

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: September 7, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM, PST to 3:00 PM, PST
Location: Hybrid meeting – Fairfield Inn & Suites By Marriott, Grand Mound Centralia, Rochester, Washington

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of Current Agenda and August 3 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; August 3 summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Chehalis Basin Strategy Process Refinement	Discussion / Direction	Staff will incorporate Board feedback and refine draft work element and option definitions for the next iteration of the package development exercise in October. OCB Director Kale will reach out to the Governor's office to set up a future briefing with the Governor to provide an update on the CBS process.
3. Outreach and Communications	Discussion/Direction	Staff will work with Board members on suggestions for clarity and consistency in how communications refer to OCB, the Board, and the CBS.
4. Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Request for Board Letter of Support	Decision: Board members unanimously approved the letter of support.	OCB will obtain a signature from Chair Raines on behalf of the full Board for the Letter of Support.
6. Director's Report	Discussion / Direction	No follow-up action.
7. Public Comment, Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members

NAME	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	ATTENDANCE
Vickie Raines	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Edna Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present

Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Tyson Johnston	Quinault Indian Nation	Present
Glen Connelly	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Present
J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Governor	Present
Steve Malloch	Office of the Governor	Present

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members

NAME	AGENCY	ATTENDANCE
Michael Garrity	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Present
Katie Allen	Department of Natural Resources	Absent
Mark Gaines	Department of Transportation	Absent
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Present
Rich Doenges	Department of Ecology	Present

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Chair Raines and Board member Tyson Johnston welcomed Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Councilmember and Senior Statewoman Gina James.

Agenda and Meeting Summary Review

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an overview of the meeting's agenda. The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 7, 2023](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [August 3 meeting summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: August 3 Board meeting summary approved by consensus.

Chehalis Basin Strategy Process Refinement

Board Facilitator Sam Imperati presented the next series of exercises to develop and refine the Chehalis Basin Strategy process and schedule. Topics covered included:

- Overview/reminder of the proposed 10-step process
- Review of the draft high-level process timeline
- Review of the draft near-term timeline for work between now and March 2023
- Discuss the evolving proposed approach to ensuring consultant impartiality and transparency, including the potential formation of a new Board subcommittee

- Review of draft definitions of a Baseline/No Strategy scenario and Work Elements/Options for the comparative analysis
- Conduct test Board exercises for the preliminary package development process during the retreat

Mr. Imperati noted that the Board will not be asked to make any decisions today. The sole goal is to dry-run activities in preparation for an October Board retreat/workshop. A [CBS Comparative Analysis Memo](#) was sent in advance to Board members for review, which included a draft high-level overall process timeline and detailed near-term process timeline, draft definitions of a Baseline/No Strategy scenario for the comparative analysis for purposes of the exercises only, and draft definitions of Work Elements / Options for the comparative analysis for purposes of the exercises only. Mr. Imperati noted that this meeting's purpose is to explore the process of package creation, and later in the process the Board will create evaluation factors/metrics, gather data, evaluate, and repackage/reevaluate.

Dry-run of Potential Retreat Exercises

The goal of the dry-run package development exercise was to conceptualize, not decide upon, a hypothetical range of packages for the comparative evaluation. Board members were asked to work in groups to pick one potential option from each work element column to create different packages to better understand what the process looks like. Board members were divided into two groups to complete the exercise.

Note: Since this exercise was for practice and to gain familiarity with the process, the results for what was included in the packages is not included in this meeting summary.

	Flood Damage Reduction		Dual-Purposed			Aquatic Species Restoration		Other
Elements	Flood Retention Facility & Airport Levee Improvements	Levees & Diversion / Conveyance	Floodproofing, Elevation, & Acquisition	Floodplain Management & Land Use Planning	Skookumchuck Dam	ASRP: Habitat	Non-Habitat Aquatic Species Actions (Other Hs and Predation)	Unique Elements
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Moderate Modified • Substantial Modified • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Medium • Low • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Medium • Low • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Medium • Low • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam removal/off channel storage • Dam removal only • Combo fish/flood • Fish passage only • Flood reduction only • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Medium High • Medium Low • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High • Medium • Low • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • None

Potential Packages

Baseline/No Strategy	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Package A								
Package B								
Package C								

Exercise Debrief

Board members reported out their group's main takeaways about the exercise experience, what worked, and what needs improvement to have a more refined process for the retreat:

