

**Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
Business Meeting  
Bucoda Community Center  
Bucoda, WA**

**November 17, 2011 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting Notes**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Raines called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She stated Dr. Curtis would be first on the agenda for the afternoon meeting since time ran out in the morning session.

**2. Introductions**

The Chair dispensed with the introductions.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with the change for Dr. Curtis. The motion passed by consensus.

**4. Approval of the meeting notes from October 20, 2011**

Commissioner Averill made a motion to approve both the morning work session and business meeting notes from October 20, 2011. Ms. Powe seconded. The motion passed by consensus.

**5. Public Comments**

There were none.

**6. Reports**

a. Chair's report

Chairman Raines stated she sent letters to the Chehalis Tribe on October 31 and on November 9. A phone call to Chairman Burnett had not yet been returned. A letter was sent to the Quinault Nation regarding consultation and they are working on their calendars to come up with a suitable date.

Chairman Raines stated thank you notes went out to the legislators for the October tour and emails to those who provided assistance with that tour.

b. Correspondence

The Chair stated letters from the Cities of Napavine and Cosmopolis were received requesting membership into the Flood Authority. This morning she received a letter from the Town of Bucoda naming Mark Swartout as the alternate to the Flood Authority, and she received correspondence from the City of Aberdeen in support of membership for Napavine and Cosmopolis.

Chairman Raines stated the paper keeps talking about the Tribe coming back to the Flood Authority. She stated the Flood Authority has asked for a consultation to discuss the issues with both Tribes.

c. Member reports

Commissioner Willis stated there would be a meeting in Montesano tonight regarding the Emergency Management and the Early Warning System as well as a discussion about issues to work on for Grays Harbor County.

Ms. Fund stated Chief Berg has been working on the flood awareness meeting at Centralia College at 5:30 tonight.

Commissioner Averill stated emergency management in Lewis County's part of the basin covers all but the City of Centralia; Chief Berg's plan is independent. At the meeting at Centralia College, the County Emergency Management team will explain what can be done to prepare for a flood. Dr. Curtis will talk about the Early Warning System. On another matter, there will be a look at LiDAR coverage for Public Works and flood management people. He stated the county is running some additional LiDAR and WSDOT will join in that project as they have an interest in the I-5 corridor. 187 square miles of new LiDAR coverage will be available to WSE and others.

Commissioner Averill stated USGS has some gages that were to help the Corps with the Twin Cities Project and now that it may be winding down USGS wants to take the gages out. There needs to be a discussion about the alternatives and that will be discussed under Item 9 on today's agenda.

Mr. Thompson reported that the City of Oakville is in full swing in preparing for flood season. During the council workshop, the fire chief spent an hour going over the plan that will be activated. The City web page is being updated to include Flood Authority updates, including the fish study, and the local paper is being updated about the Early Warning System.

Ms. Powe complimented Lewis County on its emergency management meeting. She encouraged people to attend the other flood preparedness meetings.

Commissioner Valenzuela reported that Thurston County hosted a flood awareness meeting last night; only two people from the public attended. The speakers were wonderful, as was Dr. Curtis' presentation. The challenge with the Early Warning System is education and Dr. Curtis is optimistic that people will be able to use it.

Commissioner Valenzuela also reported that there was a very bad windstorm last night and over 2400 customers were without power.

Chairman Raines stated the City of Montesano had some projects slated for funding depending on projects up and down the river. Cosmopolis has started a process of engineering for the Mill Creek Dam (breached in 2008) removal and restoration. She also stated that the emergency management meeting in Cosmopolis went well.

The Town of Bucoda had no report.

The Town of Pe Ell had no report.

#### d. State Team Report

Mr. John Donahue stated a number of state agency people looked at the fish report that was presented this morning. There might be some benefit from the draft – as comments come back we could find an

occasion to put them to better use. Travis Nelson with WDFW could not come and he consults on issues regarding the fish study. He sent an email to Ms. Fowler with comments about last months' meeting and we need to work with Mr. Nelson to get them resolved.

Ms. Fowler stated Mr. Hueckel has a meeting with Mr. Nelson on December 2.

## **7. Updates on Sub-Committees**

### **a. Education and Outreach – Edna Fund and Lara Fowler**

Ms. Fund stated the meeting tonight at the college would be taped and copies will be sent to the Timberland Libraries. The Committee is still working on the FAQs.

Ms. Fowler stated the meeting in Rochester produced a lot of questions for Dr. Curtis. Tonight the open house at the College is from 5:30 to 7:30. Dr. Curtis will present at that meeting first and then drive to Montesano for another presentation.

