

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**Meeting 9:00 A.M.
Telephone Conference**

Draft January 21, 2016 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Jenifer Slemm, City of Napavine; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Vini Samuel, City of Montesano; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner.

Board Members Excused: Kathi Hoder, City of Aberdeen; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner.

Others Present: Frank Kersch; Dan Wood; Kaylee Osowski; Rob Hill; J Vander Stoep; Dennis Osborn; Mike Nordin; Lee Napier; **Chris ??? (with HRA???)**, Stu Trefry; Jessica Hausman; Sherri Nehl; Mike Nordin.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from December 17, 2015
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Jan2016

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Fund called the meeting to order at 9:03.

2. Introductions

Participants identified themselves as they called in.

3. Welcome New Members

Vice-Chair Fund welcomed new members: Vini Samuel, Board Member from Montesano and Dan Wood, alternate; and Jenifer Slemm, Board Member from Napavine.

4. Approval of Agenda

There was consensus to approve the agenda.

5. Approval of Meeting Notes

Mr. Averill spoke to item 11, page 3 and stated the discussion was that we were going to do a pilot project in Centralia. It was brought up that it should include the county because the UGA is in the county. He thought the vote was to look at including the county and not just the city. Mr. Kramer stated that was how he recalled it. French's contract amendment will include the UGA for Centralia and to later include Chehalis and rest of county but wanted test the approach the Centralia pilot first.

Ms. Napier noted on page 4, 4th paragraph, the contract between Lewis County and RCO should be amended for the damaged West Fork Satsop River gage and "for WEST and" should be deleted.

Vice-Chair Fund asked for consensus with corrections; there was consensus.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Kramer stated that Dan Thompson and Julie Balmelli-Powe nominated Vickie Raines for Chair and Edna Fund for Vice-Chair. Alan Vanell nominated Edna Fund for Chair and Frank Chestnut for Vice-Chair.

The voting for Vickie Raines/Edna Fund was: Ron Averill, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Jen Slempe, Lonnie Willey, Vini Samuel, and Edna Fund in favor.

The voting for Edna Fund/Frank Chestnut was: Alan Vanell.

Mr. Kramer asked if Mr. Vanell would support Vickie Raines/Edna Fund; Mr. Vanell agreed. There was consensus for Vickie Raines/Edna Fund as chair and vice-chair.

Mr. Averill stated the committee appointments should be reviewed. Mr. Kramer stated that since assignments were not discussed staff would follow up with new members and get back to the Flood Authority.

7. Early Action Habitat Project Solicitation

Mr. Kramer stated there was funding provided by the legislature for habitat restoration projects. WDFW and Chehalis Basin Lead Entity put out a solicitation for project ideas with the deadline for proposals being January 8. Mr. Kramer has not seen the list but he understands there were 30+ proposals that total about \$11 million; about \$6 million is available. Projects will be prioritized and initiated as soon as possible, hopefully some of them this summer. Once that list is available it will be sent out to the Flood Authority.

Mr. Averill asked who will be overseer of these projects. Mr. Kramer stated the Projects Committee will be briefed but it will be WDFW, the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity and the Recreation and Conservation Office who oversee the projects.

8. Discussion of Local Projects

Mr. Boettcher stated a tracking table was posted Wednesday night on the EZview site. Seven projects are fully into the RCO system now and invoices are being submitted. Mr. Boettcher ordered signs for six projects and they should be in the Basin within the month. Three projects have revised scopes: Aberdeen, Wishkah, and Boistfort for other expansions and those revised scopes will be brought to the February meeting. The Projects Committee will meet in the meantime to review the scopes.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated Mr. Boettcher had information regarding the dike to protect the wastewater treatment plant and the legislators taking the lead to get the \$50 million have been focused on making sure they are able to track where local funding has gone. Mr. Boettcher has a system that is very transparent; what the projects are, where they are, funding, and more, and he has been a tremendous asset to this organization and to the communities.

Mr. Kramer stated that Mr. Vander Stoep mentioned that the Flood Authority never officially thanked the legislators for the \$50 million that they approved. He asked if Mr. Vander Stoep could recommend a letter from the Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Vander Stoep stated that having them send a letter on behalf of all of the Flood Authority jurisdictions that we are grateful and the differences that the money makes is a good idea and well deserved. There were no objections.

9. Financial Report

Ms. Napier explained the fiscal reports to the new members: the budget line and breakdown of salaries and consulting services. Expended from 12/1/2015 through 12/31/2015 was \$18,467.93. The second page shows salaries, benefits, and expenses for the consultants SBGH, Mr. Kramer and French and Associates.

Lee updated the members on the Exit Interview for the State Auditor that will be held on January 28.

10. Public Comment

Frank Kersch asked the status of the Wishkah Rd project. Mr. Boettcher stated that the county developed a draft scope of work to look at a broader area to advance flood hazard reduction. That revised scope will be what goes back to the Flood Authority in February; there may be other solutions. Mr. Kersch asked if that means the work from MP 2.2 to 2.7 might change, or will that be done and then carry on other areas. Mr. Boettcher stated that the 2.2 to 2.7 will be included; there will also be a look upriver that might provide other benefits to the community. Each area has different solutions. Mr. Kersch stated the first phase has been engineered and studied and hopefully it can be completed and then move on with the other solutions. Mr. Boettcher stated that is the request by the state legislators and others. The need already identified has not been removed from the equation. Mr. Kramer stated the county has agreed to move forward and the consulting firm is moving forward and looking at other areas.

11. Reports

a. Chair's Report

In Chair Raines' absence, Vice-Chair Fund stated Chair Raines has been talking to legislators about flood issues in the Basin. There was an article in the Chronicle about Chair Raines and Mr. Vander Stoep and she will make sure a copy is distributed. She asked Mr. Vander Stoep for comments.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated that the last couple of years has increased the awareness of Olympia Legislators to the big problem in the Basin. They are aware that even with the progress that has been made the big risk to communities and I-5 still exist and it's going to be expensive to address. This group and the Governor's Work Group have raised the profile of this problem in Olympia.

b. Member Reports

Bucoda – Mr. Vanell spoke to the master contact sheet and stated Cindy Wilson still on the list as a representative of Thurston County but someone else was at the meeting in December. Mr. Averill stated that Heather is a legislative assistant. Sherri Nehl stated Ms. Wilson and Heather are alternates and both names should be on the contact list. (In a subsequent email to Mr. Boettcher, Ms. Nehl stated Heather is no longer with Thurston County).

Montesano – Ms. Samuel stated at the first council meeting the design for the wastewater treatment plant passed and is moving forward. Funds are coming from the Flood Authority.

Pe Ell – Mr. Willey stated there is investigative drilling being done at the dam.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

Ms. Hausman stated Department of Ecology will be providing updates on EIS as they become available.

12. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 18 in Grays Harbor (Montesano). (Note: This has subsequently been changed to a 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. conference call.)

The business before the Flood Authority concluded and the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

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