

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** October 5, 2023  
**Time:** 9:00 AM to 3:15 PM  
**Location:** Hybrid meeting – Satsop Business Park, 150 Technology Ln, Elma, WA 98541

## Meeting Summary Action Table

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of current Agenda and September 7 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current Agenda approved; September 7 summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Chehalis Basin Strategy Development	Discussion	Board will continue discussion of this topic at the October 6 <sup>th</sup> Special Session.
3. 2023-25 Budget Status Update	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. 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 ( <i>until 10:30</i> )
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	Absent
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	Present
Mark Gaines	Department of Transportation	Present
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Absent
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. Nat Kale (OCB) welcomed Jennifer (Jennie) Lewis, the new Aquatic Species Manager for OCB.

## **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 [October 5, 2023](#) meeting agenda.

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

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 7 meeting summary](#).

**BOARD DECISION:** September 7 Board meeting summary approved by consensus.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [October 5, 2023 Meeting Agenda](#)
- [September 7 meeting summary](#)

## **Chehalis Basin Strategy Development**

### ***Recap of the September Board Meeting and Review of Draft Definitions of a Baseline/No Strategy Scenario and Work Elements/Options***

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) recapped the iterative 10-step process to develop the Long-Term Strategy, the high-level process timeline, and Board feedback on the September package development “dry-run” exercise. He reiterated there will be regular check-ins with Board members at each step of the process and that the steps are preliminary, provisional, iterative, proven, and the Board's to own.

Mr. Ghalambor noted that the preliminary packages developed in today's meeting will ultimately be reevaluated when more detailed information on work elements and options are available, e.g., when the levee, diversion, and conveyance refinements and Final SEPA EIS are complete. This will allow the Board to complete the package exercise again in the future with more detail.

Mr. Ghalambor reminded the Board of the Baseline/No Strategy package, work element, and "common element" definitions and options presented at the September Board meeting. Only two updates were made to the work element definitions since September and include:

- Levees/diversion/conveyance options: a change from "High - Medium - Low - None" into "Levees, diversion, and conveyance - Levees only - Diversion and conveyance only - Skookumchuck levees only - None."
- FRE options: a change from "Yes - Moderately modified - Substantially modified - None" to "Yes - Modified - None."

Mr. Ghalambor reiterated that staff and consultants will be refining the work element and option definitions over the next several months and Board members should notify staff if they have ideas for new options.

### ***Conduct Preliminary Package Development Small-Group Exercises***

The purpose of the small-group package development exercise was to develop a range of diverse packages using a similar format to that used in the September meeting. The Board considered key interactions between different work elements and any unique elements relative to each package. The Board completed their work in two subgroups, and halfway through some members from each subgroup switched. The newly formed subgroups reviewed the initial packages, heard new group member feedback, and decided whether to develop any additional packages.

Figure 1: Framework for September Board Meeting Preliminary Package Development Exercise

	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 and Notes
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Modified</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levees, diversion, &amp; conveyance</li> <li>• Levees only</li> <li>• Diversion and conveyance only</li> <li>• Skookum-chuck levee only</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Medium</li> <li>• Low</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Medium</li> <li>• Low</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam removal/ off channel storage</li> <li>• Dam removal only</li> <li>• Combo fish/flood</li> <li>• Fish passage only</li> <li>• Flood reduction only</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Medium-High</li> <li>• Medium</li> <li>• Low</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Medium</li> <li>• Low</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Baseline/No Strategy Package: No OCB-led basin-wide effort across any work element								
Package A								
Package B								

Figure 2: Worksheets from October Preliminary Package Development Subgroup Exercises

The worksheets show the development of preliminary packages for flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration. The worksheets use the same framework as Figure 1 but include handwritten notes, sticky notes, and colored markers to indicate specific options and priorities for various packages (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I).

**Worksheet 1 (Left):**

- Package A:** Yes, None, Low, Med, Combo F/F, High, Med, Moderate future, Floodplain and storage, Floodplain and storage.
- Package B:** Yes, None, High, High, Combo F/F, High, Med.
- Package C:** Yes, Skook Levees, Med, Med, Remove, High, Med.
- Package D:** None, All (LDC), Med, Med, Remove (Both), High, Med.
- Package E:** None, All (LDC), High, High, Remove (Both), Low, Low.
- Package F:** None, Levees only (in bank), High, High, Fish Passage, High, Med.
- Package G:** None, None, High, High, Remove, High, High.
- Package H:** None, None, High, High, None, Low, Low.
- Package I:** None, None, High, High, None, Low, Low.