- The two groups had a lot in common and felt that the exercise had a lot of utility.
- Board members appreciated that this exercise allowed them to see the process in action.
- The activity was refreshing as it looked at the breadth of what has already been accomplished. Ten years ago, the Board did not even know these options existed. The framework was a helpful visual to compare options and see whole strategy scenarios on paper.
- The exercise showed commonality amongst the Board members and learning and understanding that the Board members have gained over the years.
- Refined definitions will need to be created for each proposed option, along with their versions of yes/no/substantial/modified, or high/medium/low, for the Board to make informed decisions on final packages for evaluation.
- Particular elements such as the Skookumchuck Dam and levees / diversion / conveyance were difficult to select options for, given there are still so many unknowns and updated data and information has not been developed yet.
- Other unique options to include outside of the presented options created interesting conversations. For example, time and attention is needed to understand and incorporate considerations of the agricultural community and forest practices/forestry management.

Mr. Imperati reflected that there tends to be a tension between brainstorming and evaluating potential packages. The purpose of today's exercise and much of the planned work through March 2024 is to brainstorm packages to be studied, not an evaluation of those packages. Mr. Imperati noted that an October retreat will allow the Board to continue the package development process and may also include an introduction of evaluation factors and metrics.

OCB Director Kale noted that the October Board meetings will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Haul Road project at the Satsop Business Park, and a Q&A session with two or three candidates for the permanent Director position. Board members commented:

- There is not necessarily a rush to hire a permanent OCB Director unless and until candidates are identified that are particularly strong and optimal for the position.
- OCB should make a request in the upcoming months to schedule a briefing with the Governor, to provide an update on the overall CBS process.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will incorporate Board feedback and refine draft work element and option definitions for the next iteration of the package development exercise in October. OCB Director Kale will reach out to the Governor's office to set up a future briefing with the Governor to provide an update on the CBS process.

Below are links to the meeting materials:

- [CBS Comparative Analysis Memo](#)

- [Strategy Development Process](#)
- [CBS Package Examples](#)

Communications and the Chehalis Basin Strategy

Izzy Zucker (Pyramid Communications) engaged the Board in a series of exercises to understand their perspectives on communication priorities for the CBS, and how the Board and OCB staff and consultants can best collaborate on communications and outreach. Ms. Zucker provided a refresher of the high-level communication goals of the Chehalis Basin Strategy which include:

- Ensuring the long-term strategy process receives the diverse and inclusive feedback the Board needs to move forward on decision making.
- Break through divisive and binary narratives around “this-or-that,” “winner-or-loser” to create a shared understanding of the holistic strategy including goals, process, and options.
- Create a shared understanding of the complexity of CBS decision-making.
- Increase participation in Strategy programs and utilization of resources the Board offers residents and local governments and beyond.
- Ensure the CBS and key players have strong relationships with decision-makers essential to moving the process forward.
- Ensure continued visibility and buy-in for the many projects and examples of on-the-ground work.

Ms. Zucker asked Board members to write out ideal media headlines for the question: By 2025, if you could land a front-page feature story in your favorite paper about the Chehalis Basin Strategy, what would your ideal headline say? Board member responses included:

- “Flood reduction and fish protection can be done.”
- “Chehalis Basin Strategy is on time in accomplishing flood mitigation and aquatic species goals.”
- “Aggressive widely supported flood and fish strategy adopted for Chehalis Basin.”
- “Bass tournament puts dent in predation on salmon, Chehalis spring salmon benefit.”
- “Chehalis Basin Flooding Reduced, Habitat Enhanced!”
- “CBB approves comprehensive flood reduction and fish restoration plans!”
- “Legislature adopts long-term strategy to support flood reduction and aquatic species restoration.”
- “Historic fish recovery, flood protection consensus action underway.”

“Who?” and “How?”

Ms. Zucker next reviewed target audiences for “who” and “how” to best communicate with audiences. Board members placed dots at the intersections of who (i.e., potential priority audiences) and how (i.e., outreach tactics) they felt the Strategy could achieve the most effective and greatest impact through outreach. Board members voted as follows:

	Basin Residents	Legislators/ Gov.	Local Gov't	Strategy Partners	LOCAL Media	TRIBAL Govts
Site Tours	•	••••••••	••••	••	••••	•••
Briefings / 1:1's		••••••••	••••••	••••	••••	••••
Community Meetings & Events	••••••••	•	••••••	•		••••
Digital: Social & Email	••••••••	•	••			
Local Media	••••••••	••	•	•		
Printed Mailers	•••					

Key Board member comments and discussion topics included:

- The Chronicle uses Facebook often for local social and digital media.
- Local media stories regarding the Strategy appear in governmental and congressional offices, which highlights that these stories get more coverage than just to local residents.
- Information shared by local media is more credible because it is a third-party source.
- Communication is a “two-way-street.” For example, Board members learned a lot and received value from hearing tribal fisher concerns and perspectives at past Board meetings. Communication opportunities should include inviting different perspectives in the Basin to share directly with the Board.
- It is important to engage residents in the Twin Cities and areas upstream, to make sure they understand the CBS efforts.

