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**Subject:** September 19 Flood Authority Meeting Highlights  
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**Attachments:** [Flood Authority Meeting Highlights September 19 2013.docx](#)

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Dear Chehalis Basin Flood Authority Members and Interested Parties,

Attached is a summary of the September 19th Flood Authority meeting. Please feel free to circulate the summary to others. Also, please mark your calendars for the policy workshop scheduled for November 13, 2013 at the Great Wolf Lodge. The workshop will focus on the latest findings from the state agencies and Anchor QEA consulting team regarding national research on water retention structures, aquatic species data collected this fall, analysis of the 2007 flood, criteria for evaluating flood damage reduction projects and the initial work on the aquatic species enhancement plan. A detailed agenda for the workshop will be sent out later in October.

Thanks,  
Jim

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## **Chehalis Basin Flood Authority**

### **Highlights of the September 19, 2013 Flood Authority Meeting**

#### **Adna Field Visit**

The Flood Authority met September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Adna Grange and heard the story of the devastation caused by the 2007 flood. Following the morning meeting, Flood Authority members along with state and federal officials visited the completed work on the Adna drainage system which is expected to prevent the kind of damage that occurred locally in 2007. They also visited several farms receiving firsthand reports on the 2007 damage and heard the farmers' appreciation for the construction of critter pads and evacuation routes that will provide protection for animals and equipment in future floods.

#### **Construction Project Updates**

Sixteen design and construction projects have been funded by the state legislature in the basin since 2012. In less than three months since passage of the new 2013 state capital budget (which provided \$15,092,000 for local projects), five state construction funding contracts have been issued to Bucoda, Cosmopolis, Grays Harbor County (Wishkah Road), Montesano and Pe Ell totaling \$8.4M or 55% of budgeted dollars. In the next quarter an additional three to five projects will be issued state construction funding contracts. Progress in getting dollars out to local communities has been the product of hard work by project sponsors, the Washington State Office of Financial Management and support from the Flood Authority and its staff. Local projects range from protection of the Pe Ell and Montesano sewage treatment plants to ensuring Bucoda's drinking water is safe from flooding and the levee around the Centralia/Chehalis airport is structurally sound. See local project updates at [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34489/local\\_projects.aspx#2012](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34489/local_projects.aspx#2012).

#### **Floodplain Management Assessment**

The Flood Authority supported the development of an assessment of each local government's floodplain management program in the Basin to determine if improvements could be made for the protection of existing homes and businesses in the floodplain, and to ensure new development does not increase the number of people or structures in harm's way. The assessment will build on past work of the Flood Authority to look at local land use regulations and identify areas where it is appropriate to improve floodplain management consistency across the Basin. The work will also identify ways to reduce flood insurance rates to local homeowners and address properties that are damaged repetitively by floods. The State has provided over \$1M to assist in buying properties and/or elevating homes. The Flood Authority also supported inviting representatives of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to



the November 21, 2013 Flood Authority meeting to update Flood Authority members on the status of the national flood insurance program.

### **Stream and Weather Gages Support the Flood Warning System**

Flood Authority members were presented with an overview of additional gages and stations in the Basin that are owned by other interests (e.g., USGS, NOAA, Ecology, etc.) and tied into the flood warning system. Basin local governments are spending approximately \$130K to maintain gages that are critical to provide flood warnings to homeowners, businesses and others. See comprehensive overview site of basin gages and stations at [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34856/gages\\_stations.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34856/gages_stations.aspx).

### **Next Steps to Advance the Basin-wide Strategy**

J. Vander Stoep provided the Flood Authority with an update on the detailed analyses that will be conducted over the next year on the feasibility of water retention, alternative structures to protect Interstate 5, smaller flood damage reduction projects and the enhancement of aquatic species. There will be three key points during the next year for interested parties and the public to provide input to the Flood Authority and the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group. The first will be a policy workshop on November 13, 2013. In addition to hearing the overview briefing, the Flood Authority supported a proposed process to update and expand their previous work in identifying small projects in the Basin that can help reduce localized damage.

### **Meeting Materials**

Meeting materials from the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found at -- [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/meetings\\_2013-15.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings_2013-15.aspx).