



October 30, 2017

TO: Chrissy Bailey, WA Department of Ecology (Office of Chehalis Basin)
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff (Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority)
SUBJECT: Analysis of Critical Local Activities and Funding Levels

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an analysis of critical local activities and funding levels for consideration of remaining, limited 2015-17 state capital budget funds. This analysis (critical local activities, funding levels) has been reviewed and approved by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Flood Authority. Feel free to call or email with questions (360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

A. Critical Local Activities

Critical local activities support, oversee, and otherwise manage:

1. Completion of **Local Projects**.
2. Implementation of Chehalis Basin **Flood Warning System** (www.chehalisriverflood.com).
3. Completion of **Gage Datum Resets** (USGS, Ecology).
4. Delivery of **Staffing, Facilitation Support** (Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority).
5. Implementation of **Local Flood Plain Management** solutions.

Critical local activities are provided (through RCO interagency agreement with Lewis County) by:

- Lewis County (Lee Napier, Graham Gowing, Pat Anderson).
- SBGH-Partners (Scott Boettcher).
- Kramer Consulting (Jim Kramer).
- French & Associates (French Wetmore).

B. Current Expenditures, Budget for Critical Local Activities

Average monthly expenditure for critical local activities: \$12,890.17.

Current remaining budget (through 9/2017) for critical local activities: \$40,865.02.

C. Continuation of Critical Local Activities

Current remaining budget will cover critical local activities through December 2017.

Beginning January 2018, additional resources are needed to stay in balance as follows:

- Through January 2018 -- \$10,695.65.
- Through February 2018 -- \$23,585.81.
- Through March 2018 -- \$36,475.98.
- Through April 2018 -- \$49,366.15.

Additional resources are needed to ensure continued delivery of critical local activities across the Basin for 2017/18 flood season. Doing so will ensure Table 1 priority objectives are met.

Table 1 Priority Objectives Met through Critical Local Activities (2017/18 Flood Season)				
	Protect public health, safety, property	Complete local actions already underway	Maintain public trust, credibility, accountability	Educate Chehalis Basin Board (critical local activities)
1. Local Projects	✓	✓		
2. Flood Warning System	✓		✓	
3. Gage Datum Resets	✓	✓	✓	
4. Staffing, Facilitation Support			✓	✓
5. Local Flood Plain Management	✓	✓		✓
Note: Attachment A provides further detail on each critical local activity (i.e., actions to be accomplished with additional funding as well the consequences of not funding).				



**Attachment A
Further Detail on Critical Local Activities**

	Actions to be Accomplished with Additional Funding	Consequence (Adverse Effect) of No Additional Funding
<p>1. Local Projects</p>	<p>a. Provide local projects (sponsors, agencies, RCO, etc.) with support and oversight necessary to bring remaining 2015-17 local projects to complete closure (closed, off the books at RCO).</p> <p>b. See local projects tracking sheet https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1492/images/Master%20Expenditure%20Tracking%20Table%2010-18-2017.pdf.</p>	<p>i. Jeopardizes timely completion and closing of remaining 2015-17 local projects.</p> <p>ii. Compries (complicates) clean transition/hand-off of local projects to OCB.</p>
<p>2. Flood Warning System</p>	<p>a. Support and oversee Flood Warning System implementation to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate, reliable, accessible flood information for all interests. • Basin gages network (Ecology, USGS, NWS, WSDOT, Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor Counties) is coordinated, activated to address unforeseen gage issues (e.g., coordinating replacement of malfunctioning gages in Centralia with USGS and NWS). <p>b. More specific activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public outreach, promotion, education (upcoming webinar). • Website operations (dash boards). • High water email gage alerts. • Gage operations, maintenance. • Gage database(s). 	<p>i. Loss of accurate, reliable, accessible flood warning information poses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial threat to public health, safety, and property. • Loss of well-earned credibility for Flood Authority and Flood Warning System. <p>ii. Both circumstances would take substantial effort to remedy/correct.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder coordination. Coordinate technology upgrades. 	
3. Gage Datum Resets	<p>a. Support and oversee completion of USGS and Ecology actions (<u>including public outreach/education</u>) to resurvey, reset, synchronize 22 stream gage datums in the Basin to NAVD88 (16 USGS gages, 6 Ecology gages).</p> <p>b. Supporting and overseeing timely completion of this important “housekeeping” work advances more consistent and accurate information (and meta data) about flood levels for all engaged in Basin mapping, modelling, forecasting, and response.</p>	<p>i. Gage datum resets do not get done.</p> <p>ii. \$10K Flood Authority investment, partnership with USGS is lost.</p> <p>iii. Problems with different measurement systems persist.</p> <p>iv. Flood Warning System is not accurate, reliable, and credible.</p> <p>v. Public trust and confidence are jeopardized in gage information</p>
4. Staffing, Facilitation Support	<p>a. Support OCB Board in their education to understand local projects, Flood Warning System, local flood proofing (e.g., vents, flood insurance, elevation certificates).</p> <p>b. Support Flood Authority (as a whole) and ensure their engagement and participation in defining their evolving role in relation to new OCB Board.</p> <p>c. Support Flood Authority’s Project Committee and ensure their engagement and participation in defining their evolving role in relation to new OCB Board (e.g., combined FA and OCB projects committee for 2019-2021 biennial local projects solicitation, list, and budget).</p>	<p>i. Delays OCB Board’s learning and education on local activities.</p> <p>ii. Delays, complicates new (yet to be determined) organizational process for defining, budgeting 2019-21 local projects and local activities.</p>
5. Local Floodplain Management	<p>a. Support and oversee local activities to optimize basin governments’ positions to best realize improved floodplain management benefits (lower flood insurance, better CRS rating, less property damage risk, etc.).</p> <p>b. Specific activities include:</p>	<p>i. Compromises momentum gained on improving local floodplain management programs across Basin.</p> <p>ii. Prolongs date when Basin governments and interests realize floodplain management gains (including financial gains).</p> <p>iii. More specifically:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local officials, insurance agents to use recently completed building inventory to advise property owners on lowering flood insurance premiums. • Assist Basin communities with floodplain regulations, CRS, and floodplain management questions. • Provide presentation to OCB Board and orient new OCB staff to floodplain management activities underway. • Assist Chehalis to prepare for five-year verification visit in November. • Assist Hoquiam and Aberdeen to prepare for joining CRS. • Assist Grays Harbor County to adopt improved regulatory standards. • Finalize property protection report for Centralia so City can prepare an application for funding. • Finalize the repetitive loss area analysis for Thurston County so the County can prepare an application for funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners of pre-FIRM buildings will continue to pay increasing premiums and not know when or how the increases will stop. • New development may not meet all requirements in a community's regulations or other mistakes could happen. • Chehalis may not have its CRS classification renewed at favorable level. • Hoquiam and Aberdeen may not obtain favorable CRS classification. • New floodplain construction may not be built to best protection level and may cause flood problems on other properties. (GHC may also miss opportunity to obtain better insurance premium rates for new construction and CRS credits.) • Centralia may not meet all requirements for funding application. • Thurston County may not meet all requirements for funding application.
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