

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

### **Telephone Meeting 11:00 p.m. August 15, 2013 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; J Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis

**Board Members Absent:** Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine

#### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from July 18, 2013
- Funds Acquisition Form for Pe Ell Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Funds Acquisition Form for Bucoda Levee project
- Transfer of Funds to Montesano
- Flood Warning System Cost Allocation Scenarios
- Memo from Commissioner Fund
- Communication Protocol Paper
- Financial Report

#### **WORK SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

##### **1. Call to order**

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

##### **2. Introductions**

Chair Raines asked representatives of the jurisdictions to state their names.

##### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Raines added Public Comment after Agenda Item #4. She stated Item 5 was not an action item since the projects had been approved at the July meeting. The Agenda was approved by consensus with the changes.

##### **4. Approval of Meeting Notes from July 18**

Mr. Averill stated on page 5, paragraph 6, the dollar amount on the last line should read \$55,000.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated on page 4, paragraph 7, Dan Thompson favored Item 1.

The meeting notes were approved with the corrections.

##### **4a. Public Comment**

Ms. Terry Willis stated there is a continuing effort to find a fiscal agent for the Satsop Restoration project. Chair Raines stated she knows there is some interest by WDFW.

## **5. Approval of Recommendation to OFM**

Chair Raines stated at the last meeting three projects were discussed: Pe Ell wastewater treatment plant; Bucoda levee; Cosmopolis' Mill Creek Dam. She asked for approval to move forward on those.

Mr. Averill was concerned that the Tribe and the Flood Authority had not signed off on those proposals. Mr. Kramer stated the projects were approved by consensus in July. The obligations of the contract have been met and the contract no longer requires signatures. Mr. Warnke of the Chehalis Tribe provided their support and would like to see the projects once they are further along in the design stage.

Mr. Cook expressed his concern that the project committee had not met. Chair Raines explained that the project committee had identified projects to the Flood Authority and those projects were sent to the Governor through the Governor's group.

Mr. Kramer suggested the role of subcommittees be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

## **6. Approval of Recommendation to OFM to transfer funds**

Chair Raines stated that at the last meeting it was clear that there were projects that had insufficient funding allocated to them in the capital budget. Although it was decided to move forward on raising Wishkah Road the recommendation now is to rescind that action and dedicate \$690,000 for engineering and design and land acquisition as parcels become available. The remaining balance would go towards the Montesano projects. For the Montesano (Mary's River and wastewater treatment plant) project the recommendation is to transfer funds from three other projects (Wishkah, Mill Creek and Satsop). The funds are proposed to be transferred to the Montesano project because even though construction cost is well over the original estimate, it is ready to be constructed and the other projects require further engineering and permitting before construction can begin. The other projects are still priorities and it is expected that additional appropriations from the Legislature will allow money to be transferred back to the other projects for construction. Senator Hargrove and Representatives Tharinger and Blake have committed to advocate in the next Legislative session for the funding needed to complete the three projects. Fully funding the Montesano project provides the opportunity to construct the project potentially before the coming flood season and prevent catastrophic damage if another major flood was to occur. Even with the transfer of funds to the Montesano project there is still funding for engineering design and permits to proceed as planned for the three other projects.

Mr. Haberstroh and Mr. Averill agreed with this proposal.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated she was supportive of shifting of funds. She asked what is left for Wishkah Road under this scenario. Chair Raines stated \$690,000 is allocated for engineering, purchase of two parcels and engineering and design for the sheet pile levee and flood gate typing. Commissioner Valenzuela asked if the county would cover the road leveling. Chair Raines stated that has been brought to the Commissioners' attention.

Regarding the Satsop project, Chair Raines stated there are funds left when a sponsor or fiscal agent steps forward. There is enough money to do the design work.

Chair Raines asked if there was an issue with rescinding the payment allocation of \$500,000 for raising Wishkah Road. There was none. She asked if there were objections to shifting the \$1.52 million from

Cosmopolis' project to Mary's River. Commissioner Valenzuela asked Chair Raines if she had an objection. Chair Raines stated she did but her council was in favor of it and she was willing to put off Mill Creek Dam in order to complete the other projects.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked if the Legislature believed Wishkah was a county project. Mr. Kramer stated the Legislature was questioning one part of the project; they are supportive of fixing the whole problem, but raising the road is only solving part of it. They would like to see full design and if raising the road is necessary.

