

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Meeting 1:30 p.m.

Bucoda Community Center

January 19, 2017 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Jenifer Slempp, City of Napavine; Julie Balmell-Powe, City of Chehalis; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen.

Board Members Absent: Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville.

Others Present: French Wetmore and Mark Riebau, French & Associates; Chris Frei, WSE; Kim Smith, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Lee Napier, Lewis County; Henry Hu, WEST Consultants; Jerry Louthain, HDR; Tom Clingman, AQEA; Bob Connolly, Skillings Connolly, Inc.; Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic; Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District; Dale Lewis, Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler; Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission; Kathleen Berger, Thurston Conservation District; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Aaron Kindle, Chehalis; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from November 17, 2016
- Local Projects
- 2017-2019 Capital Budget Request
- Unobligated Funds
- See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Jan2017

1. Call to Order

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus as presented.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes

On page 4, first paragraph, "Chair" was misspelled. The meeting notes were approved by consensus with the correction (and subsequently posted as "Approved FINAL" here https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/November%2017%202016%20Flood%20Authority%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf).

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Kramer stated Commissioner Blake and Ms. Balmelli-Powe had nominated Vickie Raines for Chair and Edna Fund for Vice-Chair. Mr. Vanell had nominated Frank Chestnut for Chair and Ms. Balmelli-

Powe as Vice-Chair. Both Mr. Chestnut and Ms. Balmelli-Powe withdrew. There were no other nominations. Ms. Raines was elected Chair; Commissioner Fund was elected Vice-Chair.

6. Request from Hoquiam to be represented on the Flood Authority Board

A letter was received from the City of Hoquiam, requesting a seat on the Flood Authority Board. Mr. Kramer stated the Interlocal Agreement from 2008 required that all signatory governments approve adding a new member. He asked about Hoquiam's interest in being on the Board; following that a decision would be made.

Brian Shay, Hoquiam City Administrator, stated that the Flood Authority has done a great job for the entire Basin and Hoquiam would like to be a part of that. He likes to see funding come to the Basin, and he expressed appreciation for the funding for the Raymer Street Pump Station project.

There was consensus for Hoquiam to have a seat on the Flood Authority Board. Chair Raines asked if there was any objection and if Ms. Napier could review the Interlocal and update for all members. Ms. Balmelli-Powe stated that early in the formation of the Flood Authority there was an effort to keep it equal with cities from each county. Mr. Kramer stated he and Mr. Boettcher would look at the Interlocal and would have a draft Interlocal by the February phone meeting that would be responsive to today's discussion on the topic.

7. Office of Chehalis Basin: Local Flood Proofing

Mr. Clingman stated that the Office is planning for local flood proofing projects, including retrofits, however the precise budget is still in flux. He is hoping for \$1 million for local flood proofing projects. Objectives for the first quarter of the Office of Chehalis Basin include adopting a list of local projects for the 17-19 biennium, and building a foundation for a basin-wide local investment programs. Another objective is to continue outreach and technical assistance. A new position for outreach and technical assistance has been proposed for the Office. This upcoming biennium (17-19) will be a transition biennium for launching the Office. There will be interaction with the Flood Authority as the Office gets up and running.

8. Office of Chehalis Basin: Board

Mr. Clingman stated the Chehalis Board will be a policy-setting group which will be responsible for making recommendations to the Governor and the Flood Authority will have a role in that. The Board will oversee implementation of the larger basin strategy and what that strategy includes. Mr. Vander Stoep stated the purpose is to supervise and aggressively pursue habitat restoration and flood mitigation. Hopefully the Flood Authority continues as one component of the "aggressively pursuing" element.

Mr. Clingman explained the staggered terms for the Board and that eventually they would all become four-year terms, still staggered. The Flood Authority will create its own process for its three members, how to solicit for those positions and how to decide. If someone is interested in serving, does he or she go to the Flood Authority or to the Governor? That is to be determined. There will be deadlines for submittals. There is a link in the Discussion Document to the Governor's process.

Discussion included the timeline of the process, appointees from the Governor, and existing language. **Mr. Wood urged the Governor to act quickly regarding the appointments to the Office of Chehalis Basin.**

Mr. Kramer stated that staff's recommendation is to develop a process to consider at the February meeting, and to work on a parallel track with the Governor's process.

9. Local Project Updates

Mr. Boettcher stated at the November meeting budgets were adjusted and new projects were initiated. There are now 28 active local projects and there is \$155,000 in unobligated funding.

