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of March 4, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

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

Environmental Justice Considerations

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their request for more information on environmental justice considerations that should be considered as part of the development of the Local Actions Program and broader Chehalis Basin Strategy. Andrea introduced Sarah Reich and Laura Marshall (EcoNorthwest) who presented preliminary findings on environmental justice considerations for the Chehalis Basin, including factors that affect individual and community vulnerability to flooding in the basin.

Board members were reminded of the outcome they developed and approved as part of the Local Actions Program evaluation:

“Communities with environmental justice concerns would suffer less hardship and damage from flooding, would not be economically disadvantaged by displacement or otherwise disproportionately adversely affected by actions to reduce flood damage, and would be improved by flood solutions.”

Characteristics of flooding throughout the basin can both exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and create new vulnerabilities. To address the concerns related to future actions and policy development, it is important to make sure there is opportunity to create equitable outcomes. The use of data can inform

the Board's understanding of ways to develop policies that mitigate flooding risk and understand how historic flooding patterns might influence vulnerability.

Project selection within the basin should consider a number of factors, for example: Who is benefiting the most from the project? Who has benefited historically from local flood protection actions in this region? Who bears the cost? Are there additional considerations related to historical inequities over time? As the Board moves to project implementation, there are often many tradeoffs. For example, going through a planning, avoidance, and/or mitigation process can help clarify where vulnerable populations are, historical inequities in the region of the project, and any location specific considerations that could provide more meaningful stakeholder engagement in the process.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Environmental Justice Consideration EcoNorthwest Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were interested in specific information related to where rental units are most concentrated within Chehalis and Centralia.
- Board members discussed the importance of considering environmental impacts on tribes.
- Board Members discussed [Senate Bill 5241- Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force](#). Jennifer Hennessey (Governor's Office) echoed the importance of environmental justice and that embedding it in agency work is a big consideration with the bill that is moving forward in the legislature.

Basin Perspectives: Affordable Housing Advocates

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle highlighted a discussion she recently had with Chehalis Basin affordable housing advocates to learn more about their concerns and identify opportunities to collaborate around flood damage reduction objectives. Andrea then introduced Meja Handlen (Lewis County Public Health and Social Services Manager) who provided her perspective on the important issues facing affordable housing and social service providers in the basin. Meja highlighted the importance of wraparound services, which involve agencies working in conjunction to uplift a person out of situations that are economically and/or socially harmful. Lewis County has a high rate of ALISE (asset limited income or strained and employed) populations. This population includes people who work and are actively engaged in their community but could become unstable in their housing situations during a crisis.

Meja highlighted that growing the resiliency of vulnerable populations is driven through the process of developing inclusive, data-driven strategies and implementation policies and procedures. In the process of strategy development, people who have traditionally not had a voice at the table (e.g., people who live along the river or in the floodplain, ALISE populations, people on a fixed income) should be recognized and engaged.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed approaches to support renters in the basin that live in the floodplain, including incentivizing affordable housing development outside of the floodplain.

Additional May 2021 Special Board Meeting Dates

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their previous discussions to include an additional meeting date in May 2021. Based on information received from Board members, the options were narrowed to Monday, May 17, 2021 or Friday, May 21, 2021.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the addition of a Board meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will send out a calendar invitation for the Board meeting on May 17, 2021.

Long-Term Strategy Pathways and 2021-23 Budget Planning

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of previous discussions about potential elements of their 2021-23 work plan and budget. At the March meeting, the Board approved the development of 2021-23 work plan and budget estimates for potential crosscutting/integrated, flood damage reduction, and aquatic species restoration work elements.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Board Long-Term Strategy Presentation](#)

OCB staff identified four areas that need additional Board direction to refine preparations of work plans and budget options:

1. Local Area Structural Flood Damage Reduction Options

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their request to look at options besides the proposed flood retention facility for significant basin-wide flood damage reduction. To address that request, OCB staff convened Local Actions Program Technical and Implementation Advisory Groups to review flood damage reduction approaches that have been previously evaluated and to potentially identify any new project options that could help inform Board decision making.

One proposed option provided by the advisory groups included the development of local scale, or small-scale, structural actions such as levees or floodwalls. These would be considered separate from the levee projects that are already under consideration such as the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee and the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in more information about the different options and geographic areas that have been identified for potential levee protection.
- Board members are interested in OCB staff developing cost and project development estimates for potential levee options in a few focus areas.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will develop draft 2021-23 scope and budget estimates for local scale structural flood damage reduction actions in different areas.

2. Focus for Flood Events and Damage

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their direction to focus flood damage reduction actions on addressing the predicted late-century catastrophic flood (i.e., 100-year flood in 2080). Through the Local Actions Program process, the Technical Advisory Group considered multiple

flood hazard conditions within the basin, which could occur at various flood flows (magnitude, frequency, and duration) with the recommendation to conduct additional analyses to look at flood damage from more frequent events, focusing on erosion hazards and transportation closures that may occur during smaller flood events.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members expressed concerns about focusing on flood damage from more frequent events, e.g., stormwater issues, highlighting that these issues should be managed by local governments.
- Board members agreed that erosion hazards should be evaluated due to their impact on flooding and aquatic species.

