South City of Chehalis & Port of Chehalis

Flood Storage Investment Plan



Project Update September 19. 2024



Where the Project Started

- Both the City of Chehalis and the Port of Chehalis were recipients of individual grants funded through RCO for the purposes of increasing flood storage, reducing flood elevations, and minimizing impacts when flood events occurred.
- It became clear that results were poor and costs were exorbitant when operating in our own jurisdictional bubbles. The City and the Port were approached with a proposal to combine efforts for a more productive, positive, and cost-effective outcome.
- This is where the concept of a combined effort, Flood Storage Investment Plan was born.
- A project kickoff meeting was held with SLR, the City of Chehalis and the Port of Chehalis on March 15, 2024, to discuss the project overview, its goals and expectations, and priority areas.
- Included in meeting were the SLR project team, Watershed Science and Engineering, Flood Authority staff, and City and Port staff and administration.

Previous Studies and Gathering Existing Data

- Data has been gathered from studies and project conducted in the past.
 - Dillenbaugh Creek modeling
 - Lewis County current project data
 - Berwick Creek Hydraulic Analysis
 - Dilly Twig HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS models
 - Culvert Surveys
- This gave SLR a great starting point to determine where to begin compiling additional data to connect the dots between the combined project areas.

Public Outreach, and Outside of the Box Approach

- Rather than establishing a date and time for a public outreach meeting event, the team decided to go to where the people are already gathering. ChehalisFest, Saturday, July 26, 2024.
 - Overall feedback from the community shows limited interest in discussing previous flooding events or history and more interest in what is going to be done about it.
 - Future Engagement Recommendations:
 - What have agencies/districts/authorities been doing?
 - Why does it take time to implement projects?
 - Provide an understanding of the scale and magnitude of the basin and what type of projects are associated with specific flood scales.
 - Provide example projects and improvements suggested by the public with FSIP recommendations.
 - Show how the progression of projects will help reduce the risk of flood damage.

QAPP Approval

Received by Ecology on July 30, 2024

Quality Assurance Project Plan

Flood Strategy and Investment Plan

City of Chehalis and Port of Chehalis

Prepared by: **SLR International Corporation** 22118 20th Avenue Southeast, Suite G202, Bothell, Washington, 98021 SLR Project No.: 141.V19732.00001

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Revision: 03

Advisory Committee

- The advisory committee was formed to gather information and insights from multiple disciplines and points of view.
- The committee is formed with representation from the Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Transportation, The Chehalis Basin Flood Authority, Lewis County, Lewis County Flood Control District #1, Local Business Owners and Land Developers, The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis, City of Chehalis, and the Port of Chehalis.

Field Visit

Crews were able to spend a day in the field with both city and port staff



Compiling Data

 Areas of concern were identified with notable bank failures, scour, eroding banks, sediment bars, and large woody debris



Additional Data Compilation Photos

Next Steps – Finalize Modeling Modeling efforts are underway to connect the dots in the combined project area.

• Hydrology, hydraulic modeling and reporting results will assist in driving the direction of the overall plan.

Next Steps - Outreach

- Phase II Outreach Effort
 - Develop Example Projects
 - Visual depiction of scale, complexity and magnitude of the basin.
 - How different investment plan opportunities are appropriate dependent upon the severity of any given flood event.
 - Explain and demonstratehow implementing an actionable plan with multiple projects in logical progressive succession will increase flood storage, lower flood elevations, and decrease flood hazards and damages across the basin.

Next Steps - Workshop

Next Steps – Strategy Plan Development

 Utilize knowledge gained from past studies and completed projects, public input, advisory board expertise, modeling results, anticipated individual project evaluations and results to develop an actionable investment plan who's goals are to increase flood storage, reduce flood levels, and minimize damage and monetary losses in the event flooding does occur.

Finalize the Plan

- Draft Final Plan for Ecology/agency review and comment.
- Address any comments provided
- Present Final Plan for review and approval.

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Q&A