



**10:00 a.m. via Zoom
July 15, 2021 - Meeting Notes**

Flood Authority Members present: Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam, Frank Gordon, City of Aberdeen, Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis, Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner, Dan Wood, City of Montesano, Ron Averill, City of Centralia, Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner, Lee Napier, Lewis County, J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell

Flood Authority Members absent: Steven Lyle, Town of Bucoda, Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis, Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville

Others Present: Scott Boettcher, Ken Ghalambor, Chronicle, Pete Krabbe, Jay Gordon, Carson Coates

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 10:00.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made as members logged in. There was a quorum.

Meeting Materials:

See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#July2021

3. Approval of July 15, 2021 Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda made by Ron, second by Brian. There was consensus to approve.

4. Approval of May 20, 2021 Meeting Notes

A motion to approve the meeting notes made by Ron, second by Brian. There was consensus to approve.

5. Local Projects

• **2019-2021 Projects Update/Discussion**

Scott reported there are three categories of projects: completed projects; projects with savings carried forward to 2021-23 biennium; unspent funds carried forward to 2021-23 biennium. The total carried forward was \$2.92M with most being for China Creek Phase II.

Another project is the Bucoda Emergency Egress Project. Use of BNSF ROW has not generated any response. In 1936, a road from Main Street continued out of town but Scott has not found any record of a road being there. If it has been vacated, that could possibly be used as an emergency route. Scott is seeking more information about it.

- **2021-2023 Projects Update/Discussion**

Scott stated that the Chehalis Basin Board (CBB) sets the budget and that \$70M has been appropriated. The Board met in May and June to allocate those funds. It was not successful so currently the Flood Authority does not have a 2021-2023 budget. While the final budget has not been set, preliminary indications are that the CBB will likely approve \$4,050,000 for local projects. Do we wait to see if the \$4 million changes? The Project Committee met recently and came up with a tentative plan. If we only get \$4 million, we can continue with existing projects but cannot complete any new projects. We could get some shovel-ready. We could do the Chehalis Industrial Park, and continue the planning, studies, and designs that have begun. Those come to \$3.8 million, and with staffing costs, the total comes in at just over \$4 million.

The Projects Committee recommendation, first, is to try to get a recommendation before the Board immediately. Those recommendations would include 1 – approve the list of projects; 2 – direct staff to advance that list; 3 – direct Flood Authority representatives to continue to press for regular review of the budget. Should the level of funding be allocated that is greater than \$4 million, the Projects Committee and staff will advance an updated list and funding levels.

Ron stated that some flexibility was built in and there is a possibility to work on a pump project. The Quinault Nation has been questioning what is going on with water retention project and that is holding up decisions. It would be prudent to go forward with what we have.

J. Vander Stoep stated that the Project Committee's approach is exactly right: submit the \$4 million request. Realistically these numbers are probably accurate for the first year. We needed six votes and did not get them, but we may by September.

Chair Raines stated she spoke with board members on July 1 and thought we had reached an agreement but we had not. The Quinault Nation has concerns about allocations related to the flood side of the budget and we tried to address those but they were not very clear. They wanted to limit the spending amount and even lower it more, but that did not satisfy the Board to vote on it. Chair Raines does not foresee there being an August meeting; she understands that a meeting is being scheduled for next week and after that, perhaps a proposal will be sent back to us. There is not enough time to review it and meet on it in August. She is disappointed, because some local projects could potentially miss the fish window, but she is hopeful that we will have something to move forward on in September. It may be a partial budget as J said.

Ron made a motion to approve the recommendation, second by Brian. There was no opposition to approving the recommendation.

6. Flood Warning System

Scott stated six gages needed to be relocated and two have been relocated. Three of the four remaining gages will be relocated in late August or early September 2021. Funds have been carried forward. The Newaukum gage will be relocated in the spring or early summer of 2022. The webcam relocation agreement is in place and the Aberdeen gage is progressing.

7. Lewis County as fiscal agent for 2021-23

- Budget

Lewis County, Graham, Lee and Scott have been looking at the budget. \$49,378 can be carried forward and that will take Scott and Lewis County through September of 2021. We will continue to monitor the budget. Lee stated Scott's contract has been extended through September.

- DSAs

Lee stated this is new. There is a mandate to consider a data sharing agreement. The BOCC will consider a resolution with permission of the Flood Authority. Scott stated this is a disclosure and others may see some sensitive data. Ron made a motion that we provide to Lewis County the authority to move forward with State Auditor's Office. Second by Dan. There was consensus.

8. Chehalis Basin Board

Jay had no comments.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Financial Reports

Lee reported that expenditures for May were \$9,373.57 for salaries, wages and consulting services. Expenditures for June were \$8,838.66 for the same budget lines.

11. Reports

a. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

b. Member Reports

Centralia - Ron stated the city is finishing Phase II China Creek. It is going well and the Public Works director has been providing photos. Ron stated he appreciates the support from the Flood Authority.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12. Confirm next regular meeting

The next meeting will occur on September 16, 2021, 10 A.M. via Zoom. Chair Raines stated there would be discussion at that meeting regarding going back to in-person meetings.

Adjournment was at 10:51.