

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**Veterans Memorial Museum
100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
July 18, 2019 - Meeting Notes**

Board Members Present: Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Trent Lougheed, City of Centralia; Steven Lyle, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Shawn O'Neill, City of Napavine; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Rick Sangder, City of Aberdeen; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam (via phone); Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner (via phone).

Board Members Absent: Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville.

Others Present: Andrew Kinney, Thurston County; David Curtis, WEST Consultants; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Lindsey Pollock; Rob Hill, City of Centralia.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes, May 16, 2019
- PowerPoint: Flood Warning System
- Financial Reports
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#July2019.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Fund called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the meeting notes and they were approved by consensus.

5. Welcome Steven Lyle, Town of Bucoda representative.

Steve stated he is a lifetime Washington resident with a career in the timber industry. He started his own company and was later hired by Bechtel Engineering. He also worked for the Lewis County PUD before retiring four years ago.

6. Update: Flood Warning System

Dave Curtis presented a PowerPoint and summarized the Flood Warning System since its inception about 10 years ago for the newcomers, and explained recent updates. Scott stated that while the Flood Authority has done some outreach for the Flood Warning System, there is a need to get as many people as possible to be signed up for the alert system. Andrew wanted to be sure that we were on the same

page with the National Weather Service (NWS). Dave stated he is paying close attention to that, and even using the same colors as NWS. Dave also stated that the Riverside rain gage has been reinstalled. It had to be relocated from a property easement.

Scott showed the spreadsheet of how many people are signed up (from 2014 to present) and a list of organizations and agencies that have signed up. Scott has reached out to schools that have still not signed up and he thought churches might good contacts since they usually have a good networking group. Flooding is not on the public's radar right now and the Flood Authority needs to do some work so that when flood season arrives there are as many connections as possible.

Other suggestions for outreach included realtors, food banks and radio stations.

Dave explained that a Webinar was run from California. A link to the site was sent to emails and there is a PowerPoint presentation, which is live and recorded. Shawn asked if it could be "packaged" to go to other program managers.

Nat stated there is funding for seven weather gages, which are up and running. There needs to be a connection between Thurston County's system and One Rain. There are four stream gages in different stages of hookup. They should all be up and running by November, and connected to One Rain.

7. Local Projects

Scott stated he has been working with project sponsors. RCO will not complete the amendments until they and OCB are in agreement with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which describes the relationship between OCB and RCO. Scott is working to get project agreements ready but they must wait for the MOA. When that is done, money will start coming in for China Creek, Montesano, Keys Rd, Flood Control Zone District and more. He is also working on new signs.

8. Local Project Funding Reallocation

The reallocation request is for funds for the Wishkah Road project to the Lower Satsop project. Scott stated the Wishkah Road project has a long history, ultimately ending with a sheet pile wall being constructed to protect homes in the immediate area. There was an opportunity to build the wall taller, with the intention of lowering insurance rates to those homes. The funds available are not sufficient to achieve FEMA certification. Scott stated that the county is interested in moving the Wishkah Road funding to the Satsop project, recognizing that the money spent in Satsop would achieve more results sooner, rather than waiting for the FEMA levee. The sooner Keys Road is protected, the sooner the WDFW revetment will come out. The port and county do not want to move the revetment until Keys Road is protected. The recommendation of the Projects Committee is to move the money with the impression that we will get more for the dollar than waiting for Wishkah.

Vickie stated she had met with the county engineer and said the cost benefit is not there for Wishkah, and the Legislature does not feel good about the use of the funds on that project.

Ron stated the Flood Authority has always used all of the allocated funds because when a project is under budget, we transfer the remaining money to another project. There is \$642K to use for Satsop. This would not kill the Wishkah Road project; it can be looked at again at another time. Keys Road is more important.

Frank stated the big concern on Wishkah Road is the wells. He would like to have funding eventually; however, it is better to transfer the funding to Keys Road.

Edna stated she wanted to make sure there would not be an issue with moving the money around. Scott stated it would not be an issue. Edna asked if there was consensus to move the Wishkah Road funding to the Keys Road project. There was consensus.

9. CFAR (Community Flood Assistance and Resilience Program)

Scott stated Chrissy Bailey (Ecology) is working on the CFAR program that will support individuals and communities and the actions they are interested in, such as venting, elevation certificates, land use codes and zoning (for governments) – anything locally based. The local projects is an overlap with this. Chrissy and French have met with governments in the lower basin. OCB thought the Flood Authority, as the local grass roots organization would be helpful as an emissary for the CFAR program. It is presently funded with \$3 million. Chrissy will help shape the needs and look for early actions they can work on in the next 6 to 8 months.

Ron would like to see Napavine added to the list. Rick suggested a fact sheet. People can go to private insurance if they do not flood.

10. Flood Authority Flood Warning System Asset Management Agreements

Scott stated these agreements include access agreements for gages and land access that were signed by various people. Lewis County owns these assets. A good first step is to bring access agreements current by updating the interlocal agreements. WEST is operating under different access agreements and there are different liabilities and indemnifications. Scott would like permission to update and bring these agreements current. There was consensus for Scott to so.

11. Looking Forward, Topics of Interest to Flood Authority Members

Ron stated that September is the prep time for the flood season. He stated Thurston County is working with first responders and we may want to look at where we are and do more with Emergency Management. Edna would like to see more outreach with schools.

Scott stated that at the last meeting Dan asked that a climatologist attend a meeting, and Scott is working on that. Andrew suggested someone to talk about climate impacts, possibly of U of W.

Ron stated it has been 10 years since the last major flood and in 2007 people thought there would not be another big flood. The further we get away from a big flood the more people need to be reminded. Newcomers must be aware; businesses need a plan if there is another major flood. How do we keep people advised? Andrew stated Thurston County's local planning council is shifting towards fire, but has a list of all hazards: seismic, wind, flooding, etc. Dave stated that the longer dry periods would create worse flooding when flooding occurs.

12. Public Comment

Lindsey Pollock asked if de-funding the sheet wall would open the Flood Authority to liability. Scott stated if the wall were not certified then the residents would have to pay for flood insurance.

13. Financial Report

Lee stated expenses for May were \$11,163.72; June (close out of the biennium) expenses were \$15,087.94. At the Flood Authority's direction, staff drew up a new agreement with WEST, with an

increase of \$4,795. These funds were allocated from the Lewis County salary and wages line item. There are \$12,637.61 in unencumbered funds.

14. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Edna stated the Flood Control Zone District faces the same struggles as the Flood Authority with funding and permitting. She reported that she was on a farm tour and was joined by five legislators, 3 from King County, and Brian Blake. They were able to see some farm pads.

b. Member Reports

Thurston County – Tye reported that Chehalis Basin Partnership is on track and the subcommittees are working.

Centralia – Ron stated that China Creek Phase I is finished and the city is working on contracts for Phase II.

Bucoda – Steve reported that the town is still looking for emergency access to the north during a flood event.

c. Chehalis Basin Board Report

Commissioner Fund – “Lot’s going on.”

d. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

e. State Team Report

There was no State Team report.

15. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on September 19, 2019 in Grays Harbor County, location to be determined.