

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

October 17, 2013 - Meeting Notes

Flood Authority Board Members Present: Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner

Flood Authority Board Members Excused: Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis

Others Present: Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting; Scott Boettcher, SBGH Partners; Lee Napier, Al Smith, J. Vander Stoep, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Cindy Wilson, Terry Willis, Bart Gernhart, Sandy Triggs, Butch Ogden, Michelle Cramer

Handouts/Materials Used (https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings_2013-15.aspx):

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from September 19, 2013
- Project Committee Update
- Lower Satsop River Floodplain Restoration
- Letter to Flood Authority from Lewis County Public Works
- Financial Report

1. Call to Order

Mr. Kramer called the meeting to order.

2. Introductions

Telephone attendees identified themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Notes from September 19, 2013

Mr. Averill stated at the top of page 3, "there" should be "their." On page 6 in the report from the City of Centralia, Mr. Averill stated of the five construction projects approved there was only one that was flood related. The meeting notes were approved by consensus with those corrections.

5. Project Updates

Mr. Boettcher summarized all the new scopes of work that are in the interlocal agreements and their status. Those projects are:

- Bucoda Levee Project – contract in place
- Cosmopolis Mill Creek Dam Improvement Project – contract in place
- Elma/Porter Flood Mitigation Project – contract is going through internal review at OFM
- Wishkah Road Project – contract in place
- Montesano WWTP and Mary's River Revetment – contract in place
- Pe Ell WWTP Flood Prevention Dike – contract in place

Mr. Boettcher stated the Satsop River Floodplain Restoration would be discussed later in the meeting. The three Aberdeen projects probably will not start until December or January. The multi-purpose projects, Allen Creek Restoration and the Oxbow Lake Reconnection are pending, awaiting internal review.

Mr. Boettcher stated the money is being spent and the projects are happening. The sheet pile alignment has been figured out for Mary's River as well as for the wall around the wastewater treatment plant. Final design should be done in October and the contractor will start work shortly after December 10. Mill Creek Dam today was having geotechnical work and surveying done. When that is completed it will move on to the next phase. Likewise with the Pe Ell project which is on schedule to finish final engineering by December with a May 2014 construction start date.

Mr. Averill referenced the letter in the packet from Lewis County Public Works. The letter states the airport levee project is behind schedule because of rain and explains where they are in that project. Mr. Boettcher stated the contractors are trying to increase its capacity to lay down more dirt by using different accesses and they will keep working if they can. The letter was to document some of the impediments. The biggest one is that the US Army Corps of Engineers has a standard for the type of fill that can be used on the levee. The product was difficult to find.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated the report talks about a late start and indicated that August was unusually wet. She thought it had been unusually dry. Mr. Boettcher stated he would ask for clarification. Commissioner Fund stated the soil that was used needed to dry out and so even if there had been minor rain it caused issues.

Mr. Estes stated Montesano has three projects. One is the wall at Mary's River; the second is the wall around the wastewater treatment plant. The third is the old relic channel. The engineer concluded that the old channel is not a Montesano project because it is in Grays Harbor County. Commissioner Cormier agreed the project is a high priority.

6. Project Committee Update

Mr. Boettcher stated the Project Committee has provided thoughts to the overview and process document that was presented at the Adna meeting by Ms. Peterson working with the Anchor consultant team under the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group process. Ms. Peterson was seeking input from the Project Committee and asked that they get back to her by the 25th with any recommendations. Mr. Boettcher asked Mr. Vanell to outline the kinds of projects that are being considered.

Mr. Vanell stated the committee talked about what types of projects should be considered. They are projects that:

1. Have already been started so they can be completed
2. Have cost-sharing resources available to them
3. Reduce flood elevations, erosion and velocity where needed
4. Protect multiple properties
5. Protect public infrastructure
6. Are affected by main stem flooding
7. Are affected by flooding from any tributary to the main stem
8. Do not include major projects that have not been assessed before and not proposed for further study
9. Return water to tributaries and natural systems

10. Reduce flood insurance premiums
11. Reduce capital losses to farmers and ranchers

Mr. Vanell asked that any additions be sent to him or Scott Boettcher.

Mr. Boettcher stated there are a suite of small projects being considered for their effectiveness with or without a dam. Ms. Peterson, HDR, has been reaching out to local governments to set up meetings; there is a separate page on the Flood Authority web site to capture the transparency of small projects. Ms. Peterson would like to be done with the meetings by the end of October. Regarding the criteria and which projects should make the cut and which shouldn't, the Project Committee thought a high priority criterion was if there was money available for operations and maintenance. The Project Committee did not think it appropriate to build a project that can't be maintained due to lack of adequate resources.

Mr. Boettcher stated that the document is on the website and asked that objections or input be given by the end of the day tomorrow. Final edits are due to HDR on the 21st of November.

Mr. Kramer asked that the language regarding water conservation be clarified. Mr. Vanell understood from the landowners that there may be some historic dikes on their property that were no longer necessary. We don't want to arbitrarily open those up before we make sure they have no effect downstream. Mr. Averill thought that might be done by the Conservation Commission and perhaps Mr. Ogden could help with that.

Mr. Ogden stated he met with Ms. Peterson this morning and meetings have been set up with 2 out of 3 conservation districts next week.

7. Approval of Recommendation to OFM for WDFW Satsop Scope of Work

Mr. Boettcher stated that during the last biennium the Flood Authority allocated \$50,000 for a study to remove riprap from the Satsop Reach to see if that would provide flood hazard relief. Watershed Science and Engineering (WSE) talked about the complexities of removing the riprap and concluded that option would not be beneficial. WSE created a high level matrix of options that could be considered based on discussions with land owners and agencies. These 25 (+/-) alternatives were outside of the original scope of their contract with Grays Harbor County and WSE concluded their report.

WDFW is interested in being the project sponsor and they propose to look at the 25 alternatives and work with land owners, consultants and agencies to narrow down the viable alternatives so a project can be designed that will work in that area. It is anticipated that will occur over the next 14-18 months to utilize the \$450,000 that was appropriated and carried forward.

Ms. Michelle Cramer stated she worked on this project in early 2000 with the Corps and WDFW is still working with the Corps for alternative analyses. There is a lot of opportunity for flood hazard reduction and restoration with good benefits for the landowners, wildlife and fish. Mr. Boettcher stated there was discussion about partnering with the Conservation District or ag land interests.

Ms. Triggs stated the original money appropriated in the Jobs Now bill was to accomplish specific things. She asked how vastly does this vary from the original intent. She stated the project feasibility is unknown at this time and asked how much of the money would be used to determine what is feasible as opposed to what is done on the ground.

Ms. Willis stated the original funds were for flood reduction or projects on the Satsop but nothing specific. It was written on a broad scale. She believes the intent is that it will fit. She could not answer the feasibility question. She thanked WDFW for stepping up to sponsor this project.

Ms. Cramer stated WDFW moved forward with what was identified by WSE and they can move forward with this project. There are viable alternatives.

Mr. Kramer asked if all of the \$450,000 would be used. Ms. Cramer stated WDFW is trying to figure out how to spend the money. She had spoken with Larry Karpack and it is possible to move beyond the 60% design and start construction. There is a lot of money for design work.

Ms. Triggs stated when the legislature appropriated the \$22.8 million this project was included and it was described as complete design and construction. Mr. Kramer stated there are two parts of funding for this project. The money put into the \$28.2 million was transferred. Mr. Boettcher stated the \$450K under the original Jobs Now act.

Mr. Estes stated the original proposal came to the county and it was rejected because if all the riprap was removed it would create a washout of the road to the Satsop towers. The county declined because it showed no advantage to the county. He would like to have the potential damage considered.

