

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**204 Main St, Oakville  
10:00 A.M.  
August 16, 2018 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Cynthia Wilson, Thurston County

**Board Members Absent:** Jim Haslett, City of Napavine; Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis

**Others Present:** Jeremy Davis, Thurston County; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Steve Schmitz, KPFF; Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Betsy Dillin, Lewis County and Chehalis Flood Control Zone District

### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from July 19, 2018
- 2019-2021 local projects list
- Reallocation of unspent Flood Authority facilitation funds
- Financial Report
- See [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Aug2018](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Aug2018)

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **2. Introductions**

Self-introductions were made.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **4. Approval of July 2018 Meeting Notes**

Ron stated the meeting notes failed to specify the time and date of today's meeting. The meeting notes were approved by consensus with that correction.

### **5. Update/Discussion: Initial prioritization of 2019-2021 local projects**

Scott referred to the memo and stated the Flood Authority needed to agree on the initial list to forward to the Chehalis Basin board. 17 proposals were submitted and one was dismissed because it was a maintenance project (Chehalis airport levee). On the left side of the memo is the ranking. The totals come to \$2.3 million for studies (left column under "cost") and \$7.6 million for construction (right column under "cost"). Scott explained the scoring, stating that a premium consideration was given to a continuing project. The first four (Fry Creek, China Creek, Hoquiam levee, and Chehalis flood habitat enhancement) scored high just for that reason. They also provide multiple benefits.

The projects shaded in blue are continuations, also, and protect infrastructure protection benefits. The pink shade indicates those projects that focus on CRS points, flood warning, and dam safety, all of which elevate the CRS rating. The lighter blue are projects that continue existing projects but need more information. The gray needs more information. Yellow indicates home elevation projects. For these, past projects were expensive, and staff will be pursuing exploration of using state budget money as a match.

Discussion followed. Ron mentioned that the Boistfort Valley Water plan update involves possibly moving the wastewater treatment plant. It requires a public sponsor (Conservation District) and the cost will likely push it beyond a small project.

Scott stated the Flood Authority is looking at a total value for 2019-21 of approximately \$10 million. The previous biennium has averaged that amount, so we are in the realm of what we have been getting in the past. If it stays the same, we should be able to fund all of these projects. The list will be fine-tuned during the process and as we talk to the Chehalis Basin Board, Office of Chehalis Basin, FEMA, etc.

Vickie suggested moving the list forward as is with a couple of caveats. Numbers 11, 12 and 16 – the far-right needs are explained. Numbers 14 and 15 remain on the list but are contingent upon matching FEMA dollars.

Dan stated they should apply for FEMA funding, but the project should not be contingent upon that. They are worth funding if there is enough money from the state. He thought they must apply for the money to be considered but not automatically dropped from the list if the funding does not come through. Cindy agreed. Ron stated that moving a house will be setting a precedent. We must be careful using this money. If we make it too easy people might make demands that would not be possible to fulfill.

J. didn't think the Flood Authority board should not say it won't pay for something. We want these projects because we think FEMA will fund them. Scott stated there are \$600,000 for home elevations which might include a match. The Flood Authority looks at the list again on September 20.

There was consensus to leave all of the projects on the list.

#### **6. Update/Discussion – Reallocation of unspent Flood Authority facilitation funds**

Scott stated there were \$84,000 in unspent facilitation funds that needed to be reallocated. He provided a proposal for Flood Authority consideration that could be implemented by the upcoming flood season (i.e., by November/December 2018). Proposal was: \$8,625 to WEST for updating gage datums for Flood Authority gages (previously approved by Flood Authority); \$34,400 to WEST for adding two webcams and improving flood warning system usability; and \$31,000 to Lewis County to implement a Public Participation Program under FEMA CRS Program. Proposal had an unallocated balance of \$9,975.

Flood Authority members discussed additional ideas for reallocated remaining funds. A question was asked if some web cams could go in Grays Harbor County. Scott thought yes and stated there could be a review with WEST as to where the webcams could specifically go. Cindy stated Thurston County has idea for an engineered template for critter pads and asked if this could be considered for leftover funding. Ron suggested increasing Scott's compensation by \$5,000 because of his extra responsibilities.

Other discussion included visual or graphic of importance of locations of gages and real time water level information.

Flood Authority members agreed with adding a third webcam. Vickie asked if there was consensus for Scott to move forward to add a third webcam and reallocate remaining funds based on the Authority's discussion. There was consensus.

## **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Financial Report**

Lee reported the expenditures ending July 31 were \$18,419. She stated page 2 are resolutions from the last report.

## **9. Reports**

### **a. Chair's Report**

Vickie stated the Office of Chehalis Basin is moving ahead with the new director.

### **b. Member Reports**

*Pe Ell* – The end of September will begin the public comment on the NEPA and SEPA on the upper basin proposal. J. also commented on the value of the coalition between the jurisdictions in the last few years. He stated it has been very effective and it has been able to achieve what an individual jurisdiction might not have been able to achieve. He stated all the jurisdictions have a stake in [the upper basin proposal] and he hoped everyone would make an effort to attend the public meetings.

*Lewis County* – Commissioner Fund stated that as of August 1st Lewis County has a new county manager in Erik Martin. She also stated that a resolution was signed by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District requesting the lead agency (Department of Ecology) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement.

*Aberdeen* – Kris commented that he and Kim Ashmore from the City of Centralia had a very productive conversation about the similarity of their multi-benefit projects -- China Creek (Centralia) and Frye Creek (Aberdeen).

*Bucoda* – Alan stated October will bring fund raising events: contests, pancake breakfasts, haunted house. The haunted house will be open every weekend in October.

*Grays Harbor County* – Vickie stated Loggers Play Day will showcase a salmon bake and lots of activities.

### **c. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **d. State Team Report**

Anthony Waldrop stated he appreciated the conversation about home elevations and needs in the community and how to go forward. He hoped the larger group would find ways to move forward.

## **10. Confirm next regular meeting**

The next meeting will be on September 20 in Montesano from 9 to 12.

Vickie wanted to recognize Steve Schmitz for his assistance in meeting with the Corps of Engineers to tour various areas in the county. There were some good ideas for projects on the Satsop and the Chehalis.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.