

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: November 2, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM
Location: Hybrid meeting – Veterans Memorial Museum: 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis, WA 98532

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of current Agenda and October 5, 6, and 16 Meeting Summaries	Decision: Current Agenda approved; October 5, 6, and 16 summaries approved	No follow-up action.
2. Chehalis Basin Strategy Development	Discussion / Direction	<p>Staff will refine the draft overall process timeline and present to the Board at a future meeting.</p> <p>Staff will share a preliminary scope of work for the comparative analysis consultant with the Board.</p> <p>Staff will incorporate Board feedback and engage partners to refine common element definitions and options.</p> <p>Staff will take Board input and develop initial draft evaluation factors and metrics for the Board to consider, which will be further refined when OCB contracts with a comparative evaluation consultant.</p>
3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion / Direction	Staff will request Board approval in December regarding funding the Lower Satsop 0-2.0 Phase 2 project.
4. 2024 Board Meeting Dates and Locations	Direction	Staff will request Board approval on 2024 Board meeting dates and locations at the December meeting. Board members should follow up with Stevie Colson by November 30th if they want to propose any changes to 2024 dates or meeting locations.
5. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
6. 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	Absent
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	Present
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Present
Rich Doenges	Department of Ecology	Present

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Boarc Chair Vickie Raines was unable to attend the November Board meeting. Board member Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Agenda and Meeting Summary Review

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an overview of the meeting agenda, noting that the Willapa Hills and Black River Water Rights project funding introduction under the ASRP topic will be postponed to the December Board meeting. The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [November 2, 2023 meeting agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the October 5, 6, or 16 meeting summaries.

BOARD DECISION: October 5, 6, and 16 Board meeting summaries approved by consensus.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [October 5, 2023 meeting summary](#)
- [October 6, 2023 meeting summary](#)
- [October 16, 2023 meeting summary](#)

Chehalis Basin Strategy Development

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) recapped the October Board meeting, previewed a draft overall process timeline, and provided an overview of the scope of work for the comparative analysis consultant. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Regarding the October Board meeting, Board members acknowledged the high number of packages developed and the need to narrow down the total number. Staff clarified that there will be preliminary tradeoff analyses completed over the next year to understand how the different work elements interact with each other, and to bring options back to the Board to narrow down packages.
- Regarding the draft overall process timeline:
 - Staff clarified that they will be developing a more comprehensive, detailed roadmap over the coming months.
 - Staff clarified that timing of the Final NEPA EIS was not listed on the timeline due to the high level of uncertainty the US Army Corps of Engineers has expressed regarding timing.
 - Board members encouraged staff to work on shortening the timeline, such that an integrated long-term strategy is complete before Q4 2026. Board members also acknowledged the inherent tradeoffs in trying to condense their schedule with having the best available information to support their decision-making.
- Regarding the draft scope of work for the comparative analysis consultant, Board members were generally supportive of the draft scope and assumptions. Board members also expressed support for the use of a “Partner Group” to preview content and structure Board meeting discussions on the Strategy Development process. Their one suggestion was to consider adding someone from the conservation/environmental community.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will refine the draft overall process timeline and present to the Board at a future meeting.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will share a preliminary scope of work for the comparative analysis consultant with the Board.

Common Elements

Nat Kale (OCB) reviewed the Common Elements with Board members. During the October Board meeting package creation exercise, Board members largely set aside discussion of Common Elements, i.e., work elements that are likely to be part of any package for the long-term strategy. Nat reviewed the common elements, summarized below, including considerations and assumptions for each element.

- Erosion Management Program
- Flood Authority Projects
- Flood Warning System
- Resiliency Program
- Transportation System and Accessibility Improvements
- Agricultural Viability
- Additional Analyses for Strategy Development

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were generally supportive of all Common Elements being a part of any integrated long-term strategy package, while recognizing that more specificity and detail is still needed for each element to support Board decision-making.
- Flood Authority projects: Board members discussed their interest in the Flood Authority developing a strategic plan for identifying and prioritizing future projects that moves beyond the existing biennial project solicitation approach. OCB will engage with Flood Authority staff and present on this topic at a future Board meeting.
- Transportation System and Accessibility Improvements: Board members acknowledged the approach of evaluating transportation impacts during the comparative analysis. They also requested OCB work with WSDOT and a comparative analysis consultant on how to integrate I-5 and other state highway considerations into the process, and directly address what will it mean to evaluate transportation impacts.
- Agricultural Viability: Board members suggested issues of water rights, water supply, and low-flow augmentation should be considered in regard to agricultural viability.
- Additional Analyses for Strategy Development: Board members reiterated their interest in better understanding forest practices impacts in the basin.

