



February 17, 2022

SENT Via Email

Mr. Steve Kopp, Maidment Award Chair
American Water Resources Association
PO Box 2663
Woodbridge, VA 22195

RE: Letter of Support for Mr. David C. Curtis, Ph.D., F.EWRI

Dear Mr. Kopp:

It has come to our attention that Dave Curtis has been nominated for the "David R. Maidment Award for Exemplary Contributions to Water Resources Data and Information Systems." On behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, we are thrilled (and very enthusiastic!) to offer our full support for Dave's nomination.

The mission of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority) is to minimize hazards associated with flooding and catastrophic flooding and do so without further impact to people, property, and the environment. We're proud of the enviable track-record we've achieved of delivering meaningful flood hazard reduction results since the devastating and catastrophic floods of 2007. Dave has been with us every step of the way.

- We've implemented a state-of-the-art, real-time Chehalis Basin flood warning and alert system which enables early action by residents and emergency responders.
- We've completed over 40 local projects that protect people, property, and infrastructure, in addition to improving readiness, response, and resiliency. Our communities are safer now through local actions to:
 - Protect essential drinking and wastewater facilities.
 - Ensure emergency response facilities remain open, functional across the basin.
 - Provide community-based flood protection like flood vents, home elevations, home relocations, elevation certificate surveys, etc. in our cities, towns, and outlying rural areas.
 - Invest in flood warning infrastructure, field instrumentation, and river models across the Chehalis Basin to ensure early and accurate flood warning and action.
- We've constructed 26 farm pads and farm evacuation routes across the basin to protect the assets and livelihoods of farmers so severely impacted in 2007.

While we are proud of our results and proud of our successes, we know these are not just our own. These too are Dave's results and successes, and we are forever grateful.

Dave has been our flood warning system expert consultant since 2010. In that time we have built a top-notch flood warning system (www.chehalisriverflood.com) that:

- Has been very cost-efficiently developed (that is extremely important to our fiscally minded legislators and tax-paying public).
- Leverages the infrastructure and gaging resources of local, state, and federal partners.
- Successfully translates and synthesizes complicated technical hydrologic information into much more usable, consumable, and relevant public information (this is particularly important as the majority of our users are not hydrologists nor are they technical water resource specialists, especially during times of flood emergencies).

Dave's leadership has over the past decade has brought us to where we are today -- substantially more aware and better prepared for flooding than ever before. This is a big deal for us.

Dave is technically skilled. Dave is smart and strategic. Dave is humble and speaks very well to those of us who are not well-versed in the language of hydrology, hydrometeorology, geophysical science, civil and water resources engineering, and hydrologic warning. Dave's contributions have, as your award states, been constant and exemplary. We are very fortunate, and Dave is very deserving.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our full and enthusiastic support for Dave's nomination. It is well-deserved. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You may also contact Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) at 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com.

Sincerely,



Vickie Raines, Chair
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Grays Harbor County Commissioner
360/590-4100
VRaines@co.grays-harbor.wa.us



Edna Fund, Vice-Chair
Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Lewis County Representative
360/269-7515
dutch@localaccess.com

PS: (1) Attachment A details the performance and usage of our flood warning system this past January when we had a major flood event. (2) [Here](#) too is a recent article on that topic.

CC: Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Members
Scott Boettcher, Staff -- Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Andrea McNamara Doyle, Director -- WA State Office of Chehalis Basin