BOARD DIRECTION: Board members agreed that additional analyses to look at flood damage from more frequent events should focus on erosion hazards and transportation closures.

3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Emelie McKain (WDFW) reminded the Board of their previous conversation with the ASRP Steering Committee and their request for an ASRP communication document that can be used for messaging as part of the overall strategy. In response to that request, WDFW created a 2-page outreach flyer that includes a program overview, purpose of program, issues being addressed, actions being taken, accomplishments to date, and future implementation area priorities.

In the future, the ASRP Steering Committee would like to develop information for landowners on what to expect with project participation, implementation guidance for practitioners, and additional project list details on funding allocations in 2021-23.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Board Update](#)
- [ASRP Outreach Flyer-Spring2021 \(DRAFT\)](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in seeing before-and-after information on project implementation and landowner perspectives.
- Board members were supportive of the information in the draft outreach flyer.
- Board members recommended vetting the information in the outreach flyer with outside perspectives.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: WDFW staff will incorporate Board comments on the ASRP outreach flyer and distribute it to the Board for further review and use.

4. Habitat, Harvest, Hatcheries, Hydro, Predation

Jim Kramer (facilitator) reminded the Board of their previous discussion about the importance of how harvest, hatcheries, hydropower, predation, and prey are being managed or could be managed in a manner that will support the success of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. OCB staff requested Board direction on whether to pursue discussions with WDFW, the Chehalis Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation to develop a scope of work and budget for the 2021-2023 budget to initiate the development of

an integrated fisheries strategy for the Chehalis Basin. Such an effort would enable the Board to provide the fisheries co-managers more support where needed, as well as enabling the Board to better understand and communicate the actions of the co-managers and build support amongst interested parties, especially landowners, for voluntary habitat restoration.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Memo re Integration of Habitat, Harvest, Hatcheries, Hydropower and Predation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the complexity of conservation and predation concerns could be included in the ASRP.
- Board members requested more information on the Wynoochee dam before further evaluating this as an opportunity in the future.
- Board members expressed interest in further conversation regarding the protection and preservation of spring Chinook genetics and potentially reintroducing spring Chinook populations in cooler water tributaries within the basin.
- Board members discussed the impact to smolts due to the growing population of pinnipeds and invasive species.

BOARD DIRECTION: Board members supported the development of a scope of work and budget for the 2021-2023 budget to initiate the development of an integrated fisheries plan for the Chehalis Basin.

Director's Report and Legislative Updates

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle acknowledged that the House and Senate capital budgets have been released and both included \$70 million for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, which matches the Governor's budget proposal. Board members were reminded that they requested language be included that specific projects must be approved by at least six of seven voting Board members before money can be spent starting July 1, 2021.

The following bills still actively working their way through the legislative process were also highlighted as being relevant to the Board's work:

[SHB 1382 - Salmon recovery projects](#)

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Creates the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (pilot program) for habitat restoration projects that meet certain criteria.
- Exempts qualifying projects from certain permitting processes.
- Establishes a consultation and review process for pilot program projects.

[E2SSB 5141 - Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force](#)

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the Puget Sound Partnership and the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation (covered agencies) to complete environmental

justice assessments when considering significant agency actions and to incorporate environmental justice principles into agency budget and fiscal processes.

- Encourages other state agencies to apply the principles of environmental justice in the implementation of their agency functions, and authorizes other state agencies to opt in to the environmental justice requirements applicable to covered agencies.
- Requires covered agencies to create and adopt a community engagement plan for engaging with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations in the evaluation of existing and new programs and activities.
- Requires covered agencies to offer consultation with Indian tribes on decisions that affect tribes' rights and interests in tribal lands.
- Establishes an Environmental Justice Council with specified membership, staffed by the Department of Health (DOH), and which is assigned specified advisory and oversight responsibilities for covered agencies' implementation of environmental justice activities.
- Requires the DOH to continue to develop and maintain an environmental health disparities map.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an update on behalf of Rich Doenges (Ecology Ex Officio), sharing that the SEPA team at Ecology is preparing to restart the process to complete the Final EIS for the proposed flood retention facility. Ecology has begun re-engaging with subject matter experts within the agencies as well as with the consultant team that is supporting the process. The preliminary working assumption will be to finalize the SEPA process in an approximately one-year timeframe.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) reminded the Board of their next regularly scheduled Board meetings on May 6, 2021 and May 17, 2021.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brandon Rakes, Chehalis Tribe
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Christina Riley, LECET/LIUNA
- Carson Coates, Rep. Jamie Herrera Beutler Office
- Carol Schultze
- Col. Ron Averill, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- 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
- Deken Letinch, LiUNA
- Devin Reck, Department of Transportation
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Frank Corbin, Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jennifer Hennessey, Governor's Office
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jessica Helsley – Wild Salmon Center
- Laura Marshall, EcoNorthwest
- Linda Williams
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian nation
- Mara Zimmerman, Costal Salmon Partnership
- Meja Handlen, Lewis County Public Health
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Ozzie Gonzalez
- Sarah Kohout, Senator Cantwell Office
- Sarah Reich, EcoNorthwest
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tom Gorman, Department of Natural Resources
- Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis, Flood Authority