“What?”

Pyramid Communications has been working on a comprehensive messaging guide over the last few months that will be available for Board members, staff, consultants, and partners. Pyramid wants to ensure Board input directly informs this messaging guide. Izzy Zucker asked Board members for their perspective on the key topics and messages that various audience groups would most want to know about the Strategy. Board member responses for each audience group included:

Basin Residents:

- “Residences are protected.”
- “We are taking a comprehensive approach.”

- “We are making great progress with over 130 projects and continue to make progress on fish and flood.”
- “A lot has been done toward fish and flood.”
- “This strategy is for you.”
- “We’ve got projects and plans to protect you and your children’s children.”

State and federal legislators/Governor's Office:

- “We are making good use of your money.”
- “We are making you look good.”
- “If you want to keep looking good, keep the funding coming.”
- For the upcoming legislative session – “We’re that basin between Portland and Seattle that doesn’t get much attention, come visit.”
- “Basin stakeholders working together to develop solutions.”

Local Government Partners:

- “You make us look good with all the projects you’ve implemented.”
- “We try to be concerted and support local government project priorities.”
- “We’re making progress and your part of the team – we need your support.”

Strategy Partners:

- “We can't do this without you.”
- “We have shovel ready projects that will make your portfolio beautiful.”
- “You will get more done with us.”

Local Media:

- “Thanks for getting the word out.”
- “We are worth the top of the fold.”
- To the media – “ask us questions we will answer.”

Tribal Governments and Communities:

- “You have a seat at the table, you’re part of the solution.”
- “You’re included in a valid part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.”
- “We can’t make progress without your support.”

Key Board member comments and discussion topics included:

- Some Board members suggested communications should lead with the Board rather than with the CBS, i.e., people respond to people. There has been 100 years of failure from state and local

government on the problems facing the Basin, and the Board is trying to come up with a comprehensive plan to address “fish and flood” issues.

- Board members highlighted the need for more clarity and consistency in how communications refer to OCB, the Board, and the CBS.
 - Communications currently state that the Chehalis Basin Strategy is administered by the Office of Chehalis Basin, which is guided and overseen by the Board.
- Communications should highlight that in addition to the long-term strategy process in development, 140 completed projects and millions of dollars in investment are already benefiting fish, communities, and ecosystems.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will work with Board members on suggestions for clarity and consistency in how communications refer to OCB, the Board, and the CBS.

Below is a link to the meeting materials:

- [Pyramid Quarterly Communications Update](#)

Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

Matt Dillin and Erik Martin provided a project update regarding the Board approved work to advance analyses on the FRE. They reviewed the project timeline, design sequencing, engineering, and mitigation work, and noted scope updates to fish passage design and the vegetation management plan. Erik Martin noted that they are using the new NOAA NMFS guidelines that will dovetail with the Board’s work on climate change assumptions for the comparative analysis. In response to Board questions, they clarified:

- The Cowlitz Tribe joined the Fish Passage Technical Working Group, which is working to set guidelines as fish passage designs are updated by the NMFS guidelines. Regular updates will be provided to the Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation, who were invited to join the group, but as of now have not joined due to capacity constraints.
- The Cultural Resources Section 106 Consultation is ongoing. The Traditional Cultural Property Report is aimed to be finished in the next few months.
- Upstream and downstream realignments for the FRE were analyzed, and both were deemed feasible and constructible, but the upstream realignment was pursued because it was less visible, could maintain more vegetation, and was deemed best for minimizing impacts to Traditional Cultural Property.

Board members posed several comments and questions:

- An open channel construction is a dramatically different approach to one of the key assumptions made in the draft SEPA and NEPA EISs.
- Board members were interested in knowing if or when there will be a consensus on using climate change assumptions for design criteria. Matt Dillin noted that NMFS has new guidance, but it is not clear how that will be used specific to the FRE.

