



10:00 AM Virtual Meeting

March 21, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Flood Authority Members Present			
Representative	Jurisdiction	Representative	Jurisdiction
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Ron Averill	Centralia
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
Steven Lyle	Bucoda	Mike Olden	Montesano
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Rick Sangder	Aberdeen
J Vander Stoep	Pe Ell	Wayne Fournier	Thurston County
Darrin Raines (Honorary)	Cosmopolis		

Flood Authority Members Absent			
Duane Crouse	Napavine	Lonnie Wiley	Pe Ell
Richard Armstrong	Oakville		

Staff Members Present			
Scott Boettcher	Erika Britney	Lee Napier	Katie Johnson
Katrina Sukola	Sarah Hensley	Cheryl Vincent	

Others Present			
Peter Regan, West Consultants	Jeffrey Budnick, West consultants	Kat Dickey, OCB	Matt Dillin, CRBFZCD
Nat Kale, Office of Chehalis Basin	Cherie Devore	Celest Wilder, City Chehalis	Ty Johnson, HDR
Jay Gordon, CBB	Brandon Rakes, Chehalis Airport Director		

Meeting Materials:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#March%202024

1. Call to Order

Vickie Raines, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Staff and Member introductions were made. Vicki made the announcement that Darrin Raines is no longer representing Cosmopolis and is joining as a citizen.

2. Determination of Quorum

10 Flood Authority members were present, there was a quorum.

3. Approval of March 21, 2024, Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the March 21, 2024, meeting. The meeting agenda was approved.

4. Approval of January 18, 2023, Meeting Notes

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from January 18, 2023. The meeting notes were approved.

5. Update: Mail Chimp and Meeting Platform

Erika Britney gave an update on the Mail Chimp email notification as the first one was sent out for this meeting in preparation for using this platform moving forward.

Next meeting, we will be using Teams instead of Zoom. There is a phone number for calling in.

6. Process for refilling 2024-2028 CBB Positions

Katrina Sukola explained the process of refilling the FA positions for Vickie and Edna in June 2024. Through a presentation, Katrina gave examples and deadlines for applying for an open position. See

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Staff%20memo%20--%20CBB%20Appointments%20%20--%20%203-14-2024.pdf for the full presentation.

Erika will send an email notification for when the application is open.

7. Recognition of Service

Even though Darrin is leaving Cosmopolis as a representative, he will continue to be an honorary member of the Flood Authority. Flood Authority members expressed their hopes that Darrin will continue to attend meetings and provide comments as a citizen until he is formally replaced by Cosmopolis.

Various members of the Flood Authority shared their appreciation and thanks for Darrin Raines' service.

8. Local Investment Planning Update

Erika Britney gave an update on the Local Investment Planning. The plans that are being updated are:

- Joint Surface Water Management Comprehensive Plan: Flood Authority staff are working with Aberdeen, Hoquiam, RCO, and OCB to change sponsorship (to Hoquiam) and rescope available lower basin funds to complete this project in a timely manner.
- Chehalis Localized Flood Strategy and Long-Range Investment Plan: SLR consulting has been selected as the consultant.
- Chehalis RM 13-20 Analysis and Investment Plan: QAPP was completed in December 2023 and the Hydro-Geomorphic Assessment was completed in March 2024. Project is on track to be completed by 6/30/2025.
- Satsop River Investment Plan: Grays Harbor Conservation District is leading the effort. The project is on track for June 30, 2025.

Scott said we will have new and more efficient data with the new Skookumchuck gage being installed. A Skookumchuck Investment Plan would be a complement to new gages and could be a project proposed for the 2025-27 Local Project Recruitment Process.

9. Skookumchuck Gage, Lower Basin Gages and Status

Scott announced Skookumchuck reservoir gage equipment has been ordered and is arriving sooner than expected. Jeffery Budnick provided that installation will take place around the middle of April. We will all benefit from the new Skookumchuck data.

