

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Telephone Meeting 9:00 A.M.

April 21, 2016 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Rocky Howard, City of Montesano; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Jenifer Slemm, City of Napavine; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Kathi Hoder, City of Aberdeen; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville

Board Members Excused: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner

Others Present: Jim Kramer, Facilitator; Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority Staff; Jessica Hausman, Department of Ecology; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director; Frank Kersh, Wishkah Road resident.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from March 17, 2016
- List of Local Projects
- Financial Report
- https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#April2016

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

Mr. Vanell stated under Member Reports for Bucoda the correct name of the board is Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board. Ms. Anderson, for Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Tribe, stated under Item 6 "Salmon Habitat" should be "Chehalis Lead Entity Habitat Work Group." The meeting notes were approved with those corrections.

5. Approval of Additional Local Projects for Funding this Biennium

Mr. Boettcher stated that the Projects Committee met to come up with a proposal for recommendations. There is approximately \$1 million in unspent allocated funds and the Projects Committee asked for additional projects. They received \$4.5 million in requests which are shown in the table attached to the memo. The table also shows \$430,000 that will complete projects already started: the pump station at the airport in Chehalis and the Mill Creek Dam improvements in Cosmopolis. Several projects that total \$660,000 are identified in Part 2 of the table, Fry Creek, China Creek Phase 2, Dillenbaugh Creek; Oakville flood relief.

There is a demand in Thurston County and Lewis County for home elevations and relocation, as well as interest in erosion control. The Projects Committee isn't comfortable until they understand a larger context. \$150,000 has been put in as placeholder money until it comes up with more firm projects. The Projects Committee does not have its arms around bank erosion or home elevation in the basin for individual land owners and would like to do so before next biennial budget submittals.

Mr. Averill stated the Projects Committee has identified a challenge with directly funding private land owners and it will get back with RCO for funding through local jurisdictions.

Mr. Boettcher stated what we said no to was: maintenance oriented projects (airport); airport phase II raising the levee; Fry Creek – the table lays out the requests. The scores were based on projects that can be completed, projects for fish widows, etc.

Mr. Chestnut stated that projects that mitigated catastrophic flood projects were the most important. Mr. Vanell agreed and stated that there is a lot more out there that needs to be done. He was pleased to see that land owners submitted requests; it suggests the opportunity for other departments to help them. This process is opening our eyes to those possibilities.

Mr. Averill asked if the discussion would include the discussion with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN). Mr. Kramer stated that would be discussed later in the meeting.

Ms. Balmelli-Powe asked if the Flood Authority does not fund repairs. Mr. Averill stated the repair at the Airport Levee is part of the annual inspection done by US Army Corps of Engineers. They fund 80% of the repair and the jurisdiction funds the rest.

Ms. Balmelli-Powe stated she would like to be cc'd on correspondence regarding projects.

Mr. Boettcher stated there have been conversations with Grays Harbor County Conservation District, WDFW and 3 landowners. The Conservation District is evaluating if farm pads would work on their properties. They have lost livestock because of bank erosion.

Mr. Kramer stated WDFW with AnchorQEA and the Conservation District are developing a comprehensive approach to deal with bank erosion, with permitting through WDFW.

Mr. Kramer asked if there were any objections to the proposal for additional projects up to \$1 million. There were no objections; the proposal passed by consensus.

Mr. Kramer stated the QIN have engaged in working with the state and others in developing long term strategy and restoring aquatic habitat in the basin. They have had concerns about several of the projects that have been supported by the Flood Authority in the past. They acknowledged that Chair Raines and the Flood Authority have made attempts to involve the QIN to help in their understating the process and projects for funding. They have not had resources to engage fully in the past and are looking to be more involved going forward. Mr. Kramer and Mr. Boettcher walked through projects with them and Mr. Boettcher provided concise info. They were complimentary of the work Mr. Boettcher has done and are interested in following up with more detail on projects and engaging early in projects regarding design; particularly where bank stabilization is being done, and they encourage project proponents to think about natural ways to address issues with bio engineering in contrast to concrete and harder structures.

Mr. Boettcher stated there was discussion about how to look forward pro-actively with the QIN. As we have done, they reached out to WDFW and the Corps for common understanding of issues. For the 2017-2019 biennium we will work in advance for shared projects to look at bio engineering where appropriate. The Projects Committee talked about starting solicitation for projects earlier for 2017-2019 – maybe June or July – to have more time to touch base with more people. We will come to you at the June Flood Authority meeting with a work plan as to how we will work with agencies and communities to help them become aware of our projects. It will work better with multi-agency and multi-nation participation.

Mr. Averill stated the Capital Budget Committee is also looking at starting its budget work earlier.

Chair Raines thanked Representative Tharinger and Mr. Boettcher for meeting and making progress to move forward. Being able to collaborate is beneficial for all of us with the QIN.

6. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated March expenses were \$20,353.04, covering salaries and consulting services. Invoices have been processed, issued by the Auditor's office and entered into the BOCC meeting minutes. Mr. Averill stated the Detailed Expense page does not track with the budget line. The current monthly expenses are not reported. Ms. Napier stated she would make sure that got corrected and send out the revised report.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Kramer stated as part of the Governor's Work Group outreach effort he has revised the public presentations, creating a 90 second presentation, and will get those out shortly as well as a schedule for talking to various councils and groups. He is scheduled to have a booth at Horns and Hooves next weekend, April 30 and May 1 at Grays Harbor County fairgrounds. Ms. Balmelli-Powe stated there will be a similar event June 17-19 at the SWW fairgrounds. Mr. Kramer stated he will have a booth at Swede Days.

Ms. Hoder stated Comcast Days is in Aberdeen on April 30.

8. Reports

a. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report.

b. Member Reports

There were no member reports.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

Mr. Kramer stated DOE will come to the May meeting to speak about the creation of Office of Chehalis Basin.

9. Confirm Next Regular Meeting, Topics, Location

The next meeting will be on May 19 in Lewis County. Location to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37.