- Board members were interested in knowing whether climate change assumptions and impacts can differ depending on location in the Basin. Ken Ghalambor responded that more discussions will need to occur with Larry Karpach (WSE) and others on the level of spatially distributed climate change data.
- Nat Kale noted that the State is formalizing the role of UW CIG to provide technical expertise to agencies regarding considering climate change for planning and design.

Below is a link to the meeting materials:

- [Flood FCZD Update](#)

Grays Harbor County Grant to NOAA's Fish Passage Program

Brett DeMond and John Becker from Grays Harbor County discussed the County's grant proposal to the NOAA Fish Passage Program. The grant will cover construction funding to correct a 33% passable culvert on Damon Creek. The correction was designed and permitted under a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant. Designs are complete, cultural resources and ESA consultation is done, and permits have been issued. The project will open 5.82 miles of spawning habitat and the project has been designed to accommodate climate change. It ranks in the top 1% on the Lead Entities Prioritization List, is 10th on the list of barriers basin wide, and aligns with the goals of the CBS. The total project cost is \$3.2 million and they are seeking \$2.2 million from NOAA. They clarified for Board members that this grant proposal has not been presented to the ASRP Steering Committee because it has gone through review by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Fish Barrial Removal Board. It was also recommended for funding through Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI) but was too far down the legislature's list for grant approval.

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) reviewed the letter of support. Nat Kale (OCB) added that there are two paths for letters of support from OCB, one that only includes review by the Board Chair and OCB Director, and another that has all voting Board members approve. This letter follows the latter form of support. Several comments were made:

- Quinault Indian nation separately issued a letter of support for this project out of their Natural Resources Division.
- Grays Harbor County Commissioners have issued a separate letter of support.
- This grant proposal has been reviewed by the Federal Funding workgroup, without objections or concerns.

BOARD DECISION: Board members unanimously approved the letter of support.

FOLLOW UP: OCB will obtain a signature from Chair Raines on behalf of the full Board for the Letter of Support.

Below is a link to the meeting materials:

- [Draft Letter of Support](#)

Directors Report

Nat Kale, OCB Interim Director, provided the following updates:

- The LAND RFQ for the levees and conveyances was posted. If a contract can be put in place by December 1, 2023, by approximately January 2025 they would produce an analysis that would align with the timing of the Final SEPA EIS, which would help inform the comparative analysis, data gathering, and evaluation of different packages.
- The Federal Funding workgroup is moving forward with internal discussions with state agencies to figure out which agency could lead if there are larger potential grants that need a state lead. They are also in the early stages of looking at a NOAA grant that may be a good match for the work.
- Six culvert barrier projects in the Basin were funded by WSDOT. This is an example of partners who have secured project funding outside of the OCB.
- CFAR did not receive any bids from contractors on their second round of bidding for pilot projects. CFAR is working to understand underlying causes for this and are working on different contracting approaches.
- Two potential acquisitions off the Newaukum are moving forward to move people out of areas with dangerous flooding. Contracting and due diligence still has a way to go. Updates will be provided when signatures have been provided.
- WDFW is pulling together information regarding “other H-s and predation,” including information on pinnipeds and bass. The ASRP Board-subgroup will continue exploring these issues at their next meeting.
- Two erosion management project applications came in the past two weeks from Lewis and Grays Harbor Conservation Districts and are in the evaluation process.
- The Acquisition Workgroup has had five meetings and the CFAR Workgroup begins this month.
- There is a webinar on Wednesday 9/21 from 6-7 pm regarding what the CBS is working on. It is being promoted on the newsletter, news releases, and social media.
- Jennifer Lewis was hired as a new member of the OCB staff as the Habitat Program Manager. Her first day is on September 18th and she is coming from NOAA.

Board Comments:

Tyson Johnston: Today has been a really good day. Going through the exercise with Sam and scratching the surface of what an integrative and comprehensive strategy for the Chehalis Basin could look like is very powerful. It is taking shape and there are all these elements that have been siloed that are now moving towards this comprehensive nature. This has been many years in the making. There have been people, giants even that we are standing on the backs of that have done work throughout this basin for many years, some of them are still at the table. But these issues are nothing new. But I think that when we look at history, even recent history, before there was a Board, before there was an Office of Chehalis Basin, this region was fairly overlooked – not a lot of attention, not a lot of resources coming here. By forming this coalition, and this infrastructure to support it, we’ve changed that. But I’d be remiss without saying that are lot of lessons learned that we can look back on from those times and the work

