

**BOB AMRINE**  
**STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE**  
**FOR**  
**NEW OFFICE OF THE CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD POSITION**  
**APPOINTED BY THE**  
**CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD AUTHORITY**

**Brief history of myself:** I was born and raised on a small tributary of the Cowlitz River. My wife and I bought a house in Chehalis in 1982 and still live there today. My continuing education has resulted in obtaining two degrees, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science. I have worked at the Lewis County Conservation District since August of 1995 and have been the District Manager starting in November of 1999.

**EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE STRONG OVERSIGHT FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION OF CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY**

My living and work experience have given me substantial knowledge of the Chehalis River Watershed. I have witnessed several flood events including the major event of December 2007. The Chehalis Basin Strategy is a well written document for the stakeholders in the basin to recognize the complexity of dealing with high flows in the winter and low flows in the summer. Most of the work I have been involved with is in the upper Chehalis River area in Lewis County but I have also worked in Thurston County and in the lower watershed in Grays Harbor County on livestock exclusion fencing, fish passage assessments on culverts and riparian restoration. Over the years I have met numerous residents, county and city employees, mayors, County Commissioners and other agency representatives working in the basin.

I have been following the development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and made comments on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement developed by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The understanding of reducing flood damage while restoring aquatic species habitat can be extremely convoluted depending on who you are corresponding with. I have the ability to see flood alternatives and restoration proposals from both human and aquatic species views because of my knowledge and extensive work in the basin.

As our fish runs have declined and floods continue to damage properties I believe it is crucial that this process works to gain the tax payers confidence while restoring aquatic species habitat

and completing flood damage reduction projects. If chosen, I will bring a perspective to the Board that would be helpful in making important decisions while moving forward with the implementation of the Strategy. I will join the Board as a Lewis County Conservation District employee. The District's top three natural resource priorities and goals in our long range plan are to improve and protect water quality, assist with flood damage reduction opportunities and salmon recovery.

### **EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCESSES AND FUNCTIONS**

I have been attending Chehalis Basin Partnership meetings since its creation. The understanding of the four counties, numerous cities, special districts and two tribes that need to collaborate to reach goals acceptable to all is crucial while moving forward to implement the Strategy.

I have also been involved with projects for the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. I occasionally attend the meetings but read all the minutes and watch their actions very closely. I believe the Flood Authority has evolved to be an excellent group for recognizing projects that are beneficial to the residents and future generations of the basin. Seeing all the counties and cities work together brings a great deal of oversight for our communities. I am very excited about the opportunity and would be dedicated to attend meetings and represent the Conservation District and Flood Authority at the Board meetings.

The Indian tribes, conservation districts, Chehalis Basin Task Force and any other agency or entity completing projects need to work collaboratively to protect people, property and restore aquatic species. Their involvement and understanding of the needs in the basin is crucial to reach goals that will benefit the quality of life for the residents in the basin which includes the protection of quality salmon habitat, restoring habitat and protecting property and assets.

I believe it is crucial that we do not just look at alternatives that will protect Interstate 5, but also keep all of the landowners and land users' needs in mind for flood protection.

As chair of the Habitat Work Group for the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity I have gained knowledge of all the counties, cities, tribes, entities and agencies involved in the Strategy.

### **UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES RELEVANT TO REDUCING FLOOD DAMAGES AND RESORING AQUATIC SPECIES**

This is the area I will bring extensive knowledge and experience to the Chehalis Basin Office Board. I studied ground water, surface water, water quality and salmon ecology while obtaining my Bachelor of Science degree.

When I was first hired by the Lewis County Conservation District my main job was collecting and analyzing water quality samples. In the last twenty one years I have been involved in numerous restoration and protection projects throughout the basin. Some of our accomplishments while I have been working at the District are as follows;

- The installation of miles of riparian fencing projects to keep domestic livestock out of streams and rivers and construction of alternate watering facilities or allowing limited access
- Over seventy riparian restoration projects to get trees and shrubs re-established along the water ways
- Fifty-eight fish passage projects that included removing barriers to salmon and installing larger culverts or bridges allowing fish of all ages to migrate up and downstream
- Numerous projects were completed after the 2007 flood event including removing debris and mud from fields and ditches, fencing and replanting fields
- The construction of fifteen livestock/equipment pads and three evacuation routes
- The development and approval of multiple Dairy Nutrient Management Plans and Conservation Plans.

We are currently overseeing the construction of the Boistfort Valley Water District pre-sedimentation pond funded through the Flood Authority.

My commitment to the Conservation District, the residents of the Chehalis Basin and the aquatic inhabitants in our streams and rivers will bring a perspective to the Board that will be beneficial when making important funding requests and allocations.

Thank you for your consideration in appointing me to the Chehalis Basin Office Board and if any questions of concerns are recognized please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bob Amrine/District Manager

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