



April 17, 2019

TO: Flood Authority Members
FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff
SUBJECT: Flood Warning System Assets and Long-Term Plans

The purpose of this memo is to outline thoughts by Lewis County, acting as fiscal agent for the Flood Authority, regarding the Flood Warning System, its assets, and long-term plans. We will discuss this at Thursday's 4-18-2019 Flood Authority meeting. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

A. Background

1. Lewis County acts as fiscal agent for the Flood Authority and has fulfilled this role since inception of the Flood Authority in 2008.
2. Lewis County's duties as fiscal agent are more fully described here (April 17, 2017 Interlocal Agreement) -- https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Interlocal%20Agreement%20Among%20Chehalis%20River%20Basin%20Communities%204-17-2017.pdf.
3. As fiscal agent Lewis County acts at the direction of the Flood Authority on matters of interest and relevance to the Flood Authority, like the Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System (www.chehalisriverflood.com).
4. The Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System consists of "services" (website hosting, domain name, annual O&M contract, etc.) and "physical assets" (gages, webcams, spare parts inventory, etc.).
5. Purchase, installation and calibration of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System's "physical assets" have all been done by WEST Consultants under contract to Lewis County acting as fiscal agent to the Flood Authority. As such, it is the initial opinion of Lewis County that Lewis County is de facto owner of Flood Warning System "physical assets" (and that the Flood Authority is owner in name only).
6. It is further the opinion of Lewis County that since the Flood Warning System is now developed, operational, and well-used it is a good time to switch focus and attend to longer-term administrative matters (ownership, landowner access agreements, insurance, etc.) and do so with the remainder of the 2017-19 biennium.

B. Recommended Next Steps

1. Lewis County asks that the Flood Authority authorize and direct Lewis County (supported by Flood Authority staff) to:
 - a. Identify and catalogue Flood Warning System physical assets.
 - b. Identify long-term ownership options for these physical assets.
 - c. Prepare a preferred plan for Flood Authority consideration and approval, including updating current landowner here (https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/28124/library.aspx#Access).
2. Lewis County further asks to report back to the Flood Authority at the July 18, 2019 meeting on:
 - a. The status of its activities in this regard; and
 - b. A proposed longer-term plan for Flood Warning System physical assets.

Note1: Documented authorization from the Flood Authority to Lewis County to proceed with development of a longer-term plan for Flood Warning System assets is necessary for future State Auditor's Office Accountability Audits.