

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Telephone Meeting

June 20, 2013 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Mark Swartout, Thurston County; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Ken Estes, City of Montesano;

Board Members Absent: Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis (excused); Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell.

Others Present: John Lucas, Lewis County Farm Bureau; Rob Hill, City of Centralia; Lee Napier, Lewis County; Kimberly Pincheira, Senator Cantwell's office; Jim Kramer; Scott Boettcher

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from May 16, 2013
- 2013-2015 Biennium Budget
- Financial Report

WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Commissioner Fund called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

2. Introductions

Callers identified themselves; there was a quorum of the Flood Authority.

3. Update on Legislature

Mr. Kramer stated the Legislature has been having discussions about solving the budget issues. As far as he knows the portion of the budget for the Chehalis Basin projects is supported by the House and Senate.

BUSINESS MEETING

The call to order and introductions were dispensed.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved.

4. Approval of May 16 Meeting Notes

There were no changes to the meeting notes and they were approved.

5. Approval of 2013-2015 Biennium Budget

Mr. Kramer spoke to the primary tasks for the Flood Authority and Staff. The draft paper was included in the email sent to the Flood Authority earlier in the week. Mr. Kramer stated the FEMA maps are not finished and are not going to be completed before June 30, 2013 so those funds will be carried over into the next fiscal year. The total for Kramer Consulting, SBGH Partners, Lewis County, Floodplain

Management Assessment, West Consulting and the maps is \$544,000. The administrative costs may change by a few thousand dollars, depending on what is available from the State.

Mr. Averill asked from which contracts Lewis County be administrating in the 2013-2015 biennium. Mr. Kramer stated it would be Kramer Consulting, SBGH and OFM. There will also be a contract for the assessment of local government floodplain management programs. In the last few months the only active contracts were Kramer and SBGH. Mr. Averill asked if this would come out of the \$2.2 million administrative section of the bill. Mr. Kramer stated that was correct. He also stated it was possible that the funding for WEST to update the early warning system with the new floodplain maps would be from funds carried over from the past biennium.

Mr. Averill made a motion to approve the budget; Mr. Cook seconded.

Mr. Estes stated there is nothing in the budget about sustainable costs for the Early Warning System. Mr. Kramer stated there is no budget item because this is the State's capital budget; funding the Early Warning System is not eligible under the State Capital Budget.

Mr. Cook stated he understood that was maintenance and annual cost for each was a responsibility of the local governments participating in the Flood Authority. Mr. Kramer stated that was correct – the annual maintenance did not include replacement of gauges. Mr. Boettcher stated that he is developing options for continued funding of the early warning system and they would be presented at the July Flood Authority meeting.

Commissioner Fund asked if there were any objections to approving the budget. There were none and it was approved.

6. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

7. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Commissioner Fund stated there was no report from Chair Raines.

b. Member Reports

Centralia – Mr. Averill stated the I-5 project is at a standstill. There is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Phase II which will begin in August.

Chehalis – Mr. Haberstroh asked if the levee project had been held up because of wetland delineation. Mr. Boettcher stated the project was split up into phases and those phases are currently on target. Commissioner Fund stated the delay on the airport levee had been resolved and should not affect timelines. Mr. Boettcher stated the work is still on track with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Haberstroh thought a lot of money was being wasted by moving equipment in and out.

Montesano – Mr. Estes stated the Montesano projects are on schedule; information is on the city website.

Oakville – Mr. Thompson stated the Sickman Ford overflow bridge work started two weeks ago.

Bucoda – Mr. Vanell stated the project manual for the levee improvement project has been received; large blueprints have been drafted and the project is moving forward and is on schedule.

Grays Harbor County – Commissioner Cormier stated everything is on schedule; there has been good communication with the engineers.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team Report.

8. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the report was presented in its typical format. The current expenditures were in Tasks 7 and 8 and totaled \$12,000. She asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Averill stated there is \$87,000 still not spent and only about \$12,000 will be spent through June. What will happen with the leftover amount? Mr. Kramer stated he has been discussing that with Ms. Olson. He thought the unspent funds would be carried over and any work not completed by June 30, 2013 could be funded. It will likely only apply to the work by West.

Commissioner Fund asked for an update on the Education and Outreach Committee. Mr. Boettcher stated there are outreach meetings scheduled for June 25 in Grays Harbor (Aberdeen), July 8 with WDFW, July 24 with DOE. DNR would like to set up a meeting also.

Commissioner Fund asked members to contact Mr. Boettcher if they know of any group or agency that wants to schedule a meeting.

9. Confirm Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 18 at the Adna Grange. Tours of the Adna levee and the Airport levee are being planned. Commissioner Fund asked if there were topics for the agenda.

Mr. Averill stated the funding of the maintenance and gauges for the Early Warning System needs to be discussed.

Mr. Kramer stated sponsors of three of the Jobs Now Act projects will be presenting their preferred alternatives at the July meeting.

Mr. Averill thought he understood Representative Dunshee to say there was a problem with the Chehalis Basin projects in the capital budget - that something was left out. Mr. Kramer stated he had not heard anything but he would check with Sandy Triggs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.