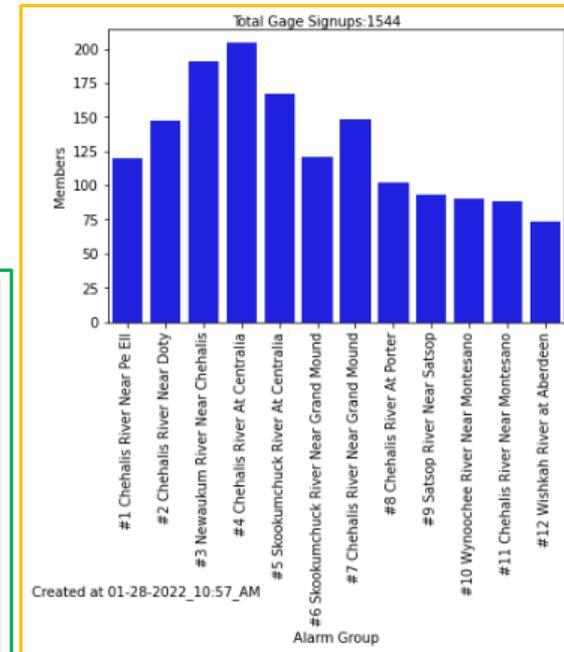
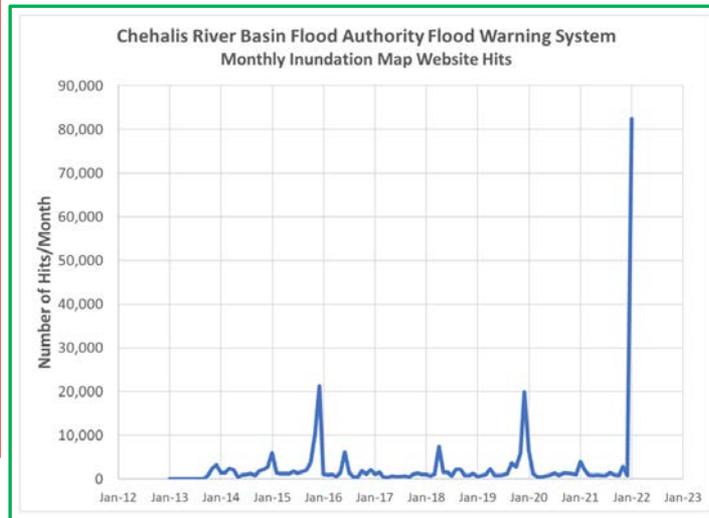
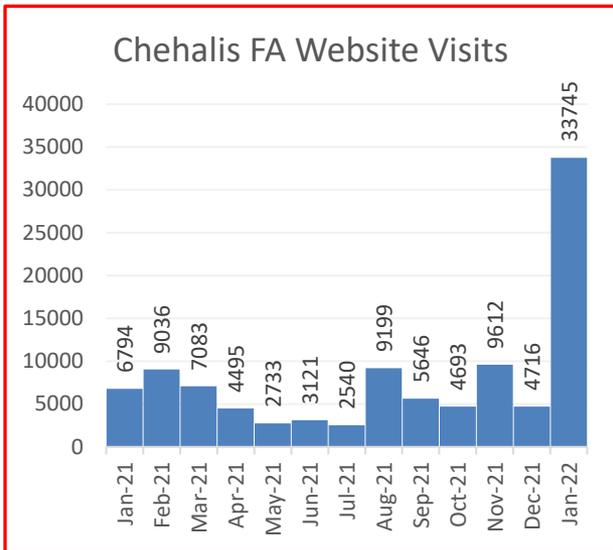
Flood Warning System Slides From 2-03-2022 Chehalis Basin Board Presentation

II. Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System

The Flood Authority's flood warning system website was incredibly active during the January flood. Nearly 25,000 individual user logins were recorded and the flood inundation maps received almost 75,000 hits, providing vital information to the community during the flood emergency. *Dave Curtis, West Consultants, 2/01/2022*

Unknown contact said:

"Our house flooded in '96 and '07--we like to be prepared The gauges and alerts give us more peace of mind. Info=peace of mind" *Survey Respondent, 2/01/2022*



II. Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System

The Chronicle
January 6 at 6:26 PM · 🌐

If you're trying to decide to stay or go, this tool might be able to help inform your decision. The image below reflects the best projection as to what areas will be flooded if the Skookumchuck River at Centralia reaches 192.4 feet. It is projected to reach 193.1 feet.

Check out predictions in this Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority online tool here: <http://chehalisriverflood.org/>

Disclaimer from the site: Inundation maps show estimated areas of flooding associated with ... [See more](#)

220 205 Comments 406 Shares

Washington Emergency Management Division ✓
January 6 at 5:25 PM · 🌐

There's lots of flooding potential in Western Washington in the coming days. One area of concern is the Chehalis River and the Skookumchuck River. The Chehalis Basin Flood Authority has potential flood maps & alert systems in place for residents to get warnings. You can find river gages near you and sign up to get notified about flooding issues near you. If flooding impacts you, sign up. You can also look at what areas are forecasted to be impacted by floods using Flood Inun... [See more](#)

149 12 Comments 113 Shares

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Key Take-Aways →

2007:
✗ Reactive

2021:
✓ Proactive
✓ Info = peace of mind

<https://www.facebook.com/thecentraliachronicle/>