and foresight to have these essential voices at table, because all of us come from different constituencies but we all are still connected. We share the same land, the same waters, and learn from each other. And during those times, before there was an office, Quinault Indian Nation was not invited to the table initially. It was not until 2017 and the Governor's workgroup transitioned to this work that there was an inherent acknowledgement by our partners at the State that you must have the co-managers at the table, that you must have the Quinault Nation at the table, whose treaty rights extend throughout the entire Chehalis Basin. And so we engage in this process in good faith. We dedicate much energy from our President to our leadership to our staff and try our best like all of you are doing to come up with the best path forward for this Basin that all of us are going to be here and live our lives in. And so I just want to really emphasize the importance and the strength of that when we talk openly with each other and also be reminded why we are all here. For the Quinault Nation in particular it is because we are a co-manager and because of those treaty rights, but also we relate in what we are trying to do with our communities that are also suffering from these major impacts. And so I just wanted to kind of at least acknowledge that in this space today, because of the correspondence that came from the two Tribes and just be open about that. And I hope that we can work through those issues with our relatives at the Chehalis Tribe, hopefully Tribe to Tribe, but not in public settings. I just wanted to say publicly that our door is always open, and I hope that offer is considered and taken.

Glen Connelly: I would just like to acknowledge and say that obviously the Tribal leadership of the Chehalis Tribe took some issues and sent a letter, and I think they sent it to the OCB publicly, because that's where the other letter went. But I do think that any further issues, any further discussions that may take place, will take place outside the OCB and the Board between the two sovereign nations. And that way we can focus and stay on task for our work.

Public Comment

Gina James: "I just want to relay on Tyson's comments that the Nation is pretty discouraged by the letter and that we are open to work these issues out with the Chehalis Tribe face-to-face. And we want to reiterate our support, and also that we are a Treaty Tribe. Anybody can Google that, and show the difference between the Treaty Tribe and the Executive Order Tribe. And we are going to stand by our rights, which are adjudicated by rights in the basin. And we are here since time immemorial, and we want to work with our local partners because we all have a stake in this. We have Tribal members that live along the basin, also in the flood zone that fish in the basin of course, you know with our fishery rights. And we have our UAA, our usual and accustomed areas where we gather and where we fish since time immemorial. When I introduced myself this morning I introduced myself under my Indian name, because my grandmother was Chehalis and she was enrolled Quinault. And so I have a unique position as being Chehalis blood along with enrolled in the Nation because we are an affiliated Tribe. When the Treaty was made they tried to force all of these Tribes onto one reservation. And unfortunately history wasn't behind some of these other Tribes, where they weren't able to sign the Treaty, and they didn't move. So they were given reservations where their traditional areas are. But we have the UAA that we signed in the Treaty that gave us those rights. So I just like to reinforce that the Nation is here, and Tyson, being the former Vice President of the Quinault Indian Nation, he has a lot of political history within the Nation. Even though he's younger, he's a pretty smart cookie, and we really missed him on the Council. As one member of the Business Committee, I just want to thank you, and I know you're probably not comfortable being in between this setting. And hopefully we can meet with the Chehalis

Tribe to work out these issues we have together, and not be at loggerheads because that is not going to do any good for the basin, and the people and the fish. Thank you.”

Next Steps and Closing

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting will be October 5, 2023, as a hybrid (in-person/online) meeting at the Satsop Business Park in Elma Washington. More details will come regarding adding an additional day in October for a Board retreat.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.

- Arthur Grunbaum, FOGH*
- Brett DeMond*
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam*
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest*
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Colleen Parrott, Chehalis Tribe*
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority*
- Curt Hart, Ecology*
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Drew Mealor, WDFW*
- Erik Martin, Chehalis Flood Control Zone District
- Erika Britney, ICF*
- Frank Corbin, Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee*
- Gina James, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Harry Chesnin, Chehalis Tribe*
- Heather May*
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Izzy Zucker, Pyramid*
- J. Becker, GHC*
- J. Otto, HDR*
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center*
- Kat Dickey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian nation*
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- K. Tennyson*
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science & Engineering*
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Matt Prociv, HDR*
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin

- Nick Bird, City of Aberdeen*
- Nic Scott*
- Nicole Czarnomski, WDFW*
- Owen Sexton, The Chronicle
- Sasha Medlen, RCO*
- Sam Imperati, ICM
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority*
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic*
- Stevie Colson, OCB
- Tara Livingood-Schott, Chehalis Tribe*
- Tammy Domike, Citizens for a Clean Harbor*
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW*