

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

**Meeting 9:00 A.M.**

**Telephone Meeting**

**November 17, 2016 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen

**Board Members Absent:** Jenifer Slempe, City of Napavine; Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville

**Others Present:** Dave Curtis, WEST Consultants; Jessica Hausman, Ecology; Jessica Housley, WA Coast; Kim Smith, Grays Harbor County Conservation District; Dale Lewis, Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler's office; Jim Kramer, Facilitator; Scott Boettcher, Staff

### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from October 20, 2016
- Local Projects List
- [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Nov2016](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Nov2016)

### **1. Call to order**

Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

### **2. Introductions**

Introductions were made as members called in.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda and so approved by consensus.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Notes for October**

There were no corrections or changes to the meeting notes and they were approved by consensus.

### **5. Status of Local Projects**

Mr. Boettcher stated the 2015-17 Current Projects document is a table showing the budget and how the projects pencil out. Columns 2 and 3 reflect changes approved at the last meeting. There is still approximately \$282,000 of 2015-17 money that is not obligated. Mr. Boettcher is working with Thurston County to jump start flood proofing projects that were identified. Thurston County has a list of priorities. Mr. Boettcher also contacted Centralia but they are too stacked up with other work to start a floodproofing project now. With money returned for projects not started, other projects are able to get under way.

The middle part of the table shows current amounts and amount spent. At the far right are some projects that will need to have funds carried forward, such as China Creek, the airport pump project, Mill Creek in Cosmopolis and the Elma outfall project. These will be re-appropriated to the next biennium. Mr. Boettcher will continue working with sponsors to make sure the numbers are precise.

In the last column, \$3.83 million was held for construction on the Wishkah Rd project. When that project had challenges of getting started, rather than putting money into that project, it was held aside and that will be re-appropriated for the 2017-19 biennium.

Priority #1: The 2017-19 projects were introduced at the October meeting. The Flood Authority chose to jump start some of those projects and Mr. Boettcher re-categorized the proposals that are going to implement solutions, continue efforts already started, or address emergent situations.

Priority #2: These are projects that were projected to be outcomes of studies but the studies are not yet done, such as the Dillenbaugh Creek. For those that are tied to a study not yet finalized, it is premature to make a decision until those studies are concluded.

Mr. Boettcher summarized the projects for Priority #1, stating that the total is approximately \$10.5 million. The estimate for Priority #2 is approximately \$7.7 million

Mr. Averill stated in Priority #2 there are several projects that the committee was unsure if the funding source should be for small projects or out of the habitat restoration, or another pot. That will be worked out after studies are completed. There are a couple of projects that might be substantially lower if we find another solution after the studies.

Chair Raines asked if it was necessary to have the Flood Authority approve, or if having approval of the work group was an appropriate action. Mr. Kramer stated it was appropriate for the work group to approve upon recommendation of the Flood Authority.

There was consensus to move the projects to the Governor's work group.

## **6. Local Contribution**

Mr. Boettcher stated that Senator Braun has asked that we look in the Basin for where local governments put their own money for the flood future, and what we are doing that demonstrates we are not just running on capital dollars. Senator Braun, Mr. Vander Stoep and Mr. Boettcher discussed this and decided to application for use of ".09 funds" (return sales tax \$ for purposes of rural economic development -- <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14.370>). Chair Raines stated that last year Grays Harbor County used about \$250,000 of that County's .09 fund to jump start a timber works project and an economic development planning process. Mr. Boettcher has application forms from Lewis County and Grays Harbor County. He stated we must be mindful that we don't submit an application and upset an apple cart. For example, if the Economic Development Council (EDC) in a county is already pursuing a project, we don't want to submit an application to interfere with that.

Another avenue Senator Braun, Mr. Vander Stoep and Mr. Boettcher talked about was collecting input from Public Works departments, as well as the Conservation Districts. They still need to work with Thurston County.

Chair Raines stated this is an opportunity to use the money that will make an impression in our community and in the legislature that we are helping ourselves.

Commissioner Fund stated she was glad we are looking at what we are spending now, as well as doing things for flood prevention. We need to educate the EDC about what we are doing.

## **7. Flood Warning System**

Mr. Boettcher stated that last year there was quite a large increase in the number of people who signed up to receive email alerts for gages. A survey was sent to those folks and it had good feedback. An email was sent to the list to verify that they are still interested in receiving alerts. People were asked if they are interested in a pilot project to test Twitter. There will be about 20 people to help with the pilot project.

Dave Curtis, WEST Consultants, stated that half of the 150 have responded to the initial email. The overall response is very encouraging, and this is a positive outreach program. It adds an increased amount of engagement and people are paying attention to the flood threat and it is driving people to the website. We were very pleased with the overall positive comments; there were no significant complaints, and we discovered a wide range of reasons for people signing up. Next spring we will expand to a more complete survey to everyone on the list.

Mr. Curtis continued to say that the National Weather Service has exciting projects and products coming out that will be beneficial to the Chehalis basin. He is exploring the idea of getting a pilot project for the Chehalis Basin.

Mr. Boettcher thanked Mr. Curtis for thinking of opportunities for our basin to move forward.

Mr. Boettcher asked how to let people know that this capability exists. He suggested that Flood Authority members could send out a piece to distribution networks and asked for other ideas to further get this out. He stated if anyone wants to sign up for the Tweeting pilot to let him know. Chair Raines asked if he could provide a blurb to put on the website so people would know how to do that. Mr. Boettcher stated he would draft something with a link to show people where to go. Commissioner Fund asked if a graphic could be used in addition to the text.

Mr. Boettcher stated the folks working on the Programmatic EIS have a large distribution list and that could be used. There are people out there that we have not touched yet.

Mr. Curtis stated that people do not need to live in the Basin to receive alerts.

## **8. Financial Report**

The financial report was not available at the time of the meeting.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **10. Reports**

### **a. Chair Report**

The Chair had no report.

### **b. Member Report**

The Chair asked that member reports be suspended until the next in-person meeting.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Kramer stated there had been discussion about whether a December meeting is needed. If it is not necessary, then nominations for Chair and Vice Chair need to be made before the January meeting. Chari Raines asked if the members wanted to cancel the December meeting. There was consensus to cancel.

The Chair then opened nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2017. She asked that nominations be emailed to Mr. Kramer prior to the January meeting, which will be held in Thurston County.

d. State Team Report

Commissioner Fund has been attending the WSAC conference. She stated there has been discussion and interest in flood control and hydroelectricity.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

DRAFT