**Worksheet 2 (Right):**

- Package A:** YES, NO, MED, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, on viability GMA compliance transportation (1-5/2010).
- Package B:** NO, NO, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Reliance on viability transportation (1-5/2010).
- Package C:** NO, LDC, MED, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, same as hydrology of watershed but yet stable!!!
- Package D:** MED, Skookum Levee, Low, MED, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, cultural resource.
- Package E:** MED, LDC, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Reliance on viability transportation (1-5/2010).
- Package F:** NO, Levees only, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Local projects - master plan!!
- Package G:** NO, Levees only, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Reliance on viability transportation (1-5/2010).
- Package H:** NO, Levees only, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Reliance on viability transportation (1-5/2010).
- Package I:** NO, Levees only, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, HIGH, Reliance on viability transportation (1-5/2010).

## ***Full Board Debrief of Package Development Exercise***

Board members debriefed the small-group exercises. Staff posed several questions to Board members, including general thoughts about the exercise, specific comments on packages, or other general questions about the process. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- The exercise has evolved from “for fun” during the last meeting to a more realistic example of how this tool can be used with the most current information available.
- There are still a lot of unknowns regarding the work elements and options, for example regarding the Skookumchuck Dam and the levee, diversion, and conveyance options.
- This process has a lot of utility, allowing the Board to think of options they hadn’t previously considered. This is a roadmap and a suite of options that allows for moving forward to a long-term strategy.
- The two groups unsurprisingly had very similar outcomes, and both came up with names to make packages easier to remember. The Board should continue naming packages.
- Both groups aimed to provide a spectrum of packages, especially with regard to flood damage reduction, with a range that included the FRE and/or levees, diversion, and conveyance, to less infrastructure-focused options.
- While Board members acknowledged the need to better understand the impact of forest practices, they noted the complexity of going through the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER) process to complete a study.
- Clarification was provided that impacts to the transportation system would be a factor that all packages are evaluated against.
- Board members acknowledged the need to continue winnowing down the number of packages and the need for preliminary tradeoff analysis to understand the interactions and effects of combining elements into different packages.

OCB will develop a summary table of the different packages developed today to the 10/6 special meeting.

**FOLLOW UP:** Board will continue discussion of this topic at the October 6<sup>th</sup> Special Session.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [October 5<sup>th</sup> Comparative Analysis Memo](#)

## **Quarterly Budget Update**

Ken Ghaleb provided an update on 2021-2023 budget obligations to-date and unobligated funding, as well as a preview of 2023-2025 budget spending to-date and anticipated contracting over the next quarter. There is approximately \$6.4M in unobligated 2021-2023 funds, but there is already a path to obligate the vast majority of the funds, e.g., to ASRP and CFAR projects. The

pace of contracting for 2023-25 funds has been moderate to-date, but over the next quarter a number of additional contracts are anticipated to be executed. Mr. Ghalambor asked the Board if they had any questions about the budget and if the level of detail seemed appropriate for future quarterly budget updates. Board members said the level of detail seemed right and would be helpful for communication purposes when the Board interacts with the legislature, but requested a more in-depth update at the middle of the biennium (one-year check-in).

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Quarterly Budget Update Presentation](#)

## Director's Report

Interim OCB Director Nat Kale provided the following updates:

- Several CFAR acquisitions are progressing, and include coordination with Forterra, RCO, and WSDOT. Other CFAR pilot project elevations continue to be delayed due to a lack of available contractors.
- For the Erosion Management Program, two imminently needed projects, one in Lewis County and one in Grays Harbor County, went through technical review and are moving forward. Other long-term, reach-scale projects will be identified for funding through a grant round process.
- Staff will bring more information back to the Board in future meetings regarding a federal funding strategy.
- OCB is still determining the best contracting approach for the \$18.5 million appropriated by the Legislature to Department of Ecology for the North Shore Levee project. There have been productive conversations with the Cities of Hoquiam and Aberdeen and RCO regarding the issue.

## Public Comment

David Ortman questioned why Chehalis Basin Board meetings sometimes overlap with the Office of Columbia River (OCR) Policy Advisory Group meetings. Ortman commented that OCR and OCB meetings should not overlap, and Department of Ecology should review meeting schedule times to provide the public ability to comment and listen in to both meetings.

Ronald Averill commented that some members of the Board may not be aware that there are number of existing levees in the upper and lower basin, and shared some historical perspective on levees in the Chehalis Basin.

## Next Steps and Closing

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. Board members were invited to attend the Haul Road ribbon cutting ceremony

following the meeting. The Board will reconvene for a hybrid meeting again tomorrow, October 6, for a special session at the same location.

## Attachment A

### Board Staff/Board Guests:

*Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.*

- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest\*
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Kris Koski, Port of Grays Harbor
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority\*
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC\*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- David E. Ortman\*
- Drew Mealor, WDFW\*
- Erika Britney, ICF\*
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jacqui Brown Miller\*
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jennie Lewis, OCB
- Jim Weber, CELP\*
- Kat Dickey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- K. Tennyson\*
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic\*
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science & Engineering\*
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation\*
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Matt Prociv, HDR\*
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Michael Urland, The Chronicle
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nick Bird, City of Aberdeen\*
- Nic Scott\*
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority\*
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic\*
- Stevie Colson, OCB
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW