

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Business Meeting - 2:30 P.M.

Chehalis Tribal Community Center  
461 Secena Rd, Oakville

### **February 16, 2012 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Vickie Raines, City of Montesano; Edna Fund, City of Centralia; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine

**Others Present:** Please see sign in sheet

#### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from January 19 and January 26, 2012
- Letter from John Donahue re: Fish Studies
- Memo from WSE: Update on H & H Modeling
- Memo from Anchor QEA: Update on Fish Impact Study
- Email from Jim Shannon re: Enhancement Study Phase 1 Report
- Memo from Jim Kramer: Proposed Next Steps for OFM Report
- Anchor QEA Budget Amendment Request for Fisheries Impact Study
- Expenditure Review

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Raines called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. She thanked the Chehalis Tribe for allowing the Flood Authority to use their facility for the Government to Government training and for the meeting.

#### **2. Introductions**

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by consensus.

#### **4. Approval of meeting notes from January 19 and January 26**

Commissioner Averill made a motion to approve the meeting notes from both days. Ms. Fund seconded. Commissioner Averill stated there were some grammatical errors in the teleconference call and he and Ms. Anderson had made the changes but the corrected version was not sent out. [The corrected version will be posted on the website]. The meeting notes were approved by consensus.

#### **5. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **6. Reports**

**a. Chair's Report**

Chairman Raines stated she and Commissioner Valenzuela had submitted an editorial to the newspapers regarding the work being done by the Flood Authority.

**b. Correspondence**

A letter was received from Chris Hempleman with Department of Ecology regarding the tidbit logger data collection. This would be discussed later in the agenda.

**c. Member Reports**

Commissioner Valenzuela stated Thurston County had approved the ILA adding Cosmopolis and Napavine to the Flood Authority Board. She also stated the opinion she and Chair Raines had drafted was sent to three newspapers; it was published in two.

Ms. Fund stated she had attended the Emergency Management meeting at Centralia College. The discussion was about emergency preparedness in the future. A couple of weeks ago there was a Doppler radar seminar and Ms. Fund distributed a handout from that seminar. The radar sees the structure of a weather system as it moves onshore which would allow EOCs to make plans 5-6 hours before the weather hits an area. There is a video of this radar on KBTV's website.

Mr. Pinn stated he appreciated the Government to Government training held this morning, which he found to be very informative.

Chairman Raines thanked all the jurisdictions for adding Cosmopolis and Napavine to the Flood Authority Board. She stated Cosmopolis continues with strategic planning for a foot bridge at Mill Creek by the end of 2012.

Ms. Powe stated Chehalis has received the grant money to continue raising homes that have been flooded in the past.

Mr. Thompson stated he updated Oakville City Council on the Flood Authority's progress. They were not pleased with the budget increases proposed by the consultants. They made it clear that they want to see action this spring.

Mr. Cook stated the training this morning was very good.

Mr. Estes stated he attended a Chehalis Basin Partnership meeting during which its relationship to the Flood Authority was discussed, which was followed by a meeting for emergency preparedness. He stated he will be transitioning to this board for the City of Montesano.

Commissioner Willis stated Grays Harbor County passed a resolution to accept Cosmopolis and Napavine to the Flood Authority Board. She stated the Commissioners talked about the Flood Authority bylaws and procedures and looked at how membership in the Flood Authority should be addressed in the future. The guidelines are very vague about procedures and she suggested the Authority look at those procedures.

Chairman Raines stated at the last meeting a comment was made that new members are considered on a case-by-case basis. The Authority could certainly re-examine the rules of procedure. Commissioner Willis stated if it is on a case-by-case basis then the language should read that way.

Commissioner Averill stated WSDOT was going to hold some sounding boards regarding the Mellen St. project and the current levee that goes around the airport property. This is in response to the capital budget legislation under which the Authority is operating and it involves Lewis County, Chehalis and Centralia. Anyone who wants to participate may do so. The meeting will be on March 8.

