



# Lower Chehalis Basin Information Sharing Session

## Meeting Summary

December 9, 2016

Present (in person): Scott Boettcher, Chrissy Bailey, Michael Stringer, Larry Karpack, Rick Sandger, Evan Carnes, Andrea Barry, Mark Steepy, Kris Koski, Commissioner Edna Fund, Jessica Hausman, Alan Vanell, Kim Van Zwalenburg, Luke Kelly, Tom Clingman, Jerry Franklin, Amy Spoon, Perry Lund

Present (phone): Julie Balmelli-Powe, Jess Helsley, Kirsten Harma, Kim Smith, Kiley Zaubi, Gloria Rogers, Jordan Rash, Kathy Lombardi

Materials: [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/administration\\_dec\\_2016\\_lower\\_basin\\_information\\_sharing\\_session/36987/dec\\_2016\\_lower\\_basin\\_information\\_sharing\\_session.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/administration_dec_2016_lower_basin_information_sharing_session/36987/dec_2016_lower_basin_information_sharing_session.aspx)

**Please note:** This meeting summary is intended primarily to capture items noted during discussion that are not reflected in the Power Point presentations; this summary is not intended as detailed meeting minutes or transcripts.

### 1. Introductions

Attendees in-person and on the phone introduced themselves. Scott noted the purpose of this meeting was to follow-up on a similar meeting held at Ecology in March 2016. We will be covering 7 projects; the presentations will be quick, there will be a couple of minutes to address questions, and then we will move on to the next presentation/project. Topics generally covered in the presentations will include a summary of the project purpose, the current status, upcoming activities, controversies and complexities, key outcomes, and project contact information.

The Power Point presentations for each project are also available on the Flood Authority's website at

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/administration\\_dec\\_2016\\_lower\\_basin\\_information\\_sharing\\_session/36987/dec\\_2016\\_lower\\_basin\\_information\\_sharing\\_session.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/administration_dec_2016_lower_basin_information_sharing_session/36987/dec_2016_lower_basin_information_sharing_session.aspx).

### 2. Discussion

North Shore Levee – The shading on slide 2 is the mapped AE zone. On slide 3, the colors on the graphic represent: yellow – sheet pile wall, green – earthen levee, blue – concrete wall. The small purple dots are gaps. Preliminary design, slated to be done in summer 2017, is approximately 60% design. \$1.5M in 2017-19 funds have been requested to complete design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition plan and appraisals.

Southside Dike Recertification – Slide 5 notes some properties may be remapped; some properties will now be in mapped flood zones that were not before (dark blue on the graphic). This is a result of new analysis and better hydraulic models, not a result of the changes to the levee.

Fry Creek – Fry Creek is hydraulically connected to other conveyances/drainages in the City; when it is flooding or at capacity, it results in flooding or back up of drainages in other portions of the City.

TimberWorks Master Plan – The final action plan was submitted to the City today. That plan identifies the importance of the Fry Creek project, which was the catalyst for the City initiating that project. See final action plan in the Timberworks Library here [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1938/library/36744/library.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1938/library/36744/library.aspx) (as well project update here [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1938/updates/36740/updates.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1938/updates/36740/updates.aspx)).

Wishkah Road Floodwall – Installation of a tide-gate to replace a culvert on a driveway on the southernmost property east of the wall will be more expensive than acquiring the property. The County is trying to re-engage the property owner to explore acquisition. Evan and Kiley noted the Corps to be engaged on this project, Kiley will connect with Mark Steepy.

Wishkah Road Flood Study – Evaluating 5 locations upstream of the Wishkah floodwall where the road floods. Even though all the projects in Aberdeen discussed here today are separate projects, in a way they are connected because the same waters affect them. The alternatives analysis will identify areas that flood first or most and the economic impacts; in theory the County could use this information to prioritize projects, but there has been no discussion with the County about such an approach to date.

Lower Satsop Floodplain Reconnection and Overflow Channel – Michelle Cramer was unable to attend the meeting to present this project, plus time ran short. The project can be summarized as follows:

- The Lower Satsop Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Project has proposed a restoration project on two sites with three goals: Protect public and private infrastructure and agricultural lands from bank erosion, improve floodplain connectivity and restore side-channel and off-channel habitats, and lower flood elevations in the project area. Hydraulic modeling, alternatives analysis, and preliminary design are complete for both sites. The project has received funding through the Chehalis Habitat Restoration and Protection Grants to complete final design and permitting, which is scheduled for completion by June 2017. Site #1 proposes to construct a high flow channel within a relic channel to relieve high erosive forces within the main channel and to enhance floodplain connectivity. The WDFW is submitting the JARPA to the Army Corps of Engineers in December 2016. Construction funds have been received through the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and the Department of Ecology for implementation in summer 2017.
- Site #2 proposes to remove spoils and dikes from the floodplain, shallow the gravel pits to improve habitat conditions, and enhance connectivity. The project will be implemented in two phases targeted for 2018 and 2020 in order to allow effectiveness monitoring for biological benefit to occur. A Washington Coast Restoration Initiative (WCRI) grant application has been submitted for phase #1 construction during the 2017-2019 biennium, with additional match funds currently being sought to complete phase #1. The Grays Harbor Conservation District has been working with several farmers to design and install farm pads. The farm pads provide an opportunity for beneficial reuse of the spoils on the Lower Satsop property. These projects are proposed for construction during summer 2017 using funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority.

Meeting ended at 1:02 pm.

### 3. Next Steps

- We will consider reconvening the group in spring or summer 2017 if these quick update forums are useful to participants (**please give us your feedback!**). Please send feedback to:
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  - Scott Boettcher – [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com)
- Scott will work with projects and regulatory agencies to ensure both are connected and issues are identified early.

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