Mr. Cook stated raising the road was not a viable solution and the sheet pile levee was agreed upon. There was not enough money awarded to complete the project. The total cost is nearly identical to the cost of Mary's River and while the \$6 million for Mary's River will improve things the Wishkah project relates to human life and should have a higher priority.

Chair Raines asked if there was any objection to shifting the \$510,000 from Satsop to Mary's River. There was consensus agreement.

The Chair then asked if there was any objection to transferring \$1.92 million to Mary's River from Wishkah Rd. Mr. Cook opposed because the Wishkah project is more important.

Mr. Kramer stated the Flood Authority is not being asked to choose which project is more important. The issue is there is not enough money for both Wishkah Road and Mary's River to fund them to construction with the current budget. More money is needed from the Legislature and Wishkah Road is not ready to be constructed. Mary's River is ready to be constructed. The Flood Authority is being asked to shift funds to have enough to build one project. The Flood Authority will ask the Legislature to push for more money in the next session.

There was more discussion and Chair Raines asked Mr. Smith and Mr. Kersh for their views. Mr. Smith stated he agreed with the recommendation to move forward. Mr. Kersh was also supportive and was confident that the Legislature would provide necessary funding in order to complete the Wishkah Road project.

Mr. Kramer asked Mr. Cook if the comments changed his mind. Mr. Cook stated under the circumstances he would support it. There was consensus to transfer funds for the Montesano projects.

#### **7. Approval of cost of Flood Warning system maintenance**

Commissioner Fund recommended a new allocation formula based 50% on the population of communities prone to flooding and 50% on historic FEMA flood insurance payments. The allocation would have each of the three counties responsible for the payment and could choose to negotiate with the cities within their county for contributions.

Mr. Cook stated the assessed value for Aberdeen is for the entire city and the entire city is not in the flood plain.

There was support all around; Mr. Averill stated the FEMA figures are notoriously wrong and would like the distribution to be looked at in the future. He supported the concept.

After discussion, consensus was reached with the concerns of Mr. Averill and Mr. Cook being noted.

## **8. Protocol for Communication**

Mr. Kramer stated the purpose of this protocol is to provide a good source of information and keep it consistent. When speaking in public Flood Authority members are encouraged to distinguish their views from those of their jurisdiction and the Flood Authority.

Mr. Averill stated the Flood Authority's policies and procedures speak to this already. He appreciates the back-up paper.

There were no objections.

## **9. Financial Report**

Ms. Napier summarized the report by stating the current contracts were for Scott Boettcher, Jim Kramer and OFM. The only expenses through August 15 were salaries and consulting services.

## **10. Public Comment**

John Lucas, Lewis County Farm Bureau, congratulated the Flood Authority on coming to conclusions and consolidating funding so projects could be moved forward.

Deanna Zieske asked if the communication paper would go out to everyone on the distribution list. Mr. Kramer stated it would. Ms. Zieske was in favor of that.

Mr. Vander Stoep congratulated Chair Raines and Commissioner Fund and Lewis County for making a tough decision for their jurisdictions while helping the rest of the Basin.

## **11. Reports**

### a. Chair's Report

### b. Member Reports

*Montesano* – Mr. Estes congratulated the committee for working to save jobs and the wastewater treatment plant.

*Lewis County* – Commissioner Fund stated the BOCC had set a public hearing for September 9 to receive public testimony on changes to Chapter 15, Flood Damage Prevention. Written and oral comments will be accepted.

*Chehalis* – Mr. Haberstroh liked what was accomplished at today's meeting.

*Aberdeen* – Mr. Cook stated the projects in Aberdeen are moving along and progressing well.

## **12. Meeting Conclusions**

Mr. Kramer summarized: approved transfer of funds to Montesano projects; continue to do full design for the Wishkah and Mill Creek Dam and to see if a sponsor develops for the Satsop project; agreed by consensus for new allocation for funding the Early Warning System. The summary will be sent out via email and will go on the website.

## **13. Confirm next meeting**

The next meeting will be on September 19 in Lewis County. Commissioner Fund stated there will be tours slated in Adna for the afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.