



April 15, 2020

TO: Flood Authority Members

FROM: Scott Boettcher, Staff

SUBJECT: Local Resolutions

Purpose of this memo is to provide Flood Authority members with background, discussion material regarding another round of local resolutions favoring basin-wide solutions. We will discuss this at tomorrow's 4-16-2020 meeting. Please call or email with questions (360/480-6600, scottb@sbgh-partners.com).

A. Background

1. At the October 20, 2016 Flood Authority meeting, Flood Authority members discussed the merits of different alternatives evaluated under Ecology's DRAFT Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the Chehalis Basin Strategy (Reducing Flood Damage, Restoring Aquatic Species Habitat) and agreed to memorialize their support for Alternative 1. This included support for the proposed water retention facility, Aberdeen Hoquiam levee, continuation of local projects and an aggressive Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. See page 4 of meeting notes here https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/10.20.16%20draft%20Meeting%20Notes.pdf
2. Several Flood Authority jurisdictions adopted Commission and Council resolutions memorializing their support for Alternative 1. [Note: Flood Authority jurisdictions have also adopted earlier resolutions in years past favoring basin-wide solutions.] See catalogue of local resolutions here https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/37643/local_resolutions.aspx

B. DEIS -- Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

1. The Department of Ecology is holding an online public meeting on April 21, 2020 to present to share information about and take comment on the draft state Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.
2. The draft environmental report is available for review at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/2006002.html>.

C. Potential Resolution Content

Should Flood Authority members desire to develop a next round of local resolutions, or a resolution from the Flood Authority as a whole, or both, the following is provided as content for further discussion:

1. In 2008-09 most of the jurisdictions on the Flood Authority adopted resolutions in favor of a basin-wide flood plan that included support for a science-based evaluation of a water retention facility above Pe Ell. In October 2016, the Flood Authority together and many jurisdictions individually adopted resolutions and statements of support favoring Alternative 1 of the Department of Ecology's Programmatic EIS. Alternative 1 was regarded as the most beneficial combination of flood protection and aquatic species enhancement in the Chehalis River Basin with the least adverse impacts.
2. Today, our views remain the same. We need solutions that provide the most beneficial combination of flood protection and aquatic species enhancement in the Chehalis River Basin with the least adverse impacts.
3. We'd like to offer some perspectives from communities in the basin who seek balanced solutions for people, fish and aquatic species. The DRAFT EIS for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction project identifies:
 - a. Benefits of significant reductions in catastrophic levels of flooding for communities from Pe Ell to Montesano and further downstream. Flood levels for much of the study area would be reduced by 3 to 5 feet (Summary, pg. S-9, [here](#).), as well substantial reductions in impact and flood inundation for thousands of valuable structures, including homes, schools, churches, small businesses, state highways and I-5.
 - b. Impacts to several fish, aquatic species and their habitat that are considered unavoidable impacts unless mitigation is technically feasible and economically practicable. (Summary, pg. S-8, [here](#).)
4. There are balanced pathways forward that gain for one and all the benefits of the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction project, which will require mitigating impacts coupled with a basin-wide Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. In addition to the technical mitigations identified in the DEIS (Exhibit S-6, pg. S-13, [here](#)) is the Chehalis Basin Strategy and the Chehalis Basin Board. This basin-wide effort to reduce flood damages and enhance aquatic species (the strategy) and this group (the Board) are the institutional capacity that will ensure mitigations are funded, implemented and results achieved. The track record to date for this group is undeniable (local projects, habitat investments, long-term strategy, all stakeholders working together, etc.). The group will ensure the most beneficial combination of flood protection and aquatic species enhancement in the Chehalis River Basin with the least adverse impacts.
5. Thank you for your willingness to listen and consider the perspectives of the Flood Authority and its members. We comprise jurisdictions in the Basin that also seek on a daily basis to balance projects and decision-making for the benefit of people, fish, and local, state and tribal interests.

D. Recommendation

Staff should be directed to develop suggested resolution content for Flood Authority jurisdictions, and to develop a Flood Authority position statement for signature by the Chair and Vice-Chair.