

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: December 1, 2022
Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: Hybrid meeting – Lewis County Commission Room

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent December 1, 2022 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; September 30 and October 6 meeting summaries approved.	No follow-up action.
2. OCB Correspondence: QIN/USACE/CBB	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Flood Authority Request	Decision: Consensus approval to re-allocate \$60K from the Boistfort Valley CMZ project to the Flood Authority for additional staffing needs.	No follow-up action.
4. Chehalis Basin Strategy Assessment	Decision: Consensus approval to move forward with Sam Imperati's recommendations for the next phase of the Chehalis Basin Strategy assessment.	OCB staff will work with Sam Imperati to develop a scope of work to bring back to the Board sub-group for approval.
5. 2023-2025 Budget Planning	Decision: Consensus approval on the 2023-25 budget and spending plan proposed by the Board sub-group.	No follow-up action.
6. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Strategy Outreach and Communications	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan	Direction	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
9. Skookumchuck Dam	Discussion	No follow-up action.
10. Next Steps and Closing	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
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Alex Smith, Department of Natural Resources
- Mark Gaines, Department of Transportation
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology
- Josh Giuntoli, Washington State 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.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [December 1, 2022](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of September 30, 2022 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 30, 2022 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: September 30, 2022 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Approval of October 6, 2022 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [October 6, 2022 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: September 1, 2022 meeting summary approved by consensus.

OCB Correspondence: QIN/USACE/CBB

Tyson Johnston spoke on behalf of the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) regarding the letter that was sent to the Chehalis Basin Board related to the proposed flood retention facility. The QIN remains committed to the Chehalis Basin Strategy. There has been extensive government-to-government relations with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the letter was part of a long-standing issue the QIN and other tribes have with how the USACE does work on treaty recognized lands.

Below is the link to the topic materials:

- [Quinault Indian Nation letter to the Chehalis Basin Board](#)
- [Quinault Indian Nation letter to the Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members remain encouraged with the QIN's continued commitment to the Chehalis Basin Strategy process.
- Board members highlighted that the Strategy's success is due in large part to an understanding that both flooding and habitat restoration work are important and unless there is a net win on both the "fish and flood" sides, the process will not be successful.
- Carrie Sessions (Governor's office) appreciated the QIN's statement reaffirming their commitment to the Strategy and the Governor's Office remains committed to this process and committed to advancing all aspects of the Strategy.

Flood Authority Request

Vickie Raines (Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority) provided the Board with a proposal from the Flood Authority, requesting to re-allocate \$60k in project funds from the Boisfort Valley CMZ project (2021-2023 funds), to temporary support additional Flood Authority staffing needs.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved re-allocating \$60k from the Boistfort Valley CMZ project to support additional Flood Authority staffing needs.

Chehalis Basin Strategy Assessment

Sam Imperati (ICM resolutions) provided the Board his findings for the first phase of the Chehalis Basin Strategy assessment and offered recommendations for the next phase of work. Survey results showed the Board scored very high on several elements that are essential to a successful process. Board members have different points of views, hopes, and concerns about when and how the Board will move into formal recommendations on major next steps for development of the Strategy.

Sam recommended the Board begin affirmatively addressing the following tasks in the first quarter of 2023 to create the process understandings necessary for long-term project success:

- Task 1: Adopt Language Affirming the Board's Overarching Charge
- Task 2: Establish a Clear Process Path Forward
- Task 3: Agree on Input, Interim Accomplishments, and Roles

Below is the link to the topic materials:

- [CBB 12-1-22 Assessment Presentation](#)
- [Chehalis Basin Strategy Assessment Report](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members expressed interested in understanding ways to align each other's expectations around the decision- and recommendation-making process.
- Board members discussed the importance of setting goals and identifying the type of high-quality information they need to support decision-making.
- Board members are interested in understanding more about approaches undertaken in other basins, such as the Yakima and Nisqually.
- Board members expressed interest in contracting with Sam Imperati to continue the work outlined for phase 2 of the assessment.

BOARD DECISION: Consensus approval to move forward with phase 2 of the assessment.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will work with Sam Imperati to develop a scope of work to bring back to the Board sub-group for approval.

Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

Todd Chaput (LAND Steering Group Co-Chair) provided an overview of the November LAND Steering Group (SG) meeting, including a recap of the refinements to the LAND alternative concepts, an evaluation matrix, and the process for developing the final recommended LAND alternative by March 2023. There will be a retreat for the Steering Group in late-January or early-February 2023, a road show to communicate the plan to interested parties in February 2023, and a presentation to OCB and the Board in March and April 2023.

Alex Dupey (MIG) provided Board members with more detail on the five concepts that have been developed, including restoration, floodproofing, levees, and diversions. Costs for a LAND alternative range between \$840M and \$1.9B, depending on the concept.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Land SG November 17 Meeting Synthesis](#)
- [MIG Chehalis Board Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members noted that implementing home elevations is an approach local communities have utilized to address flood protection, and voiced caution in LAND advertising home elevations as a new concept.

