

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
9:00 A.M. Via Zoom
April 16, 2019 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Steve Lyle, Town of Bucoda; Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Dee Anne Shaw and Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell

Others Present: Lee Napier, Jay Gordon, Brad Murphy

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from January 23, 2020
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#April2020

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Introductions

Attendance was taken as members called in.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved as presented by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

There were no additions or corrections to the meeting notes and were approved by consensus.

5. Local Projects

Scott stated he had posted to EZview proposed local project recruitment materials for the next round of projects (2021-23), including schedule and timelines.

The 2021-23 local projects recruitment process was introduced to the Board on April 2 and will go back on May 7 for final approval. Today Scott asked the Flood Authority for approval of a final package to go to the Board. Local project sponsors will have from May 14 to July 8 to submit project proposals. Scott stated this year's process will also ask for proposed projects beyond 2021-23 in order to help OCB and the Chehalis Basin Board develop their long-term strategy as well respond to specific new legislation.

- July – Flood authority meeting and update on proposals received.
- August – Chehalis Basin Board meeting and update on proposals received.
- September – Flood Authority will be asked to approve ranked and prioritized projects.

Scott stated a team of 10 or so reviewers will rank and score the projects. These will go to the Office of Chehalis Basin in December as part of their budget request.

A question was asked if the current projects are in jeopardy because of COVID-19. Scott stated not that he is aware; projects will proceed but may need a COVID-19 response plan. Scott also stated that the capital budget was not vetoed; the Governor has stated that a healthy capital budget is important to keep the economy going.

J. Vander Stoep stated that the capital budget is likely to be lower for 2021-23 due to COVID-19. We should not be surprised if we do not get \$73 million again in the next biennium. Scott stated that gas tax revenues are down and that has a ripple effect too.

New requirements in House Bill 1154 include a specific list of local projects, costs, funding sources, location and timeframes, initiation of project and completion of project for the 2021-2023 biennium. J. stated also needed are all costs, expenditures/expenses in kind by local governments, including staff time.

There was consensus for the Project Committee taking this to its next meeting. Scott stated there are jurisdictions looking to submit projects.

6. Update: Flood Warning System

Scott stated that at the last meeting, Dave Curtis told the Flood Authority that as trees grow and canopy cover increases, rain gage accuracy is diminished. There is a schedule and a cost to relocate gages over time. In 2020 WEST would like to relocate two gages: Brooklyn gage near Cosmopolis, and Haywire gage in Mason County. Others to be relocated in 2021 are Rock gage and Skookumchuck gage. Relocations of the two gages in 2020 would cost approximately \$10,500, with similar costs for future gages.

Discussion included Scott finding funding now, submitting for funding in the capital budget, and project proposals for next year. Scott stated that relocation of gages will be needed about every 10 years and the jurisdictions pay for the operations and maintenance of the gages.

The consensus was that Scott should find funding for the two gages in 2020.

7. Direction for Local Resolutions

Scott stated that Ecology has the DEIS for the retention dam out for comment. He asked if the Flood Authority needs another resolution stating its stance on the dam. His memo framed draft language, which he summarized. J. stated that during the last EIS the Flood Authority took a position and asked if it wanted to do so again. Following discussion, it was agreed that Scott would draft a letter from the Flood Authority to Ecology regarding the DEIS, and also prepare resolution language for Flood Authority jurisdictions to consider for adoption.

8. Update: Local Projects

Scott stated that all 2019-21 funding has been obligated through RCO except for Keys Road in Grays Harbor County. The funding amendment was delayed until all funding for Phase I from multiple funding sources was fully compiled. That funding has now been compiled and a \$1.7 million is in review with RCO.

9. Update on Chehalis Basin Board

Jay Gordon stated the next on-line comments and meeting will be April 21; other comments will be due by May 27. There is a concern that the fish number above the dam location is in percentages and

percentages paint a misleading perspective. Jay does not know how they determine this impact, and thought there must be a better way. This needs to be addressed through mitigation.

Jay spoke about a potential for water trading. An application has been submitted for Oregon and Washington with the Chehalis Basin being included as a candidate to facilitate discussions for water trading.

J. Vander Stoep stated the programmatic EIS took the position from a panoramic view. The new EIS is taking a microscopic view. We need to address problems basin-wide; this EIS is not really different from the last one.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Financial Report

Lee stated that January expenditures were \$10,654.67. She explained the note at the bottom of the report about the extension and increased budget. February expenditures were \$8,545.41; March expenditures were \$8,235.43.

12. Reports

a. Chair Report

The Chair had no report.

b. Member Reports

Lewis County – Edna stated she had spoken with the United Way Chair regarding the 2007 flood recovery compared to COVID-19, and how to help businesses recover.

In lieu of member reports, there was discussion about how each jurisdiction is handling the office closures due to COVID-19: Some employees are working from home; some are still working out of offices. A couple of the jurisdictions are still using paid administrative leave, others are using personal leave. There have not been too many layoffs. Lewis County is not charging late fees for property taxes if they are paid by May. There has been some pressure to get construction up and running again.

13. Confirm next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21 and may be another Zoom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.