



**10:00 a.m. via Zoom**  
**July 21, 2022 - Meeting Notes**

<b>Flood Authority Members Present</b>			
<b>Representative</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Duane Crouse	Napavine
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County	Dee Anne Shaw	Aberdeen
Darrin Raines	Cosmopolis	Ron Averill	Centralia
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	Brad Murphy	Thurston County

<b>Flood Authority Members Absent</b>			
Richard Armstrong	Oakville	Mike Olden	Montesano
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Steve Lyle	Bucoda
Lonnie Willey	Pe Ell		

<b>Staff Members Present</b>			
Scott Boettcher	Megan Sathre	Lee Napier	

<b>Others Present</b>			
Brandon Rakes	Patrick Skillings	Nat Kale	Colin Swanson
Anthony Guerrero	Jill Anderson	Celest Wilder	

**1. Call to Order**

Vickie Raines, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

**2. Introductions & Determination of Quorum**

Introductions were made as individuals joined the meeting. Eight Flood Authority members were present, there was a quorum.

**3. Approval of July 21, 2022 Agenda**

Vickie asked for a vote to approve of the agenda. There was consensus to approve. Meeting materials were posted to [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#July2022](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#July2022).

**4. Approval of May 19, 2022 Meeting Notes**

Vickie asked for a vote to approve the meeting notes from May 19, 2022. There was consensus to approve.

**5. Recent, Upcoming Outreach Visits**

10 outreach visits were completed between June 13<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be four more outreach visits between July 15<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dee Anne: Even though it was more work for Scott, it served us well having two visits. He visited the public works committee and then the full council the next night.

Vickie: I am glad the public works committee was able to be visited as well since they are boots on the ground people.

Jill: I think the presentation was really helpful. Shout out to Scott who has been incredibly helpful to the City of Chehalis and his involvement with our new mayor. Also thank you to Edna for being there when the Mayor was vested.

Brandon: Is there a flow chart of the different groups and how they interact? That would be helpful to add to the outreach materials. It is good to show people the work that is being done.

Edna: Yes, a visual would be helpful with all the different groups and acronyms.

## **6. Local Projects (Port of Chehalis, City of Chehalis, Projects Committee)**

### **A. Port of Chehalis Revised Scope of Work - Scott**

At our last meeting we discussed the Port of Chehalis' project to assess the ability to evacuate flood water out of Lewis County Flood Control District 1. A hydraulic model analysis was completed which showed any solutions would be expensive and not likely very successful (over the long-term). We discussed a more regional approach to floodwater management, and we decided we would come back with a clearer revised scope of work for next meeting.

Currently, there are \$353,636 available to develop a structured, sequenced implementation plan to address Chehalis' Industrial Park flooding. We would work with the Port of Chehalis, LCFD#1, WSDOT, Lewis County, City of Chehalis, and the Chehalis Tribe as well as the community. We want to create a shared vision and address current and future precipitation. This planning process has had a fair amount of support. It was a subject of an Office of Chehalis Basin Site Tour in April. We had briefings with LCFD#1 and Lewis County Public Works. All were in favor of the project. We took a similar approach (i.e., regional planning first) to the Lower Satsop and North Shore Levy in how to manage this project.

Scott asked if the Flood Authority is in favor of re-scoping or if there is additional information needed.

Brian made a motion to approve the revised scope of work. Darrin Raines seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **B. City of Chehalis Change in Direction – Patrick Skillings**

Patrick Skillings gave a presentation on behalf of the City of Chehalis.

The City of Chehalis's flood storage and habitat enhancement project started in 2016 with the vision to remove the derelict from the wastewater treatment plant site. They wanted to remove old infrastructure and remove a significant amount of fill on that site. The original site was 10 acres, which was not significant enough to move the needle on flood storage. In 2019, the project design increased to 130 acres between Louisiana Avenue, the golf course, and Highway 6 bridge. 2020's design was in the same location but had 4 design modifications. *Patrick displayed maps of the different designs.*

The City of Chehalis would like to propose a scope modification. Development of a large storage basin at this location is not the best benefit of the city and surrounding areas at this time. We want to take a step back from our original plan and develop a 30-year comprehensive plan for floodplain management. The City of Chehalis, Flood Authority, Watershed Science & Engineering, and Skillings would form the advisory group. The group would identify priority projects and start with some low hanging fruit. The plan will then include city-owned parcel restoration. Also, Chehalis is interested in looking for private parcel owner relocation that has willing sellers. Chehalis wants to modify the agreement with the Flood Authority to move toward the modified plan with the remaining funds we have.

The City's 2023-25 local projects application focuses on the wastewater treatment plant. The plant needs to be removed and cleaned up to improve water quality. The plans will be prepared for proceeding.

Nat: I think the proposed revision to the scope of work is very similar to the scope of work being done by MIG. If this group decides to go forward, it would be smart to work with MIG.

Scott: The projects that are being proposed may still move forward from the original plan but developing the comprehensive planning process will give those projects context. We do not want to put the cart before the horse. The comprehensive plan gives up a road map.

Ron Averill made a motion to approve the re-scoping of Chehalis' project. Brian Shay seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jill thanked everyone on behalf of the City of Chehalis.

#### C. Projects Committee Recommendation - Scott

The Chehalis Basin Board funded seven projects at the July meeting. Two of the projects, from the city of Centralia and Port of Chehalis, were funded with the intent to "make whole/pay back." These projects came to approximately \$732,000. CBB funded 4 "Complete Existing Project Stage/Phase" projects totaling \$650,000. CBB approved funding for a new gauge at China Creek for \$35,000.

The Basin Board has about \$4 million in unallocated resources. The projects committee met and looked at that amount of money and came up with the following recommendations.