Mr. Gernhart stated the meeting is open to anyone and it will identify a number of issues. There is very little time and WSDOT is hoping to have three or four meetings and get information back to Jim Kramer so he can write his report. Mr. Kramer wants the draft report out in May so WSDOT needs the information in April.

Commissioner Averill stated Lewis and Thurston County got hit hard by the recent snow and ice storms. Lewis County claimed over \$1 million in damages. Half of that was suffered by the county; one-quarter by each PUD and the City of Centralia. It was not flood-related but it highlights the need to have appropriate procedures in place to respond to emergencies such as this.

#### **d. State Team Report**

Mr. Donahue stated Travis Nelson and Chuck Turley were present at the meeting. WSDOT represents the state and is just one agency helping the Flood Authority since 2007. WSDOT is working with WSE and WEST to set up the review of the hydraulic modeling. There will be a review session with technical staff, DOE, DNR and WSDOT in Bellevue next week.

Mr. Donahue stated he did not make the mailing deadline for sending out update materials to the Flood Authority. After distributing a handout and a letter to Chair Raines, he stated that he wanted to clarify how the state has been a participant in this study. The purpose of the letter, which he read, was to clarify where the state agencies stand. The attachment explained the background in the participation, the progress and going forward. Anchor is working through the comments and they have acknowledged that they are doing some re-work as a result of the comments.

Mr. Donahue continued to say that the state agencies have made no recommendations regarding flooding at this time. The State is committed to supporting the process and looks forward to commenting further on the next version of the draft.

Mr. Donahue stated that OFM and Keith Phillips have made \$40,000 available to support the funding request from Anchor. He hoped the letter clarified the questions that were heard during the last few weeks.

Ms. Powe stated the article had a number of employee comments that were hurtful. Everyone knew it was a draft. She appreciates the letter from Mr. Donahue.

Mr. Vander Stoep also appreciated the letter. He stated those people had the opportunity to make comments and did not. He asked if the Capital Budget lays out an alternative plan to protect I-5 that is an option for which WSDOT should provide a full briefing to the Flood Authority Board as it will affect everyone in the Basin. Regarding the impact of removing impediments, is WSDOT doing that work?

Mr. Gernhart stated WSDOT could give estimates to remove and replace a bridge but would not actually do the work. He did not know who would do that work.

Ms. Fowler stated the line item for bridges has not been allocated and Mr. Kramer needs to know which bridges are being considered. She stated she would touch on that later.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated the \$40,000 for Anchor would come from the state. He asked if the Flood Authority needs to take any action on that. Ms. Fowler stated the supplemental agreement with Anchor needs to be updated; this is a change order in the contract. At the last meeting the Flood Authority authorized up to \$40,000 for the work still to be done.

Commissioner Averill stated if the Flood Authority is going to do a change order then Lewis County needs a resolution and it needs the Flood Authority's authorization to do that. It will require a motion.

Ms. Powe stated some comments in the article were about the scope of work. She asked if the departments did not know that the scope was written by the various departments. Mr. Travis (WDFW) stated not every staff person was aware of that. Fish and Wildlife quoted some things that were not "polished". He stated he is the lead and he apologized.

Chairman Raines stated she appreciated Mr. Donahue's letter and that the State stepped up to the plate. The media has been provided a copy of the letter. She expressed her appreciation for the State's willingness to work with the Flood Authority.

Ms. Fowler spoke to the letter from DOE and Chris Hempleman about water quality monitoring. DOE is monitoring the tidbit loggers. If the Flood Authority wishes for DOE to continue that monitoring it will cost the Flood Authority nothing. The letter was a confirmation of that. It also stated there are a couple of monitors that are not working but the information is being collected. Ms. Hempleman asked if the information was still useful.

Commissioner Willis asked if all the monitors are to be removed and put back and if the Flood Authority could get some clarification on that. Ms. Fowler stated Anchor put them in to begin with. She would follow up.

#### **7. Debrief on Government to Government Training**

Ms. Fowler explained that the recommendation for the training originally came from Mr. Swartout. The State worked with the Flood Authority for the training to take place in lieu of the regular meeting. She asked the participants to give their observations of the training.

