



10:00 AM Virtual Meeting

November 21, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Flood Authority Members Present			
Representative	Jurisdiction	Representative	Jurisdiction
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Ron Averill	Centralia
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	J. Vanderstoep	Pe Ell
Steven Lyle	Bucoda	Mike Olden	Montesano
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Rick Sangder	Aberdeen

Flood Authority Members Absent			
Duane Crouse	Napavine	Richard Armstrong	Oakville
Lonnie Wiley	Pe Ell	Wayne Fornier	Thurston County
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County	Frank Chestnut (Kim Skinner)	Cosmopolis

Staff Members Present			
Scott Boettcher	Kylie Peckham	Sarah Hensley	Katie Johnson
Katrina Sukola			

Others Present			
Eric Eisenberg	Jay Gordon	Kat Dickey, ECY	Jeff Budnik

Meeting Materials:

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

1. Call to Order

Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Staff and Member introductions were made.

2. Determination of Quorum

Eight members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of November 21, 2024, Agenda

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

4. Approval of September 19, 2024, Meeting Notes

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from September 19, 2024. The meeting notes were approved.

5. 2025-2027 Local Projects Recommendations

Katrina Sukola gave a reminder that nine projects were received with an original due date of May 10, 2024. The original maximum request for these projects was \$17 million. There were three projects received after that day. The first nine will be considered first, then moving onto the later submitted three.

Hoquiam will make a proposal for funding (re-allocation of unspent funds) at the CBB meeting on December 5, 2024.

The request costs for Aberdeen pumps are more of guidelines.

If the amount approved by the OCB is not the full amount, funds that have been set aside for the second year can be moved to cover the remaining costs for the first year.

The staffing costs for Lewis County as the fiscal agent have not changed since 2019-2021.

Scott Boettcher asked if the Flood Authority supports advancing the funding request for the 2025-2027 project budget to the CBB. Ron Averill moved to advance the subject matter to the CBB. The motion was approved by the remaining Flood Authority members.

The local project document containing exact cost amounts can be found on the [EZ View](#) website.

6. Status of Current Local Projects

Katrina Sukola gave an update on current local projects.

For the RCO to OCB Transition, the goal is for RCO and sponsors to wrap-up all funded projects by September 2025 and for RCO to not have any open projects past 2025. RCO

will process time extensions up to September 2025, close projects, and reconcile budgets by the end of 2025. The OCB will assume responsibility starting in 2026 with any remaining open projects. The Flood Authority staff (Katrina) will work with RCO, Sponsors, and OCB to help with this process for as smooth a transition as possible.

Brian Shay shared that at the September meeting the members visited the 10th street pump and they far exceed the deadlines that are listed on the project table.

See the [EZ View](#) website for the table summarizing each project's details.

7. Outreach Visits to Member Councils/Commissions

Scott Boettcher shared that members of councils and commissions are finding the outreach presentations helpful.

For the outreach visit schedule, visit the [EZ View](#) website.

8. Local Resolution Adoptions

Scott Boettcher shared a memo to give an update on the Local Resolution Adoptions.

At the September 19, 2024 Flood Authority meeting, Flood Authority members agreed to advance another round of local resolutions based on the updated DRAFT resolution.

The recently adopted new resolutions for Chehalis and Pe Ell are listed on the [EZ View](#) website.

Resolutions are necessary to show basin-wide support for the basin-wide flood and fish effort as it again seeks another round of biennial appropriations.

9. 2025 O&M Costs for Flood Warning System

Scott Boettcher shared an update on the Flood Warning System costs for 2025. The future costs were introduced at the September 2024 meeting.

There was no cost reduction for the three new lower basin rain gages to stay with the same O&M standard as the other 11 rain gauges. There is a 67% cost reduction for the one new tide gage by opting for a lesser, yet still adequate O&M standard. There is a 70% cost reduction by staying with the current software. Scott's recommendation is to approve the annual costs and to stair-step to the revised allocation approach. The costs cannot be reduced anymore than they already are.

The CBB allocated \$363,000 for new gages and new software however, \$100,000 is not needed and is recommended to be returned.

Brian Shay made a motion to approve the new costs. The remaining Flood Authority Members approved the motion.

See the [EZ View](#) website for a summary of O&M costs.

10. Gage Alert Signups and National Weather Service and Lower Basin River Forecasting

Scott Boettcher shared an update on the Gage Alert Signups. He mentioned there is an uptick in signups after outreach meetings. There are 4,237 signups for 2024-2025, which is an increase from the 2023-2024 year.

See the [EZ View](#) website for the presentation.

11. Chehalis Basin Board (Jay Gordon, Scott Brummer).

J. Vanderstoep shared the proposed flow-through dam proposed to be located above Pe Ell will reduce peak flood flows down the river. This project has received increased attention. Funding to date has come exclusively from the State.

12. Public Comment

Katrina Sukola reminded the group about the OCB flood preparedness Webinar taking place on December 3rd

13. Financial Report(s)

Sarah Hensley from Lewis County Community Development reported expenditures for the months of September and October. 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 Auditor's Office, Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting system manual requirements.

- Expenditures for September were \$54,068.17 salaries and wages for Lewis County staff, including consulting services for SBGH. No contracts were executed during this period.
- Expenditures for October were \$5,458.72 for salaries and wages for Lewis County, including consulting services for SBGH. No other expenditures during this time.

14. Report(s)

A. Chair's Report

None.

B. Member Reports

Ron Averill shared there is a new city council member for Centralia. This city council member will be Ron Averill's alternate.

C. Correspondence

Brian Shay shared his gratitude to various members for their share in helping with these projects and the transition from RCO to ecology.

15. Next meeting is January 16, 2025, virtual

The next meeting is a virtual meeting on January 16, 2025. This meeting will be virtual on Teams.

Adjournment was at 10:56am.