Ms. Willis stated the riprap removal is not being disputed. It has been determined that it is a bad idea to remove it and it is off the table. Other alternatives to open up the flood plain have been identified. She stated the first objective is to do no harm.

Mr. Boettcher asked if the industrial park was going to move the well. Ms. Willis stated they are looking at some advantage to not move the well but rather moving the use that comes out of the running wells to the wells on the main stem. They are looking into purification of the running wells (industrial water). In the meantime they are interested in the scope of work as the hard armory is failing and they want to know if the riprap can be secured again.

Mr. Kramer asked if there were more questions. There were none and he asked if there was support for approving the recommendation of this project to OFM. There was no objection.

8. Update on Governor's Work Group

Mr. Kramer stated there will be a policy workshop on November 13 at Great Wolf Lodge. There will also be a 2-day technical workshop on October 30 and 31. The Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group has met several times with the purpose to provide direction to the consultants as they initiate the year long process. There is no major update at this time.

9. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the expenditures for September were \$12,254.28 and the total expenditures for this period were \$38,939.78.

10. Public Comment

Mr. Al Smith thanked WDFW for taking the lead on the Satsop project.

Mr. Vander Stoep spoke on the issue of the rain in August and September. He stated that the average rainfall in Chehalis is 47" for a year; this September it got almost 12". If the storm had hit in the winter

we would have had a catastrophic flood. He is hopeful we will get through the winter without a repeat, but this was a reminder of how fast these storms come up and why this group is working.

Ms. Willis stated that history shows that some of the worst storms followed a record-breaking dry summer. This group is important and the Early Warning System is important.

11. Reports

a. Chair's Report

There was none.

b. Member Reports

Bucoda – Mr. Vanell stated Bucoda appreciates the consideration and support of the levee project. The town is having a successful haunted house and hopes it will continue. He stated Ms. Peterson would be in Bucoda on the 23rd.

Centralia – Mr. Averill stated Ms. Peterson would be meeting with Centralia on the 23rd also.

Lewis County – Commissioner Fund stated that HDR will be meeting with Lewis County on November 18. She wants to schedule a conference call with the Outreach/Education Committee. The Dairy Association invited her to speak at a conference at Great Wolf Lodge. Last week Representative Braun invited her to the WSDOT hearing in Vancouver where she spoke and reminded them that they are a crucial part of what is happening in the Chehalis Basin.

Chehalis – Mr. Haberstroh stated HDR will be meeting with Chehalis on the 23rd. He asked if there had been any headway on signage for the Flood Authority projects. Every project should have signage so people can see what the Flood Authority is doing, and that they are doing something.

Montesano – Mr. Estes stated Ms. Peterson would be visiting his city on the 21st.

Commissioner Fund asked Mr. Haberstroh to report on the Olympia Master Builders meeting. Mr. Haberstroh stated that the OMB is very supportive of the Flood Authority and appreciates that the Flood Authority is looking at all the areas in the basin. We have a partner with them and our job is not going unnoticed.

c. Correspondence

There was none.

d. State Team Report

There was none.

Mr. Kramer stated that Chris Hempleman will be retiring at the end of October. The Flood Authority will send its thanks to her for her support.

12. Meeting Conclusions

Mr. Kramer stated the summary would be written to include the Satsop project and the small projects.

13. Confirm Next Meeting

Commissioner Fund stated on the next Flood Authority meeting, November 21, some Flood Authority members would be attending the WSAC annual meeting in Vancouver.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated the Flood Authority meeting would be held at the Lucky Eagle in the Black River meeting room. Lunch will be available with members paying for their own. After lunch there will be a tour of the Sickman Ford Bridge.

Mr. Averill stated he also has a conflict that day.

Mr. Kramer stated he had invited the Federal Emergency Management to attend and they tentatively agreed. He asked if he should reschedule their visit. It was agreed that they should be rescheduled.

Commissioner Fund stated she would take Mr. Haberstroh's signage request to the Outreach/Education Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.