

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

1:00 P.M.

January 23, 2020 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis; Steven Lyle, Town of Bucoda; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Dee Anne Shaw, City of Aberdeen; Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Shawn O'Neill, City of Napavine (via phone)

Board Members Absent: Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville

Others Present: Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen (via phone); Chrissy Bailey, Ecology; Betsy Dillin, Lewis County; Jay Gordon; Susan Luond, City of Centralia; Emelie McKain, WDFW

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from December 19, 2019
- Financial Reports
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#January2020

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Fund called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending. Kris Koski and Shawn O'Neill participated by phone.

3. Approval of January 23, 2020 Meeting Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of December 19, 2019 Meeting Notes

There were no changes or corrections to the meetings notes and so approved by consensus.

5. Approval of 2020 Flood Authority Positions

This item was postponed until the arrival of Chair Raines.

6. Presentation: ASRP, Connections to Flood Authority

Emelie McKain, WDFW, presented a PPT explaining what ASRP (Aquatic Species Restoration Plan) is, its development process, proposed actions and steps on plan development and implementation.

Ms. McKain stated the development and implementation of the plan is a collaborate effort between the Quinault Indian Nation, Chehalis Tribe and WDFW. The Chehalis Basin Board approves policy and funding decisions, and the Steering Committee provides policy direction according to goals of the ASRP. The plan is aimed at restoring ecological processes and is a roadmap for helping aquatic species throughout the basin. She explained the five strategies, which include habitat and process protection, restoration, community planning, community involvement, and institutional capacity.

There was discussion about how to integrate the Flood Authority projects and the ASRP projects. There were questions about permitting and Ms. McKain stated that ASRP is trying to identify ways to expedite permits, or to find better processes to make it happen, as well as streamlining design elements to enable faster permitting. The presentation can be found here:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/default.aspx#January2020

7. Presentation: CFAR, Connections to Flood Authority

Chrissy Bailey and French Wetmore, Office of Chehalis Basin, presented a PowerPoint that outlined what the program is and what it includes.

The roles and responsibilities of CFAR (Community Flood Assistance and Resilience Program) involve:

- The Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB), which provides the program administration and management, project approval, and contracting with project contractors.
- Community to publicize the program and talk to property owners; review and comments on project applications; project permitting, inspections, approval; and monitor owner compliance.
- Property Owners who contribute to the project; agree to not convert the property to negate the protection provided; agree to keep flood insurance on the building.
- Flood Authority helps publicize the program, reviews and comments on applications.

Ms. Baily explained the eligible actions, project priorities and relationship to local projects. She stated the next steps include defining the mechanics for program administration; continue coordination with local governments to gauge community interest; draft project solicitation forms; fund projects in two or three communities that are ready to proceed.

The presentation can be found here:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/default.aspx#January2020

8. Presentation: Visualization of Proposed Dam Structure

Ms. Betsy Dillin, Lewis County Public Works, showed a video of how the water retention structure would work. It includes fish ladders and holding ponds for fish, as well as keeping flood waters behind the structure to protect land and properties. It is not a water holding facility and there would be no hydroelectric element.

The video can be found here:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/default.aspx#January2020

5. Approval of 2020 Flood Authority Positions

Scott stated the nominations were to keep the current roster: Vickie Raines, Chair and Edna Fund, Vice Chair. No new nominations came from the floor. Ron Averill moved to accept; Brian Shay second. The motion carried by consensus.

9. Flood Warning System Interlocal Reimbursement Agreements

Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development, stated the cost sharing agreement had not changed with the exception of the timeframe and a slightly higher cost. The percentages are: Grays Harbor County 22%; Lewis County 65%; and Thurston County 14%. Lee stated this is a 5-year agreement.

10. Update: Chehalis Basin Board

Jay Gordon, OCB, highlighted ASRP first steps, what the recovery plan looks like, what ASRP does not do (it is not a comprehensive recovery plan). Landowners volunteer their help to keep the rivers cooler by planting trees on their property.

11. Update: Flood Warning System

Scott stated that Dave Curtis provided an update on the Flood Warning System, which included O & M activities. He addressed a couple of issues. One is that some of the gages that are located on timberland will need to be moved as the trees get larger, as they severely affect rain gage performance. Two of the gages should be relocated by summer of 2020, and four gages should be moved in the next 2-4 years.

Scott will bring information to the next meeting regarding the projection of what the costs would be to move the stations.

Dave's report can be found here:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/default.aspx#January2020

12. Update: Local Projects

Scott reported that the China Creek project is working. So far, no flooding in downtown Centralia, and Ron stated that it should only get better when the vegetation grows more.

The Lower Satsop project is integrating the reassessment of the floodplain and using large woody debris.

Scott stated that as we move forward, we are learning what types of projects are bringing the project and habitat together. At the March meeting there will be an update with the solicitation process and recruitment process. He asked everyone to let their jurisdictions know.

Scott took a few minutes to thank Frank Chestnut for his contribution to the Flood Authority. Frank reflected on his term as mayor of Cosmopolis and his time on the Flood Authority. He encouraged members to assert themselves to protect their communities, and to continue with the good work of the Flood Authority.

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Financial Report

Lee stated that expenditures for December \$8,911.36. The budget amounts were less than in May as the OCB asked for a smaller window of time and money. Next month's budget will reflect the Board of County Commissioners' executed contract with RCO through the end of the biennium.

15. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chair Raines stated Grays Harbor County contributed \$500,000 for the Lower Satsop project, which is about 22% of the project. Other money to be used for the project will be left over funds from the Wishkah project (~\$643K). Local legislators are seeking \$900K for the project.

b. Member's Reports

Lewis County – Vice Chair Fund reported there was some minor flooding in December, including some lower level water coming into the Historic Courthouse. Since the courthouse is on the Historic Registry there was some concern about how to fix the problem, but Lewis County Facilities found some old blueprints and sealing was used when the courthouse was built so they were able to do some sealing.

Centralia – Ron stated Phase I for China Creek is working well and Phase II will provide additional water storage in Mill Creek.

Bucoda – Steven reported only minor flooding south of town.

Pe Ell – J. stated there is a bill before the legislature for \$700 million. He asked if the OCB could endorse that. If so, it would put the process of including local projects in a good position for future funding.

Aberdeen – Dee Anne stated that the North Shore Levee project has created more awareness for smaller projects. People are noticed there is less flooding and better projects are being picked up.

Cosmopolis – Darrin stated Mill Creek Dam has performed very well with over 15” of rain so far this season. There will be a case study as to how the project came about from when the levee was initially breached and how the Flood Authority has been involved in the process. He should have the case study soon and will share it with the Flood Authority.

Hoquiam – Brian reported that there is work being done on the North Shore levee and the west segment of the levee. Certain parts will go to construction this summer. Hoquiam might be about 30 days from submitting its application to FEMA on the west segment.

Thurston County – Tye stated there were some leaks in the courthouse buildings during the last rain event. There is a proposal on the April ballot to replace the entire complex.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no state team report.

Vice Chair Fund introduced Mayor Luond from Centralia.

16. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be March 19 in Lewis County, location to be determined.

May – Grays Harbor County

July – Thurston County

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.