2023-2025 Budget Planning

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided the Board a summary of the Board sub-group's consensus recommendation 2023-25 budget proposal. The proposal includes \$73 million for OCB, allocating \$33.4 million for flood damage reduction projects, \$30.4 million for aquatic species restoration projects, \$5.2 million for integrated projects that advance both "flood and fish" outcomes, and \$3.9 million for OCB and Chehalis Basin Board operations, oversight, fiscal accountability, etc. The Board also supported a separate legislative member request for the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee Project up to \$35.5 million.

Funding Category	2023-25
Aquatic Species Restoration	\$30.4M
Flood Damage Reduction	\$33.4M
Integrated	\$5.2M
Core OCB Staffing and Board Operations	\$3.9
Total	\$73M
<i>Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee (support for separate legislative member request)</i>	<i>Up to \$35.5M</i>

Below is a list of key budget considerations:

- Aquatic species restoration funded approximately equal to current biennium
- Flood damage reduction prioritizes finalizing SEPA and NEPA EISs (including ESA consultation) and development of information for decision-making on next steps for proposed FRE
- CFAR and LAND are funded at higher level than current biennium
- Flood Authority projects funded less than current biennium
- Integrated actions funded at higher level than current biennium

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [2023-2025 Budget presentation](#)

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the 2023-25 budget and spending plan proposed by the Board sub-group.

Strategy Outreach and Communications

Lizzie Jespersen (Pyramid Communications) reminded the Board of its outreach and communications goals for the year, including sharing a compelling, clear story, informing Basin residents, increasing transparency in the process, and proactively addressing concerns and correcting misinformation about the Strategy.

Major highlights this year include the re-branding and re-launch of the Chehalis Basin Strategy website, building a Partners' Toolkit, the development of a Strategy specific YouTube channel, building up Spanish-language resources, and updating the social media comment moderation policy. Pyramid is

currently working on a 2022 End of Year Report, which will summarize accomplishments over the past year.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

ASRP Board Sub-Group Update

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided an update on the Board's ASRP sub-group, including Steve Malloch, J. Vander Stoep, and Tyson Johnston. At the October kick off meeting, the group discussed a range of questions Board members have posed to the ASRP staff and Steering Committee. Board sub-group members expressed how valuable the kickoff meeting was, and agreed the Board has a duty to understand the intricacies of how decisions are made related to all aspects of the ASRP and begin to explore ways to address other issues that impact aquatic species beyond habitat considerations.

All-H Slider Tool

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) introduced Ray Beamsderfer, who provided an update on the Chehalis Salmon and Steelhead Integrated Analysis (aka Salmon Slider Tool). A comprehensive understanding of the magnitude and interactions of all factors in the Slider Tool is essential to implementation of effective restoration strategies. The Salmon Slider Tool isn't intended to answer all questions, but it can help to better understand the relationship of the myriad factors impacting salmon and steelhead.

The Slider is a dial-turning exercise with two parts. First, is a limiting factors analysis. Second, is a Life Cycle Analysis. Board members will need to identify the kinds of scenarios they want to analyze through this tool. For example, ASRP habitat improvement scenarios, dam removal or installation, etc.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Chehalis All-H Analysis Synopsis](#)
- [Chehalis All-H Analysis Scenarios](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members expressed concern about the level of limiting factors that can be considered within the basin, and if this tool will be able to factor in all those elements.
- Board members are interested in learning more about non-habitat related factors they can support and improve, such as hatcheries, harvest, and predation.

ASRP Early Action Reaches

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) and Drew Mealor (WDFW) provided the Board an update on the four early action reach-scale river restoration pilot projects, including:

- Skookumchuck River (1.1 miles)
- Stillman Creek, South Fork Chehalis River (3.3 miles)
- Wynoochee River (1.9 miles)
- EF Satsop River (3.2 miles)

WDFW will be holding a lessons-learned workshop on February 15, 2023 to share partner experiences on the EAR projects and generate discussion with project partners focusing on continual improvement for project implementation.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP EAR Update](#)

Skookumchuck Dam

Nat Kale (OCB) provided a progress update on the development and timing of the Skookumchuck dam phase 2 analysis. The Board will receive a draft of the analysis in late December, with a goal to receive responses in January, and present a final report with recommendations at the February 2023 Board meeting.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next regular Board meeting will be January 5, 2023 as a hybrid (in-person/online) meeting.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Alex Dupey, MIG
- Alexandra Gustafson, Trout Unlimited
- Alissa Shay, Port of Grays Harbor
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Arthur Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Christa Bale, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- David Ortman
- Drew Mealor, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ellie Probus, Pyramid Communications
- Erik Martin, Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jennifer Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jeannie Beckett
- Jerry Otto, HDR
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Jim Kramer
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kat Dickey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Kris Koski, Port of Grays Harbor
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin

- Ron Averill, Flood Authority
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Shelly Helder, Gordon Thomas Honeywell
- Tammy Domike
- Teri Wright, Wild Orca
- Todd Chaput, Economic Alliance of Lewis County
- Victoria Knorr, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wendy Brown