The projects committee would like to propose \$1,780,000 towards pumps. This would comprise of pre-purchasing pumps for Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The projects committee has been talking about ensuring communities have capital facility maintenance capacities in place before making recommendations. The city of Aberdeen and Hoquiam have been talking about a stormwater management plan that would lay out how the communities are going to manage their surface water.

Under the category of contingency and adaptive management, the projects committee talked about the lower Satsop right bank conservation project and Haul Road emergency protection project.

Ron: One thing I am concerned about is about prioritizing. We are asking for a lot of money.

Vickie: We talked about this residual funding at the CBB meeting and about doing a couple of things. For the 2019-21 funds we considered holding on to those to ensure that if we had an issue come up during the flood season, we could take care of that. As far as the other

unallocated amount, I am not sure how much we are working on CFAR. I do think the ask is appropriate. I do not think the pump stations are going to go out of style or will not be needed.

Edna: One of the comments that was raised during our meeting was that if we go to the legislature asking for funds but have not spent the funds, we already have that will not look good.

Vickie: We need to have the money obligated by the end of the year but may not be spent by the end of the year.

Ron: We got reduced significantly in this cycle.

Vickie: At our last meeting we did discuss additional funding. The Fry Creek pump station is assisting with Hoquiam and Aberdeen and the CBB did allocate an addition \$2.5m to that project. There continues to be the need for these pumps. I would ask for the board to approve the request that Scott has outline for consideration.

Brandon: I think it is great to pre-purchase the pumps. Delays in supply chain right now make it a good idea to look in advance.

Ron Motioned to approve and submit recommendations from the project committee to OCB at the August 4, 2022 meeting. Darrin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### D. 2023-2025 Local Projects Recruitment

Proposals are due August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **7. Flood Warning System**

CBB approved new gage for China Creek. The Department of Ecology is evaluating re-establishing operation of Salzer Creek gage located at Salzer Creek. CBB has funded an update to the Flood Authority's 2017 Basin Gage Plan. This will be an update for the next 5 years. We are going to have WEST evaluation cost-sharing agreements as related to a flood perspective. Another topic we will be adding is the ASRP monitoring and adaptive management plan. Some of our gages may have ASRP monitoring value. We will engage with the communities between August and December of 2023. Dave Curtis is doing some succession planning so WEST consultants has hired Andreas Kammereck. He is a very seasoned flood engineer. He put up a first edition flood warning system 20 years ago on the Nooksack River. He has a real interest in this stuff. I will be taking him around the Basin to take a look at the lay of the land and at the gages. He will also be meeting with some of you. Dave is not leaving yet, just planning for the next steps.

Vickie: Dave has been great to work with. I look forward to working with Andreas.

### **8. Virtual or In-Person for Next Flood Authority**

Scott: The last time we met in person was in January 2020. Duane has never even met us in person. When we moved from monthly meetings to every-other month we talked about how we wanted to manage out meetings. We talked about the perspective of meeting in person and its benefits.

Vickie: It is up to the board to decide how to proceed. We do not typically have a lot of public join, but it may be nice to have a virtual option if they do want to proceed. The basin is large and requires a lot of traveling. If we move to in person, we should wait until 2023 to get schedules in place.

*Some members expressed the desire for hybrid options.*

Ron: I have enjoyed the virtual meetings because of ease of seeing the presentations and less travel. This group has used the technology well. I would agree that there should be a virtual option if we go back to in person.

Duane: I see an advantage to meeting in person, when possible, at least periodically. I know it is more time, but it also allows for people to get to know each other a bit better.

Vickie: We will stay remote, and the executive committee can discuss having an annual or semi-annual in-person meeting.

### **9. Chehalis Basin Board – Vickie & Edna**

Vickie: We met on July 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the items was additional funding for the Fry Creek pump. We are also going to be continuing to meet with hybrid options. We did some budget changes as far as releasing for Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. Flood Control Zone District talked about the progress they are making, and we gave them funds to keep the work going. Jim Kramer is retiring from supporting the Chehalis Basin Strategy and the Office of Chehalis Basin is working with the University of Oregon to select a new facilitator. Eight applications were received in that process, and it was narrowed down to five. The board will continue to narrow down and select a new person for the role.

Edna: We had quite a discussion about how we allocate funds – flood mitigation or aquatic restoration. The RCW says that OCB should aggressively pursue both. These are public meetings if you want to join us on Zoom. The next meeting is August 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am.

### **10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **11. Financial Reports**

Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported that expenditures for May were \$8,451.48 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting services (Scott). Expenditures for June were \$8,365.95 for the same budget lines.

Vickie: I know we have historically had the financials at the end. Would it be easier if we moved it up in the agenda?

Lee: Either way works. If something comes up and I need to leave the meeting early I will ask to amend the Agenda to move it up.

### **12. Reports**

#### **A. Chair's Report**

No report was given.

#### **B. Member's report**

Dee Anne, Hoquiam – We are very excited to start the construction on the Fry Creek pump. It will have an enormous impact on our community. Our pumping capacity will be increased to 130M gallons per minute. I was choked up by the level of commitment I observed at the groundbreaking.

Vickie: there was a great turn out for the event. It is a very exciting project, and we are grateful.

Ron Averill, City of Centralia – Last week we had the ribbon cutting on the China Creek project, it is finally complete. When we started, I did not realize how much storage space was available. There is also a path now that is a mile long. Even before it was fully completed, we had significantly less flooding than in the past. Thank you to the Board for funding.

### **C. Correspondence**

Scott: It was a very good month for local projects.

### **13. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics, and Location**

The next meeting will occur on September 15, 2022, 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

Adjournment was at 11:30.