- At 11-16-2023 Flood Authority meeting, members authorized purchase, installation, calibration of new Skookumchuck gage.
- At that time, cost was estimated at \$37K to \$42K. Today, the final cost is \$50K. Executive committee approved 2-23-2024.
- ACTION --> Does full Flood Authority concur with cost increase to \$50K and authorize staff to prepare necessary funding amendments (i.e., RCO and Lewis County; Lewis County and WEST)? Full agreement was provided by the full Flood Authority to increase the cost to \$50K and to direct staff to prepare and execute necessary funding amendments.

With the new Skookumchuck gage, NWS will have more accurate and timely river forecasts. NWS also has the need for additional rain and water elevation gages in the lower basin and will need to continue working with us to receive this information which

will likely require additional funding. [Possibly two additional river basin forecasting gages are needed, and three additional rain gages.]

10. Status of Current Local Projects

Katrina gave an update on local projects. The Local Projects committee has provided a list of modifications and improvements pertaining to extending dates to June 30, 2025, rescope funding, transferring surplus funding, changing sponsors, and an update regarding the Cosmopolis project that has a 'TBD' project status regarding timeline.

See <https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1492/images/Updated%20Staff%20Memo%20--%20Local%20Project%20Modifications,%20Adjustments%203-20-2024.pdf> for a detailed table of the list of projects and updates. Brian Shay made a motion to approve the table of project updates and modifications.

There is a concern for keeping the residual funds to fund local projects in Flood Authority instead of sweeping the funds to the CBB. There is the additional concern of the Flood Authority staying its own entity.

Brian Shay made the motion to recommend making the necessary adjustments, with the authorized staff and the executive committee working with OCB and RCO to make it happen. There was a full agreement within the Flood Authority.

11. Next Solicitation for Local Projects (2025-2027)

Katrina Sukola gave a presentation on an update for the future recruitment process. The recruitment process is on an accelerated timeline to better sync with the OCB/Ecology budget development process. It is recommended to place a greater weight on project proposals in investment planning and master planning processes during the recruitment process. The Flood Authority agreed to move forward as proposed.

12. Priorities for Local Project Success Stories

The next three Local projects are the Cosmopolis Mill Creek Dam, Bucoda Wellhead Protection, and the Pe Ell Waste Water Treatment Plant.

13. Field Trip: Flood Authority Projects in Skookumchuck Area

A legislature field trip is planned for later this year to showcase both the flood and ASRP projects.

14. Funding Strategy, Skookumchuck, and Contract & Grant Management Transition

Nat Kale (Office of Chehalis Basin) gave an update on the Phase 3 analysis of the Skookumchuck Dam. The key points in this analysis are to:

- evaluate additional alternatives such as off-channel reservoir and direct piping to major water user
- investigate red flags to transport more fish above the reservoir such as the juvenile salmonoid survival through the reservoir/dam and predators in reservoir
- turbidity monitoring in the reservoir
- continued Stakeholder discussions
- summary report

Nat Kale also gave an update on the RCO transition. A group made of RCO, OCB, and WDFW that is part of the transition team that meets every two weeks. The below timeline is what is targeted for the transition.

- April/May 2024: transition plan
- June 2025: majority transition target date
- December 2025: Target complete transition

There is a discussion of transitioning the Flood Authority to a grant style group as grants are more flexible than contracts.

Visit https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#March%202024 for a list of Long Term Strategy Work Elements.

15. Chehalis Basin Board (Jay Gordon)

Jay Gordon didn't have anything to add.

16. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to comment.

17. Financial Report(s)

Lee Napier from Lewis County Community Development reported expenditures for the months of January and February. All payment of claims via warrants issued by the Lewis County Auditor's Office are entered into Board of County Commissioners' meeting minutes in compliance with the Washington State Auditors, Office Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting system manual requirements.

- Expenditures for January were \$6,111.83 salaries and wages for Lewis County staff, including consulting services for SBGH. No contracts were executed during this period.
- Expenditures for February were \$12,740.36 for salaries and wages for Lewis County, including consulting services for SBGH. No other expenditures during this time.

18. Reports

a. Chair's Report - none

b. Members Reports -none

c. Correspondence - none

19. Confirm Next Regular Meeting, Topics, and Location

Next meeting is a virtual meeting May 16, 2024 via Teams

Adjournment was at 11:44am.