There is funding available for the Wishkah project. WSE is working on a flood study and a tidal gage has been installed to measure how far tidal influence goes.

Thurston County has a new contract for \$300,000 to elevate homes in Thurston County by July 1, 2017.

Mr. Boettcher stated there has been a lot of help from RCO as well as jurisdictions and sponsors.

10. 2017-2019 Capital Budget Request

Mr. Kramer stated the Governor's Work Group recommended to continue evaluating Alternatives 1 and 4 and implement priority projects to restore aquatic species habitat and reduce flood damage. Not included is working on levees and a wall along I-5. The Work Group, with the exception of Don Secena representing the Chehalis Tribe, recommends proceeding to a project-level environmental review for the dam being considered on the mainstem Chehalis River. The Governor gives his full support and he is very engaged and knowledgeable about what is happening on the Chehalis River and is supportive of reducing flood damage.

11. Local Contribution

Mr. Boettcher stated Senator Braun requested hard numbers as to what local governments are contributing towards local flood mitigations. The paper (link below) shows the itemized contributions, with a total of 23% from local governments (\$4.2 million annually since 2012) and 77% state (\$14.3 million annually since 2012).

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Local%20Investment%20\(Ver.%201\)%201-18-2017\(2\).pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Local%20Investment%20(Ver.%201)%201-18-2017(2).pdf)

12. Contracting Basin-wide Gage Inventory

~~Mr. Boettcher reminded Flood Authority members of their approval of \$97,000 in unspent 15-17 funding for a basin-wide gage analysis and inventory. It is staff's recommendation to contract with WEST for the gage inventory because of their work in setting up the flood warning system. There was consensus to contract with WEST for the gage inventory.~~

Mr. Boettcher shared his January 18, 2017 memo with the group. The purpose of this memo was to seek Flood Authority approval to amend both the RCO and WEST Consultants agreements to conduct the "Gages Inventory" previously approved by the Flood Authority as a local project. Currently there is unspent funding. It is staff's recommendation to contract with WEST for the gage inventory and resetting of gages because of their work in setting up the flood warning system. There was consensus for Lewis County to amend the current agreements with RCO and West for this gage inventory and resetting of gages. The total amount authorized would not exceed \$97,810. The complete memo can be found at the link below. https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Contracting%20basin-wide%20gage%20inventory%201-18-2017.pdf

13. Using Unobligated Funds

There are approximately \$155,000 in unobligated funds for small projects. Staff asked if the Project Committee can be empowered to allocate those remaining dollars. Mr. Averill stated the Projects Committee is looking at projects that are shovel ready. There was consensus for the Projects Committee to allocate the unobligated funds. The projects can be found at the link below.

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Using%20Unobligated%20Funds%201-18-2017.pdf

14. Financial Reports

Ms. Napier reported that expenses for November totaled approximately \$28,404 which included staff and consultants. December expenses were \$22,759.

15. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

16. Reports

a. Chair's Report

The Chair had no report.

b. Member Reports

Mr. Wood did not have a report but he wanted to discuss in more detail the voting by the Flood Authority members. Mr. Kramer stated that the Flood Authority strives for consensus. If consensus can't be reached there will be a vote which has to be a majority. A suggestion/idea that was offered was that for the majority vote there must be at least one jurisdiction from each county that supports that action.

Mr. Averill stated the Board needs to look at what the existing ILA says. In the future the Board may be lending more credence to appealing a county rather than the merits of the project. Chair Raines stated there would be a Draft ILA for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

Napavine – Ms. Slemp stated the Napavine City Council approved the Kirkland Road design study.

Chehalis – Ms. Balmelli-Powe stated the Chehalis project has been submitted.

c. Correspondence

The only correspondence that was received was the letter from Hoquiam, which was discussed early in the agenda.

d. State Agency Reports

Mr. Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission, stated three conservation districts have at least 4 farm pads in the works that will be completed by June 30. In addition there are a handful of farm infrastructure protection projects.

He reported that three districts were asked to help with the landowner outreach process by conducting meetings around the Basin. All three districts held 3-4 meetings each and have lists of landowners who are interested in doing habitat projects. These meetings occurred months ago and the districts are receiving phone calls from those landowners wondering when work can get done.

Mr. Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District, stated the contractor has signed the construction contract for the Boistfort Valley Water pre-sedimentation pond. The project is scheduled to start February 6th and be completed by the middle of March.

17. Confirm Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be a telephone meeting on February 16, 2017 starting at 1:30 p.m.