Ms. Fowler stated there was concern about how much notice was given about the meetings and she apologized for the crunch in timing. She asked if there are ways to take this information public – can it go on public access TV? There needs to be a chance to talk about flood preparedness because this winter is predicted to be wetter than usual. She added that she will follow up as to how to get the film out and see about getting it on the website.

Ms. Fowler stated Mr. Boettcher is working on responses to the FAQs. The Education and Outreach committee will look at answers and those answers will go to the Flood Authority. Mr. Boettcher is also working on populating the website so that all the information is in one place. There will be two websites. The existing site will contain simpler information and a link to the secure State website. He is trying to get a public password. OFM has also hosted a site but it has out of date material and Mr. Boettcher is working on updating that.

Ms. Fowler projected the new website on the screen and explained some of the tabs. She asked for feedback from the Executive Committee. It will go live as soon as possible and in the meantime the Lewis County site will be updated and modified without losing any information. The site hosted by Lewis County will have instructions to get to the new iPRMT site.

### **b. Project Committee – Greg Hueckel**

Mr. Hueckel stated the Committee will meet on November 22. The project list is on its third version and there are 270 projects. He proposed at the last meeting that there would be an objective and the idea was to identify with the projects not just as a prioritized list but what it will take to get the projects on the ground. That takes prioritizing in different time frames, looking at how shovel-ready they are, how long it will take to get permits. Some may be more ready than others. He thought projects should be prioritized based on the time frame and how applicable they are to flood relief, how mitigative they are or if they can serve as mitigation and flood relief. There was a question about capital projects. The Flood Authority is thinking it wants to develop a priority list for capital projects for capital funding. Mr. Phillips thought that was a good idea and would be well received with the budget committee. He would like a prioritized list by December and he's not sure we can get there.

Commissioner Averill stated the Committee found that the original list was done for the Flood Hazard Management Plan, mostly for mitigation. Maybe some things are for enhancement so it's possible there

will be two lists. Mr. Hueckel stated there will be several categories that may be applicable for different funding in different places. We don't want to preclude anything.

A question was asked if the Flood Authority has consulted with the Tribes. Chairman Raines stated she is trying to coordinate that.

Commissioner Averill stated the Quinault Tribe has been participating in the fish studies and providing data. Mr. Hueckel did go through the Chehalis Tribal Watershed Plan but he has had no access to the Quinault's. He did ask both tribes to participate in the review of documents.

#### **8. Discussion: Coordination with OFM Alternative Measures Report**

Ms. Fowler stated Mr. Jim Kramer was present at the meeting. He will work with OFM on the Alternatives Measures Report to coordinate on the state side of things and with the Flood Authority.

Mr. Jim Kramer introduced himself and stated that Mr. Phillips asked the Ruckelshaus Center to provide project management coordination for the OFM Alternatives Measures Report. Mr. Kramer is a private consultant and he got the go-ahead to start yesterday. He has been working on flood issues for thirty years and worked on the Twin Cities Project early on and is familiar with the south end [of the Basin]. He worked in King County and was responsible for its early warning system, and he worked with managing flood plain issues in Puget Sound.

Mr. Kramer stated his work in the Chehalis Basin has been limited; he is somewhat familiar but it has been a while. The job he has been given as Project Manager is to put together the report, compile the information from the State and the Flood Authority that meets the requirements of the legislative bill (ESHB2020). He hopes it will serve the communities of the basin as well as responding to the legislative mandate. He wants to develop a detailed outline of what the report should be and make sure it is something that will serve the Flood Authority.

Mr. Kramer continued to say that he has been asked to interview leaders across the basin to identify options for moving forward as well as for technical information. He hopes to produce a report in three drafts: one will be internal, the second will go to the Flood Authority and other interested parties and the third will ask for official comments. He needs to determine the timeline and should have that by the first of the year.

Ms. Fowler showed a graphic of what is required for the report. Some items will come from the Flood Authority and some will come from OFM and it still needs to be determined who does what. The second graphic showed the report requirements, assignments, assessments, etc.

Commissioner Averill stated the list in ESHB 2020 appeared to be a list gathered by a committee looking at disparate projects. The bill requires access to the hospital. That is part of the Mellen St. interchange starting in the spring. At that time the widening project will continue from Maytown which will provide a new access to the hospital. That project is already set.

#### **9. Update on Early Warning system – Dave Curtis**

Dr. Curtis presented a PowerPoint which gave the Early Warning System background, general information about flood warning, and the implementation of the program. He gave two websites for

information that might be helpful: <http://www.hydrologicwarning.org> and <http://contrail.onerain.com> (he said to not put a “www” in front of the contrail address).

