



January 17, 2018

TO: Flood Authority Members
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: Staff Report

The purpose of this memo is to update Flood Authority members on recent Flood Authority activities. This brief staff report is in lieu of the Thursday, January 18, 2018 Flood Authority Meeting. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

Note: This report is also posted here -- https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#Jan2018.

A. Gages/Flood Warning System

1. Gage Alerts -- Gage alert sign-ups continue. Current tally is 984. This represents a 160% increase over 2014 (when the gage alert program was started). Most popular gages continue to be:
 - Chehalis at Centralia -- <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=cenw1>
 - Newaukum River Near Chehalis -- <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=neww1>
 - Skookumchuck River at Centralia -- <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=ctaw1>See all gage alert sign-ups [here](#).
2. Gage Datum Resurveys – Ecology and USGS have taken measures to resurvey gage datums to NAVD88 as follows:
 - Ecology -- Due to lack of a State Capital budget, no physical surveys have actually been conducted to reset Ecology gages from arbitrary datum to NAVD88. Resurveying is expected to start once State Capital Budget funding resumes.
 - USGS – Six out of 17 gages owned by USGS in the Basin have been physically resurveyed. Remainder will be surveyed in February and March 2018.
 - Ecology and USGS – Ecology and USGS met in the field December 12, 2017 for a joint session to set common field practices and methodologies so resurveying efforts by the two agencies are conducted in the same manner and method as USGS.

3. Centralia Gages -- Two new Flood Authority-funded gages in Centralia have been installed, are operational, and are reporting to the National Weather Service (NWS) website. Result is much more accurate real-time reporting for two of the Flood Warning System's (FWS) most popular gages.
 - Chehalis River at Centralia
 - NWS site -- <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=cenw1>
 - FWS site -- https://chehalis.onerain.com/site.php?site_id=22812&site=49db3831-6517-40a1-9bdd-c86300c495e2
 - Skookumchuck River at Centralia
 - NWS site -- <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=sew&gage=ctaw1>
 - FWS site -- https://chehalis.onerain.com/site.php?site_id=22804&site=23a7ceaa-7d6c-4453-b695-5bed3b415b94

See pictures of new gages [here](#).

B. Local Projects

1. 15-17 Local Projects -- The Local Projects Information Center has recently been updated with current tracking, expenditure, and project completion information. See www.ezview.wa.gov/Chehalis-Basin-Local-Projects-Information-Center. Couple notable points about 2015-17 local projects:
 - 28 out of 33 local projects are complete and ready for the current flood season (see [here](#)).
 - 96% of local project funding (2015-17 funding) has been expended on local project completion (\$15.8 M) leaving \$650K remaining to be spent.
2. 17-19 Local Projects – The Flood Authority's Projects Committee is currently working with sponsors of projects identified as either Priority #1 or Priority #2 (see [here](#)) for 2017-19 funding to update their project scopes of work, budgets, and timelines in anticipation of a 2017-19 State Capital Budget now that the Legislature has convened. See [here](#) for most current version of State Capital Budget being considered by the Legislature, as well [here](#).
3. 19-21 Local Projects – Staff presented a conceptual local project identification and selection process at the December 7, 2017 Chehalis Basin Board meeting that showed how the Chehalis Basin Board might be integrated into that decision-making process. Staff will advance the conceptual process outlined to the Board to a more detailed version showing the distinct roles of the Projects Committee, the full Flood Authority, and the Chehalis Basin Board, as well will detail the progression and timeline for the local project decision-making process with emphasis on clarifying roles, steps, sequence, and timeline. The next iteration of the decision-making process will be presented to the Board at their February 4, 2018 meeting.

C. Outreach/Education

1. In remembrance of the December 3-7, 2007 flood, the following Op-Ed was prepared and distributed to print and radio media outlets last week: https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/FINAL%20Op-Ed%2012-11-2017.pdf

2. The Flood Authority sponsored a well-received public webinar December 4, 2017 regarding the Chehalis Basin Flood Warning System. It is estimated that upwards of 60+ people viewed the webinar from 31 distinct locations (see participant distribution [here](#)). Webinar materials (i.e., webinar recording, webinar presentation, response to chat questions, webinar participants) have been posted to: https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/36487/Flood-Warning-System-Notice.aspx.
3. Based on positive feed received from the December 4, 2017 Flood Warning System webinar a next webinar is being planned for March or April 2018 regarding the hydraulic model (what it is, how it is used, and why it's relevant to flood hazard reduction in the Basin).

D. Office of Chehalis Basin/Chehalis Basin Board

1. Staff presented to the Chehalis Basin Board December 5, 2017 in Aberdeen. Purpose of the presentation was to discuss the process used by the Flood Authority to identify, prioritize, and select local flood damage reduction projects each biennium. Staff presentation can be viewed as follows:
 - Part I -- What Are Local Projects? (see [here](#)).
 - Part II – How Are Local Projects Selected/Funded? (see [here](#)).

These materials are also available at the Flood Authority's Local Projects Information Center at www.ezview.wa.gov/Chehalis-Basin-Local-Projects-Information-Center.

2. For future reference, Office of Chehalis Basin and Chehalis Basin Board materials are typically posted to the following websites with the Chehalis Basin Board meeting the first Thursday of each month:
 - Office of Chehalis Basin (see [here](#)).
 - Chehalis Basin Board (see [here](#)).

E. Executive Committee

1. 2018 Annual Flood Warning System Costs -- The Flood Authority's Executive Committee (Commissioners Raines, Fund, and Blake) held a conference call December 14, 2017 with staff to review and discuss proposed 2018 flood warning system operations and maintenance costs (\$59,547). Each of the members were individually polled as to whether or not they agreed with the proposed costs for their jurisdiction for 2018. Each of the members did agree with the proposed costs for their jurisdiction as presented and did agree to pay those costs for 2018. 2018 costs breakout across the three counties as follows:
 - Grays Harbor County (22%) = \$13,100.34.
 - Lewis County (64%) = \$38,110.08.
 - Thurston County (14%) = \$8,336.58.

See staff briefing memo [here](#).

F. Next Flood Authority Meeting

1. Next Flood Authority meeting will be Thursday February 15, 2018. It will be an afternoon conference call/web meeting.