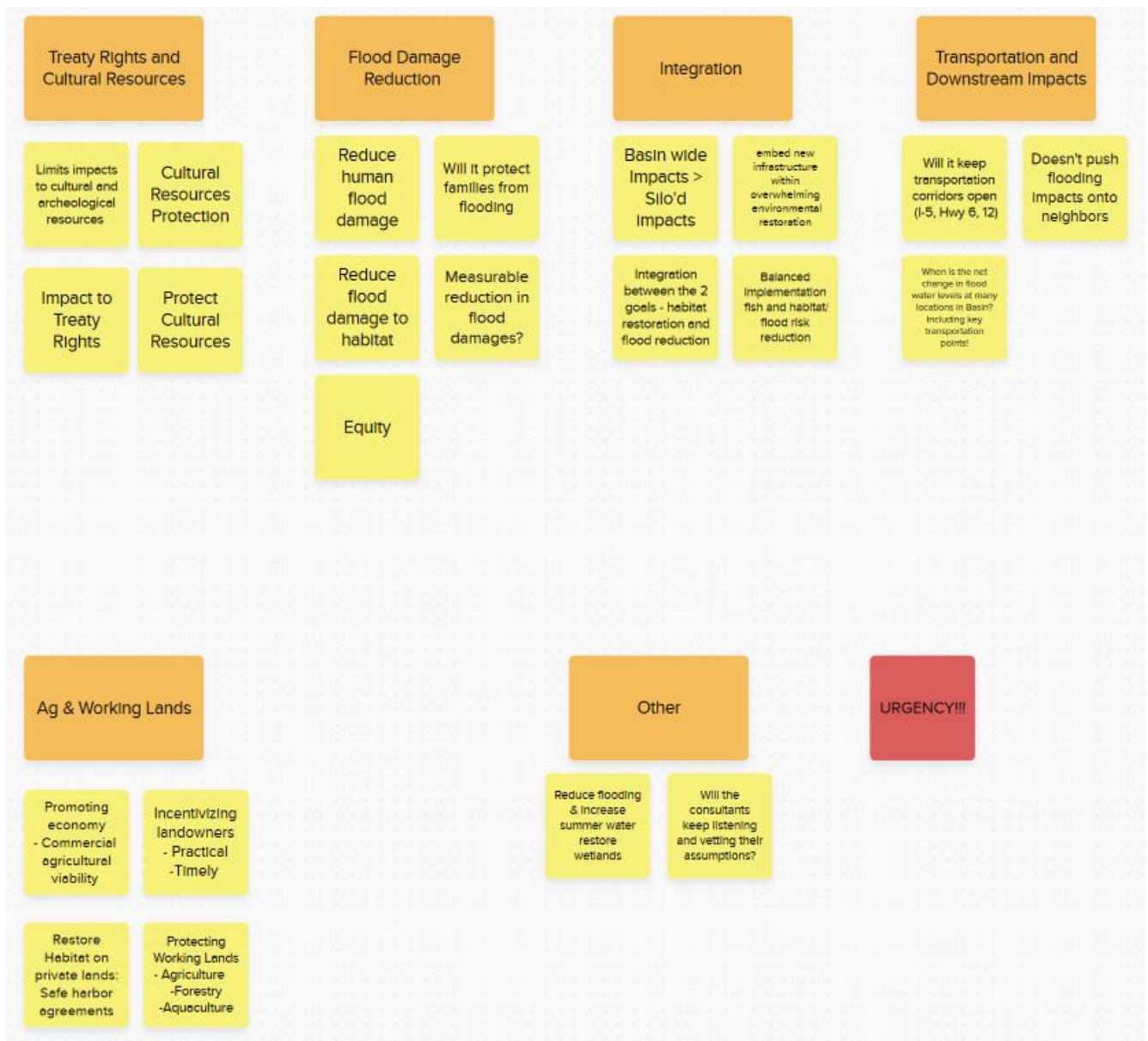
FOLLOW UP: Staff will incorporate Board feedback and engage partners to refine common element definitions and options.

