

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

2:30 p.m.

Centralia-Chehalis Airport
January 17, 2019 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Trent Loughheed, City of Chehalis; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam (via telephone); Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen

Board Members Absent: Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Jim Haslett, City of Napavine; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis

Others Present: J. Vander Stoep, Chehalis Board; Betsy Dillin, Lewis County; Ryan Wilkins, Mason Conservation District; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Ken Ghaleb, Ruckelshaus Center

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from September 2018
- Letter of Support for Chehalis Basin Board Budget Request
- Flood Warning System O & M
- State Auditor's Audit
- Local Projects
- Flood Warning System Sign ups and Organizations
- OCB/RCO Local Projects Review/Initiation Process
- OCB Board Meetings
- Financial Reports
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/Default.aspx#January2019

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Fund called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all of those in attendance.

3. Welcome

New Flood Authority member Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner, was welcomed and asked to tell a little about himself. He stated he is a former attorney and he currently serves on the Thurston County Water Conservancy Board and others. He is looking forward to bringing his experience to the Flood Authority board.

4. Approval of agenda

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

5. Approval of meeting notes

There were no corrections or additions to the meeting notes and they were approved by consensus.

6. Election of Flood Authority Positions

Scott stated he received nominations for Vickie Raines for Chair and Edna Fund for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor. Motion made by Ron Averill to accept the nomination and seconded by Dan Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Letter of Support for Chehalis Basin Board Budget Request

Scott stated the Chehalis Basin Board recommended a 2019-21 legislative funding level of \$73.2 million. This letter is in support of that amount. Ron moved to approve; Dan seconded. The motion was approved by consensus.

J. explained key points. He stated the levee and habitat projects are the differences in the budget. There are additional habitat species projects that will be funded, as well as other projects proposed for next year. Habitat projects and flood prevention are the goals for the Flood Authority.

8. Updates

a. Flood Warning System O & M

The Executive Committee met to approve the Flood Warning System O & M costs, which were approved. There is a \$60,562 cost, which is a \$1,015 increase from last year. The allocation of O & M costs between the three counties is about the same.

b. Accountability Audit

Lee reported that the State Auditor's office examined how we are handling the funds. They looked through minutes and work products and there were no findings. Questions came up about the work by WEST and these need to be captured in the minutes and in the transaction reports.

Vickie stated that the board was not notified about the audit and she would like notification.

Scott stated that decisions they found on the website were helpful. Lee stated the cost of the audit was \$4,092 and that Lewis County has paid that bill and is requesting to use some unencumbered funds to be reimbursed. There is money left from Jim Kramer's account and if that is transferred to Lewis County's budget, that would leave about \$1500 that can be absorbed in Lewis County's budget. Other goods and services will be increased to consider that; money from salaries and wages will make up the difference.

Scott asked if the Board would approve moving funds in to Good and Services from the unspent funds from Jim Kramer. There was consensus. Ron suggested that the entire amount should come out of goods and services budget.

c. Local Projects

Scott spoke to the Lower Satsop project. In 2012 there was an appropriation for this project, which consisted of evaluating moving levees and dikes. The county stepped shortly thereafter due to potential risk to county infrastructure from dike removal. WDFW stepped in starting in 2014 for purposes of habitat restoration (with some flood control). In 2015 funding was acquired for WDFW to construct a relief channel (reopen old relic channel). The project stalled due to permitting and landowner issues. In 2017 the County reengaged to convene all parties and develop a master investment plan.

Scott gave a synopsis of Flood Authority projects for the benefit of the new-comers. Large projects and small projects are included. Small projects go through a process to identify the projects and they are typically protecting a wastewater treatment plant or ensuring a roadway is protected during a flood event, etc. They are small projects that can buy communities time until larger projects can come into play. There have been about 40 projects since 2012. Goal is to not adversely affect another community down river. Legislative appropriations for small projects have historically run \$5 to \$10 million.

Scott explained the log jacks being used to protect the Montesano wastewater treatment plant. He stated that it took just a few months to get the jacks permitted and in place; if it had required an Army Corps of Engineers permit it would have taken 1-2 years. He showed photos of the jacks and stated that when the bank erodes the jacks fall into the water and keep more of the bank from eroding.

Known projects that needing unspent funds: Chehalis wastewater treatment plant gage; relocate riverside gage; cover costs of audit; critter pads; Lower Satsop project design. He needs to look for money for these projects.

d. Flood Warning System

Scott showed a table with history of people signing up for notifications, as well as a list of organizations that have signed up for notification. Hopefully those organizations will send it out to others within their organization.

Kris encouraged public officials to call the weather service to see if there is something not on the radar.

9. Public comment

There was no public comment.

10. Financial report

Lee reported that for the period ending on 9.30.18, expenditures were \$23,012.65; for the period ending on 10.30.18 they were \$72,292.35; for the period ending on 11.30.18, expenditures were \$23,810.30; and for the period ending on 12.31.18 they were \$17,809.66.

Scott stated that WEST did purchase webcams and we are working on maintenance agreements. One webcam is at the wastewater treatment plant in Montesano; another on Mellen Street; we are still looking for a location for the third one.

Lee stated she needs copies of the maintenance agreements when they have been completed.

11. Reports

a. Chair's Report

There was no report.

b. Member Reports

Centralia – Ron stated Phase I on China Creek is almost complete.

Montesano – Dan spoke about a presentation by a state climatologist on climate change which, predicted we are going to have colder and wetter winters and hotter and drier summers. During the presentation, it was stated there is a need to look at impoundments and dams were used as an example. There is a prediction that central California will get hotter and drier, which will greatly affect its growing

abilities and that Washington will be taking on those attributes. Dan stated there is a greater understanding of the issues regarding a dam now than in the past.

He stated that coming through the audit with no findings is a very good thing and he praised Scott and staff.

Aberdeen – Kris stated there has been progress made in technical issues with FEMA and the city is on a path to resubmit recertification for the south side levee.

Regarding the North Shore levee, the city is transitioning from RCO to Commerce funds; there is some money from Grays Harbor County to purchase some properties and the city is trying to figure out partial funding through OCBs funding.

The Fry Creek project is proceeding with design. We have \$200,000 to relocate sewer mains with pump stations that cross over the creek. That money will be for materials and labor.

Bucoda – Alan stated there is a FEMA presentation on redrawing hazard area and removing structures. That meeting is tonight from 6:00 – 8:00 at Fairfield Inn and Suites in Grand Mound.

Hoquiam – Brian reported that the North Shore levee West segment grant agreement has been signed. The funding needs to be spent by end of June.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team report.

12. Confirm Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 21 from 9 – 12:00, location to be determined.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:18.