



## 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting

### January 16, 2025 - 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
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County	Rick Sangder	Aberdeen
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Wayne Fournier	Thurston County

Flood Authority Members Absent			
Duane Crouse	Napavine	Richard Armstrong	Oakville
Nick Bird	Aberdeen	Lonnie Wiley	Pe Ell
Staff Members Present			
Scott Boettcher	Sarah Hensley	Kylie Peckham	Katrina Sukola

Others Present			
Eric Eisenberg	Owen Sexton	Kat Dickey	Nat Kale
Brandon Rakes			

### Meeting Materials:

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#January%202025](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#January%202025)

### 1. Call to Order

Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Staff and Member introductions were made.

## **2. Determination of Quorum**

Nine members were present; there was a quorum.

## **3. Approval of January 16, 2025, Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the January 16, 2025, meeting. The meeting agenda was approved.

## **4. Approval of November 21, 2024, Meeting Notes**

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from November 21, 2024. The meeting notes were approved.

## **5. Approval of Process for Selecting 2025 Flood Authority Positions**

Scott Boettcher discussed the process for the 2025 Flood Authority Chair and Vice Chair positions nominees. Katrina Sukola will send out a formal request to submit your nominations. A vote for Flood Authority Positions will be held at the March meeting.

## **6. Letter of Support for Chehalis Basin Board Budget Request**

Scott discussed that Governor Jay Inslee's outgoing budget is \$70 million. Scott stated he didn't know if the incoming governor will make his own budget proposal or if he's just going to wait for the House and the Senate to act. Scott suggested we, as the Flood Authority, submit a letter of support to the House and Senate for the full \$80 million requested by CBB. Brian Shay supports writing a letter in support of the budget. Scott will work with the executive committee and work up a letter.

## **7. Flood Authority Staff Directory (2025)**

The staff directory has been updated. Implementing and administering the daily work of the Flood Authority is accomplished through many people and several different organizations (Staff: SBGH-Partners, ICF; Fiscal Agent: Lewis County Community Development; Flood Warning System: WEST Consultants; Local Projects: WA State Office of Chehalis Basin, WA State Recreation and Conservation Office).

For the current staff directory, visit the [EZ View website](#).

## **8. 2025-2027 Local Project Recommendations**

Katrina shared an update on funding adjustments for the 2025-2027 Local Project Recommendations. Recruitment for 2025-27 Local Projects resulted in eight proposed primary projects, plus funding to be allocated to Lewis County for administration support as the Flood Authority Fiscal Agent for a total of \$12,570,000 in requested projects funds. Subsequent to the original due date for consideration (May 10, 2024), two additional projects were added as secondary projects for an additional cost of \$451,750 (i.e., they would be considered for funding after considering those submitted

on time by the original due date) for a total of \$13,021,750. Additionally, Flood Authority staffing costs have increased for the biennium, and grant administration costs have decreased. There will no longer be an RCO 1.5% fee for 2025-27.

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

## **9. Local Projects**

Katrina shared a summary of local projects updates and budget as well as the funding transition from RCO to OCB. Transition will begin as early as this month (February). Projects that will be completed this calendar year would remain with RCO and closeout with RCO instead of being transferred to Ecology. All new 2025-2027 projects will start in Ecology's system.

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

## **10. Additional Basin Gages, Gage Alert Sign-ups, Webinar, Etc.**

Scott shared an update on the Gage Alert Signups. There has been an uptick in signups after outreach meetings. There are 4,527 signups out of the 2025 goal of 5,000.

There are immediate gage needs of ~\$195K for the Wishkah River at Aberdeen, Bucoda, and Dillenbaugh. The Wishkah gage was out and failed to alert King Tide events in November and December, as it went out on October 1.

Also, CBB previously funded one tide gage, three rain gages on 12/05/2024.

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

## **11. Chehalis Basin Board (Jay Gordon).**

J Vanderstoep shared that OCB budget is moving forward on 2025-27 budget and the long-term strategy. The plan for the long-term strategy is, by the end of this year, to have a comprehensive analysis and comparison framework done on different flood packages and different levels of habitat restoration that will lead to agreement on the long-term basin wide flood strategy as well as habitat recovery strategy.

J also reported on two meetings, one with Chehalis tribal business committee and one with Quinault Nation tribal council. Both received the same presentation explaining how the flow through facility would work. People were engaged and eager for more information.

## **12. Public Comment**

No public comments.

Katrina reminded the group about OCB's "Rising Waters, Ready Communities: Flood Preparedness in the Chehalis River Basin" Webinar taking place December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **13. Financial Report(s)**

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

- Expenditures for November were \$4,483.93 for salaries and wages of Lewis County Staff, SBGH/ICF consulting services, and West Consultants for work on the Skookumchuck Gage.
- Expenditures for December were \$5,581.99 for salaries and wages of Lewis County Staff, SBGH/ICF consulting services, and West Consultants for continuing work on the Skookumchuck Gage.

Sarah noted that during the financial processing of November, she noticed that there was a small rounding error in our calculation spreadsheet for September and October and that a correction had been made. It was a difference of four cents, so she corrected those and provided those to the group as revised copies.

### **14. Report(s)**

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

Vickie noted everything had been covered. Vickie shared that she thought the presentation and video that has been shared throughout council members has been received well. All members agreed.

#### **B. Member Reports**

Ron Averill shared there is a new city council member for Centralia. His name is Norm Chapman, and he will be Ron Averill's alternate.

#### **C. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

### **15. Confirm Next Regular Meeting, Topics, and Location**

The next Flood Authority meeting will be virtual and held March 20, 2025 via Teams.

[NOTE: The next Chehalis Basin Board meeting will be February 6, 2025 as listed [here](#).]

Adjournment was at 10:54am.