

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority **Telephone Meeting 11:00 A.M.**

Lewis County Courthouse
Commissioners' Hearing Room – 2nd Floor
351 NW North St – Chehalis 98532

May 15, 2014 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Kathi Hoder, city of Aberdeen; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis.

Board Members Absent: Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; John Penberth, Town of Pe Ell.

Others Present: Scott Boettcher, Jim Kramer, Perry Lund, Kyle Spurr, Lee Napier, Cindy Wilson, Frank Kersch, Alan Carr, Dale Lewis, Jessica Hausman, Merlin McReynolds, Tim Elsea.

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from March 20, 2014
- Memo – Unspent Montesano Project Monies
- Memo – Review Process for Funded Projects
- EZview Project Website Addresses
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings_2013-15.aspx#May2014

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 11:06.

2. Introductions

Participants calling in identified themselves before the call.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

Mr. Averill made a motion to approve the meeting notes; Commissioner Fund seconded. Mr. Haberstroh stated on page 3 he suggested Public Works employees be trained to read gages. The meeting notes state a person could be hired for that purpose. Mr. Haberstroh suggested cross-training as this would most likely not be a full time position. The notes were approved with that correction.

5. Transfer of Capital Funds from Montesano to Lewis County

Mr. Boettcher stated the Montesano project has three elements: the wastewater treatment plant, the sheet wall and examining the re-opening of the relic channel. The bid came in for Phase I and II at \$400,000 less. Phase III has not started because of developments with DOT. The savings were good as

the airport levee project requires an additional \$100,000. Mr. Boettcher recommended that the funds be transferred from the Montesano project to Lewis County for the completion of the airport levee project. Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if OFM had weighed in yet. Mr. Boettcher stated they have not responded to his question; however he is optimistic that OFM will be okay with this with the Flood Authority's approval.

Mr. Averill did not know that the relic channel was a part of this project. Mr. Boettcher stated when Parametrix briefed the Flood Authority there three elements and one was for the relic channel. Mr. Averill confirmed that this money is for design. Mr. Boettcher stated it was.

Mr. MacReynold asked Tim Elsea if the additional funding will allow the widening of the levee and also put gravel on the top. Mr. Elsea stated that is what was discussed. Mr. Pinn asked if the entire transferred amount would be spent and Mr. Elsea said it will be close to the total amount; it is a safe estimate. Mr. Pinn wished to know the balance for record keeping.

There were thumbs up for the transfer of the funds.

6. Review Process for Funded Projects and Change in Bucoda Project

Bucoda Mayor Carr stated the levee project was funded for \$305,000; the bids came in with one change order. Bucoda needs help to protect the well heads. Mayor Carr was asking to change the scope to spend another \$24,000 for the fencing which would allow about \$30,000 to be returned after completion.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if the Flood Authority agreed that Bucoda should be able to re-direct the money, come in under budget and return the balance to OFM. There were thumbs up for this proposal.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if the Executive Committee could make a decision such as Bucoda's when it does not involve additional money or it results in money being returned to OFM. The Executive Committee could make the decision rather than waiting for the next Flood Authority meeting. Mr. Kramer stated that under the proposal the decision would be made by the Chair and Vice Chair, not the Executive Committee.

Mr. Averill stated he was concerned about that proposal. Currently the Chair and Vice Chair provide administrative decisions on meetings but it does not have decision-making authority for the Flood Authority itself.

After discussion there were no objections to the Chair and Vice Chair making a time-sensitive decision as long as it did not overspend the money already in the project, provided that the Flood Authority is notified of the decision at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Fund stated when in doubt a conference call could be arranged.

7. Local Floodplain Management Program Assessment

Mr. Kramer stated the contract and scope of work administered by Lewis County for assessing local floodplain management was approved for French and Associates. French is using subcontractors to do some of the work and the Flood Authority needs to be aware of that.

Ms. Napier stated that French has clarified that Mark Reibau is an associate of French as well as NW GIS group. The only subcontractor is Jerry Louthain and HDR. That was disclosed in paperwork but Ms.

Napier wanted to confirm. Mr. Pinn asked if all guidelines and requirements are being met by using sub-contractors. Ms. Napier stated yes.

Mr. Kramer stated that interviews will be set up with floodplain managers; each jurisdiction will have a report in draft form of the analysis that French has done, starting in June. There will be a September meeting with staff in the jurisdictions regarding the analysis and a policy workshop after that.

8. May 22-23 Policy Workshop and May 28-29 Public Meetings

Mr. Kramer stated the workshop next week will be the first time to provide the results of the analysis done to this point: new information what flooding occurs in the Basin and what it means; analysis of structures in the floodplain and at what elevation they flooded. This is important information regarding decisions and benefits and costs to go with them. There will be the first look at enhancing the aquatic species and changes that have occurred over time and habitat changes and where they can be enhanced. Costs, design and impacts of water retention and well as I-5 alternatives will be discussed. The workshop is at the Veterans Memorial Museum. Mr. Kramer would like public comment and an interactive session. The importance of this meeting is to let us know if the assumptions we are making are on track or if there are differences. People need to know the assumptions that are going into the models or alternatives. At the public meetings on May 28 and 29, there will be informational stations and a formal presentation. Vice Chair Valenzuela asked that Flood Authority members try to attend at least one of the meetings.

9. Financial Report

There were no comments on the Financial Report.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Haberstroh stated he was concerned about perception when there was discussion about Centralia Station and flooding in that area. He has researched it and he feels more comfortable because DOT has made improvements to the dike that will help tremendously on the water issue. He is all for creating jobs in Lewis County and mitigating flooding will improve economic development in Lewis County.

Mr. Kramer stated there will be more of a discussion in July on that project.

11. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chair Raines stated she had been talking with Kathy at Quinault Indian Nation. There have been staff changes in the last months and they have located more than a dozen communications to the Nation requesting discussions on flooding. They have been asked to be added to the distribution list and she hopes the Education and Outreach committee can do a presentation for the QIN. The Flood Authority has been asked to do a presentation at Ocean Shores; Chair Raines did one for Hoquiam City Council.

b. Member Reports

Aberdeen - Ms. Hoder would like a discussion with QIN. Mr. Kramer stated he sent an invitation to Ed Johnston for a workshop next week; he has attended workshops in the past. Chair Raines stated there is another contact in Fisheries – they want their natural resources people involved.

Thurston County – Commissioner Valenzuela stated during the House Capital Committee briefing on May 13th the Governor's Work Group was on a panel regarding flooding. They talked about ongoing projects in the Basin and the need for continued funding.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team report.

12. Confirm next regular meeting, topics and location

The next meeting will be a conference call on June 19. The July meeting will be in Lewis County.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.