

RESOLUTION No. 260

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PE ELL CONTINUING ITS SUPPORT FOR A BASIN-WIDE SOLUTION TO FLOODING AND AQUATIC SPECIES RESTORATION AT A CRITICAL POINT IN TIME.

WHEREAS, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority ("Flood Authority") is comprised of local government representatives from communities across the Basin including Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Montesano, Oakville, Grays Harbor County, Bucoda, Thurston County, Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Pe Ell and Lewis County and all are impacted negatively by periodic Chehalis River flooding in the Basin, the largest source of which originates from the mainstem Chehalis River above Pe Ell.

WHEREAS, the Town of Pe Ell continues to foresee a future through the Chehalis Basin process where our families and communities are protected from the worst of the periodic catastrophic floods that hit our Basin and where aggressive habitat restoration projects have turned a declining fishery into a vibrant fishery.

WHEREAS, the Chehalis Basin strategy includes:

1. the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore and West Segment of the North Shore levee;
2. continued development of local flood and fish projects;
3. a basin-wide aquatic species restoration plan; and
4. a potential flood storage facility that will retain 65,000 acre-feet of flood water during catastrophic storms that will lower peak flood levels from Pe Ell to Cosmopolis.

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020, through the State Environmental Policy Act process, the Flood Authority and its members stated their support for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project with the view that the institutional governance capacity existed in the Basin to identify and implement sufficient "technically feasible and economically practicable" mitigation as required (see "Final CRBFA Letter re DEIS 4-21-2020" in the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's Local Resolutions Library below).

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2020, through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Flood Authority and its members again stated their support for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project with the view that the District's project, if considered at a Basin-wide scale along with other local flood damage reduction and habitat restoration measures, would substantially benefit aquatic species and people, property and livelihoods (see "CRBFA Letter Re NEPA DEIS 11-13-2020" in the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's Local Resolutions Library below).

WHEREAS, in the NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process the US Army Corps of Engineers reviewed 61 different alternatives for reducing catastrophic flood damage and found that only those alternatives that included a proposed water retention facility met the objective of flood damage reduction to a level sufficient to proceed to full DEIS-level analysis, a view consistently held by the Flood Authority and its members as part of its long-standing support for balanced, Basin-wide solutions to address flooding and aquatic species restoration in the Basin.

WHEREAS, the WA State Department of Ecology's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, as well the US Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement, show the District's proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project delivering significant reductions in catastrophic levels of flooding for Basin communities and providing substantial reductions in impact and flood inundation for thousands of structures, including homes, schools, churches, small businesses, state highways and I-5, provided adverse impacts, however negligible, are acceptably mitigated.

WHEREAS, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Office of Chehalis Basin, Chehalis Basin Board, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District, and Chehalis Basin Strategy together provide a well-structured governance and funding framework that has delivered much positive "flood" and "fish" benefit to the Basin since the catastrophic floods of 2007 and 2009.

WHEREAS, these are challenging times with financial resources and capacities stretched thin as a result of the global pandemic. **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PE ELL:
That the Town of Pe Ell supports and offers its continued participation in the integrated processes and actions outlined above of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, Office of Chehalis Basin, Chehalis Basin Board, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District, and Chehalis Basin Strategy as the best way to continue to efficiently deliver the most beneficial combination of flood hazard reduction and aquatic species restoration all Basin citizens, stakeholders, and "flood" and "fish" interests deserve.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 2nd day of March 2021.


Lonnie Willey, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Terra Oster, Town Clerk



Local Resolutions Library

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/37643/local_resolutions.aspx