Evaluation Categories Exercise

Board members completed an interactive exercise where they identified the kinds of information (topics, issues, or criteria) they think should be evaluated to help determine which strategy packages best meet their goals for a viable long-term strategy.

Board member responses were documented using online software and are summarized below:





FOLLOW UP: Staff will take Board input and develop initial draft evaluation factors and metrics for the Board to consider, which will also be refined when OCB contracts with a comparative evaluation consultant.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Strategy Development Process](#)
- [Draft Strategy Development Timeline](#)

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Lower Satsop RM 0-2 Phase 2 Restoration project

Drew Mealor (WDFW) and Anthony Waldrop (GHCD) presented on the Lower Satsop RM 0-2 Phase 2 Restoration project. The ASRP Steering Committee is requesting a \$3 million approval from the Board for project construction. Drew Mealor provided an overview of the project and its intended benefits and outcomes, budget, and timeline. Cindy Malay (OCB) noted the project has applied for and may receive ~\$6 million in National Coastal Resilience Fund funding, which OCB provided a letter of support for. GHCD will receive notice of the outcome of the grant request before the December Board meeting. ICF, the consultant team that the Board supported hiring to assist with pursuing federal funding, helped write the grant application for Grays Harbor Conservation District.

Board members noted their appreciation for the scale and diverse funding of the project.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will request Board approval in December regarding funding the Lower Satsop 0-2.0 Phase 2 project.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Satsop GHCD Slide Deck](#)
- [Lower Satsop 0-2 Phase 2 Factsheet](#)

Stillman Creek Early Action Reach

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) presented a video on the Stillman Creek Early Action Reach project. The project was completed in summer 2023 after four years of work. Board members expressed their appreciation for the video but noted that a more in-depth conversation is needed to ensure communication materials like these videos create clear and consistent branding for all Office of Chehalis Basin projects.

2024 Board Meeting Dates and Locations

Stevie Colson presented preliminary 2024 Board meeting dates and locations. Proposed dates will continue the first Thursday of every month, with exceptions for the months of January and July, where it will be the second Thursday. Meetings were proposed to continue to be held at a rotating list of the locations used in 2023. No Board members had comments. Ken Ghalambor noted there may also be a two-day retreat in 2024.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will request Board approval on 2024 Board meeting dates and locations at the December meeting. Board members should follow up with Stevie Colson by November 30th if they want to propose any changes to 2024 dates or meeting locations.

Below are links to the meeting materials:

- [2024 Meeting Date Memo](#)

Director's Report

Interim OCB Director Nat Kale provided the following updates:

- Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) Program:
 - OCB has contracted with the consulting firm Perteet to support CFAR technical assistance to local governments and landowners.
 - There are no new updates on finding contractors for pilot elevation projects. OCB is still strategizing how to more broadly advertise to potential contractors, including opening up the solicitation to general contractors.
 - Two property owners along the Newaukum River recently signed Purchase and Sale Agreements, and closing should occur in the next few weeks. OCB and WSDOT are coordinating to pull the newly acquired properties into a neighboring wetland mitigation bank.
- At the December Board meeting, staff will present annual updates to the Board Handbook.
- OCB staff have been discussing next steps on a federal funding strategy and how to incorporate federal funding considerations into the next biennial funding cycle. This topic will be discussed at a future Board meeting.
- Two urgent and imminent erosion management projects have been funded and are going through contracting. Proposals for long term, reach-scale erosion management projects were due November 1st and will be reviewed in the next few weeks for funding.
- Acting Director Kale acknowledged that this was his last meeting as Interim Director. The new OCB Director Jeff Zenk will be at the December Board meeting. Board members expressed their appreciation for Nat's contributions during his time as acting Director.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Steps and Closing

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The Board will next meet on December 7th at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Grand Mound Centralia.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.

- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam*

- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest*
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority*
- Colleen Granberg, DNR*
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Drew Mealor, WDFW
- Erik Martin, Perteet
- Erika Britney, ICF*
- Erin Masterson, Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez's Office*
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jenny Lewis, OCB
- Jim Weber, CELP
- Kat Dickey, OCB
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- K. Tennyson*
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic*
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science & Engineering*
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper*
- Mark Gaines, WSDOT*
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA*
- Nat Kale, OCB
- Nick Bird, City of Aberdeen*
- Renelle Smith, DNR*
- Stevie Colson, OCB
- Teri Wright, Wild Orca*
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW