



**10:00 a.m. via Zoom
November 18, 2021 - Meeting Notes**

Flood Authority Members present: Edna Fund, Lewis County; Steven Lyle, Bucoda; Brian Shay, Hoquiam; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County; J Vander Stoep, Pe Ell; Dan Wood, Montesano; Frank Gordon, Aberdeen

Flood Authority Members absent: Tye Menser, Thurston County; Darrin Rains, Cosmopolis; Ronald Averill, Centralia; Richard Armstrong, Oakville; Trent Lougheed, Chehalis; Don Webster, Napavine

Others Present: Scott Boettcher, Jay Gordon, Lee Napier, Megan Sathre, Nat Kale, David Curtis, Rohn Amegatcher, Chrissy Bailey

Meeting Materials: See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Nov2021

1. Call to Order

Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 10:19 am.

2. Introductions

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

3. Approval of November 18, 2021 Agenda

Vickie asked for any objections to approve the agenda. There were no objections. There was consensus to approve.

4. Approval of September 16, 2021 Meeting Notes

Vickie asked for any objections to approve the meeting notes. There were no objections. There was consensus to approve.

5. Approval of Executive Committee Action Regarding Cloquallam Creek Erosion Pilot

The Office of Chehalis Basin and the Chehalis Basin Board have a new erosion program that includes pilots. The WA Department of Fish & Wildlife and Grays Harbor Conservation District approached Scott about someone who bought property close to the bank of Cloquallam Creek and is now being washed away. The Grays Harbor Conservation District wanted to explore how an individual property owner could bring attention to erosion problems and use this as an opportunity to help others in similar situations. This project was taken to the Executive Committee to reallocate \$109,000 to contribute to the Cloquallam Creek Erosion Pilot Project. The Office of Chehalis Basin put in \$75,000 and the landowner put in \$15,000-\$20,000. The Projects Committee wanted to make sure this problem is understood and fixed. The project is scheduled to get started in the next week.

Vickie Raines asked if the group was in support of the Executive Committee’s action. There were no objections.

Vickie brought up a request that she received in the past week from the City of Elma to hold a seat on the Flood Authority. Vickie responded that she would bring it to the Flood Authority. She suggested looking at our bylaws and having an ad hoc meeting to discuss considering replacing Oakville with Elma as Oakville’s participation in the Flood Authority over the past several years has been limited. There was interest from the other members of the Flood Authority in looking into this topic further.

6. Approval of 2022 Flood Warning System Annual O&M Costs and Member Shares

Scott displayed a table showing the breakdown and comparison of annual O&M Costs from 2014 to 2023. The numbers show that there have been changes in the Consumer Price Index and inflation is running much higher right now. Due to the increase, staff recommends increasing funds to WEST Consultants by 6% for 2022 and returning to 2% increase in 2023. It is also recommended that 2022 annual costs continue in the same manner as 2021 with Grays Harbor County paying 22% of costs, Lewis County paying 64% of costs, and Thurston County paying 14% of costs.

Vickie Raines asked for a motion to approve the 2022 costs for WEST Consultants to provide operations and maintenance support as recommended by staff. J. Vander Stoep moved to adopt the proposal, seconded by Steven Lyle. There was a consensus, the motion passed.

7. Approval of Nominations Process for 2022 Flood Authority Positions

The approval of nominations process for 2022 Flood Authority Positions is recommended to be conducted in the same format as previous years. Vickie asked is there are any objections to the nominations process for 2022. There were no objections. There was consensus to approve.

8. Local Projects

2021-23 Local Projects

(See Table in EZ View for complete details)

Fully Executed Projects	Out for Signature Projects	Awaiting RCO Processing Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloquallam Creek Erosion Management Pilot Project Lower Satsop Emergency Riverbank Protection Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berwick Creek Flood Reduction and Restoration Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Construction Lewis County Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fry Creek Restoration and Flood Reduction Design - - Fry Creek Phase IIIa Chehalis Industrial Park Phase I (Hydraulic Modeling) 10th Street Pump Station Queen Ave Pump Station

Existing Local Projects

Six projects were brought forward from the 2021 biennium. See Table below. The projects that are being extended are primarily due to lack of staffing capacity. The Lower Satsop Restoration & Protection program is being extended due to new FEMA requirements. See Table in EZ view for complete details.

Will Complete on Time	End Date Extended
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Southside Levee Recertification • China Creek Floodwater Storage and Fish Habitat • Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan Phase 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Storage and Habitat Enhancement Master Plan • Lower Satsop Restoration & Protection (Phase II, ASRP Design) • Berwick Creek Flood Reduction and Restoration
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New, Unscheduled Local Projects

Projects are sometimes brought to the committee in between formal calls for projects. Scott wanted to share with the Flood Authority, so they are aware. The new, unscheduled projects include:

- Centralia - China Creek Floodwater Storage and Fish Habitat (request for funding to make whole)
- Montesano - Engineering Study/Alternative Analysis
- Hoquiam - RV Park
- Aberdeen/Hoquiam -Develop Regional Floodwater Management, Maintenance, Capitalization Approach
- Greater Chehalis Industrial Park -Develop Regional Floodwater Management, Maintenance, Capitalization Approach

Brian Shay: It would be good to have a process for how to cycle in new, additional projects.

Vickie Raines: It is important for projects to be reviewed by the Projects Committee. If there is something urgent it may take priority over another project.

Scott Boettcher: I do watch the budget very closely. For example, Hoquiam has two pump projects currently and the estimated cost came in less than projected so they have a surplus to help with something else. It is important to look for opportunities.

Vickie Raines: We have seen flexibility with the Flood Authority members. Sometimes we can swap money around to make the most of every dollar we have.

Edna Fund: If we wanted to make a change, do we have to go through RCO or can we do it internally?

Scott Boettcher: Ultimately everything goes through RCO. Some items may go back to the Chehalis Basin Board if it is a new project. If it is an add-on to an existing project then it may not need to go to the Board.

Edna Fund: I have heard the RCO is backlogged and overwhelmed. How does this affect us?

Scott Boettcher: We gave RCO our prioritized list last week and they were very thankful for that.

9. Flood Warning System

This agenda item was not discussed.

10. Joint-Funding Agreements Regarding Operation/Maintenance of USGS Gages.

This agenda item was not discussed.

11. Chehalis Basin Board

Jay Gordon missed the last board meeting but went through the notes and shared some of the key points. It looks like there is a full slate of folks nominated to Local Action Non-Dam Workgroup. This workflows from the letter that Gov. Inslee sent regarding alternatives to reduce flooding other than dams. There was a sense that this has not been dove into deep enough so starting this spring/summer they want to take a closer look. The timeline for the workgroup is to hire consultants, frame the questions that have been developed, look at alternatives that do not include dams, and report back results early next summer. EIS timeline will be done by the middle/end of next summer. Jay is also taking part in an Aquatics Species Plan meetings coming up.

J Vander Stoep: The Army Corps draft NEPA documents has many alternatives to dams to consider. We should not be hesitant to look at other alternatives.

J Vander Stoep and Vickie Raines were interviewed on TVW Broadcast last week about the Chehalis River. It was a very fair presentation of the facts and included a good array of perspectives.

12. Public Comment

Rohn Amegatcher, York College Foundation: As the non-dam alternatives are looked at, I want to encourage you to review it with fresh eyes based on the technology that is available. What is the best way for projects to begin to have a conversation with the Flood Authority before going into permitting with the county?

Scott Boettcher: I would be happy to talk to you about your project and connect with you.

J. Vander Stoep: If there's technology that will reduce flood damage/risk, Scott can get your contact information to the land committee.

13. Financial Reports

Lee reported that expenditures for September were \$8,979.14 for salaries, wages, and consulting services. Expenditures for October were \$8,342.86 for the same budget lines. We are working on increasing the budget for the remainder of the biennium.

14. Reports

A. Chair's Report

B. Member Reports

Lewis County – Enda Fund shared about a training she attended regarding flooding, first response, etc.

Hoquiam – Brian shared that on the North Shore Levee Project we submitted a federal grant application to FEMA. We are hoping to leverage some significant federal dollars. We also applied for a \$34 million dollar grant that we will be hearing about in the next month. An additional \$10 million grant was applied for. If we receive these grants, the project will be about \$50 million short of being fully funded.

C. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

15. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics and Location

The next meeting will occur on January 20, 2022, 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment was at 11:14.