Two sets of gages yet to be installed were discussed. One would be on DNR land near a correctional facility in Thurston County. The other is on Weyerhaeuser property. Weyerhaeuser has a contract with logging companies to access their property but it is a different contract from what the Flood Authority needs. Flood Authority staff are working with representatives from both entities to figure out the liability and insurance questions.

Mr. Treichler asked if the state could assume the liability. Commissioner Averill stated Mr. Phillips is working on that. The fisheries people working on the same issue were allowed to go in.

On a different but related subject, Commissioner Averill spoke about two USGS gages that are proposed for removal. One is on Elk Creek in Doty and the other is on Centralia-Alpha Rd. USGS wants to close them because they want to save money. We would be happy to pick them up but there is a cost issue. The other ten USGS gages are on a cost-share basis for maintenance and Lewis County pays the major portion. If these two gages are necessary, it needs to be determined who is going to pay for them.

Dr. Curtis stated if one of the gages has to be sacrificed he suggested the one on Salzer Creek because it is in a small watershed, as opposed to Elk Creek.

Commissioner Averill asked what Dr. Curtis thought was needed for the system. Dr. Curtis stated the weather system is constrained for a number of forecast places in the systems. The Elk Creek gage would be valuable to have.

#### **10. Discussion and Potential action on request from Napavine and Cosmopolis to join Flood Authority**

Ms. Fowler stated she had sent out an updated staff report on Wednesday talking about what was in the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and the Flood Authority bylaws. There was a question about whether or not the ILA had been updated to include Oakville and it was.

Commissioner Averill stated at the time Oakville was brought on the Quinault Indian Nation asked to join. There was a concern about ownership of land in the Basin, and a general concern that the Flood Authority would get too large. A limit was set at eleven members but he recalled that that would expire in two years. There is no restriction at this time for the entry of new members.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated the Flood Authority had gone through this before and there are only two of the original members on the board presently. It seems it should be consistent with the way it was done originally.

Commissioner Averill stated when the Authority was first set up, jurisdictions would be on the Board if they had land use decision making authority on the main stream. Bucoda came in because Lewis County had three cities included and Grays Harbor had two cities. Then it was decided that jurisdictions on a major tributary could become members. There were a number of requests but the number was kept at eleven members. He recalled that in 2010 the issue of membership could be reconsidered. Napavine is near the Newaukum River and Cosmopolis is on the main stream.

Commissioner Averill made a motion to accept both cities. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fund.

Commissioner Willis stated the bylaws tell how to add new members. Ms. Fowler went through the ILA and the bylaws, although there was not a lot of guidance. The original ILA lists the original ten members, not including Oakville. She summarized the document. The Rules of Procedure did not include a lot of guidance, either.

There was more discussion, including the fact that if new members come in all the members must sign the interlocal agreement.

Ms. Lee called for the question. The motion was for no more discussion. Mr. Thompson seconded. The motion passed.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated the main motion was made and seconded to accept two new members. She stated the jurisdictions would have to take it back to their boards and the Flood Authority Board could not vote until that was done.

Commissioner Averill stated this is an advisory vote of the representatives of each jurisdiction. Should it pass, it would be necessary for all members of the jurisdictions to sign the interlocal agreement. An addendum would identify the two cities and require them to agree with the ILA and the bylaws. The Chehalis Tribe would be removed from the Interlocal Agreement since they are no longer a member.

The Chair repeated the motion. The motion passed with Chairman Raines and Commissioner Valenzuela abstaining.

#### **11. Expenditure Review**

Mr. Johnson gave the report stating \$123,062.36 was expended through the period. The rest of the report is self-explanatory. The amount of unencumbered funds is \$111,704 for the biennium.

#### **12. Confirm December 15 Meeting**

The next meeting will be on December 15 in Grays Harbor. Ms. Fowler and Chairman Raines are working on a tour in the area. Meeting and location information will be sent out at a later date.

Ms. Powe asked if an agenda topic could be a discussion of the comments on the fish study. Chairman Raines asked the cities to respond to the ILA and get it sent back in. New members could come to the January meeting. She stated Mr. Kramer would also be on the agenda for December.

Chairman Raines thanked Mr. Lionel Pinn (Napavine City Council) for attending the meeting, as well as for the bus ride in October. She thanked Dr. Curtis, Mr. Hueckel, Ms. Fowler, Mr. Karpack, Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Schlenger for attending the meeting today.

#### **13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.