Commissioner Valenzuela thanked Ms. Fowler for getting the meeting organized and that the Tribal Center was a great meeting place. She said the outreach was good for the Tribe and that the manual that was distributed will be extremely helpful as follow-up.

Ms. Fund stated this training was a different way to communicate, a way of understanding the hierarchy and knowing more about the tribe and how they function. This is good information for the future. All around this table there are cultural differences and we have learned how to work together; we can learn the same things with the Tribes.

Mr. Pinn said he enjoyed the training.

Chairman Raines stated her assessment was the same as Ms. Fund's – the ability to understand the depth of cultural beliefs and the functions and their traditions. We all have our own traditions in life with clubs and churches, etc. It was good to understand the Tribe's protocol of approaching tribal members.

Ms. Powe said the history that was presented and what has happened over time and how those things affected the Tribe was very beneficial.

Mr. Thompson stated he appreciated the presentation. Oakville has worked with the Tribe over the years and they have done water agreements, etc. Today's session gave an understanding of why Oakville has been successful.

Mr. Cook stated the stories gave a clearer understanding of why the Tribes look at salmon the way they do as well as other cultural aspects.

Mr. Estes stated he learned today that working together requires patience, no matter who we are working with.

Mr. Vander Stoep spoke to the issue of not allowing reporters. The meeting was not on public property; it was on Tribal property and the Tribe decides who can come. This was also a seminar. It was like a college class and there was nothing remotely regarding a decision: we were trained about how the Tribes look at the world, the feds, and the state with local inter-action.

Commissioner Willis thought it was good training. Grays Harbor County has a working relationship with the Chehalis and the Quinalt Tribes and there have been good collaborative efforts over the years. The differences between us and the Tribes were more apparent today.

Commissioner Averill stated this course was designed for two days, was cut back to one and then condensed to 6 hours. Mr. Gordon James did a really good job. The booklet contains everything he talked about and if it could be put on the website it would be useful to many people. A comment was made that it is on the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and could be linked.

Mr. Pinn reiterated that there were people other than from the Flood Authority attending and that it was a workshop, not a meeting.

#### **8. Update on Napavine/Cosmopolis Request**

Ms. Fowler stated this request was discussed at the last meeting with a number of questions put on the table. She followed up with Commissioner Willis who was not able to attend that meeting. Since then both Thurston County and Grays Harbor County have taken action and approved the request.

Commissioner Willis raised the question about Bucoda. They gave their resignation which will be effective on February 26. She spoke with Mayor Carr and the council will talk about adding Napavine and Cosmopolis but there has been no follow up on that yet. Everyone has approved the passage of the resolution and Bucoda is technically still a member of the Flood Authority. Commissioner Willis

recommended circulating a cleaned up version of the Interlocal Agreement so the paperwork accurately reflects the membership.

Mr. Carter thought there should be an Interlocal Agreement that reflects who is currently on the Flood Authority Board.

Discussion followed about different aspects of the agreement and Ms. Fowler stated she would clean up the language in the ILA and the addendum.

## **9. Updates**

### **a. H & H Modeling**

Ms. Fowler distributed a paper on the H & H modeling. She stated Mr. Karpack and Mr. Walton will be at the March meeting. Mr. Karpack has a working model and they are in the process of refining it. There will be a technical discussion on February 23 between experts to go through the modeling to see how it is working.

WSE has done the survey work on the Skookumchuck and that work went into the model. They are looking at the Newaukum and the Satsop being incorporated as well.

The Project Committee will be looking at the model and recommending alternatives. Now that the model is running these may include mainstem water retention, bridges, the I-5 project at Mellen St, land use, bypass, dredging, and more.

### **b. Fisheries Impact Study**

Ms. Fowler stated the Fisheries Impact Study was circulated last week. Mr. Donahue and Mr. Nelson are working on updating the modeling pieces. The summary of comments was received. Anchor will be coming back with a revised report and those comments will be included in the record. Anchor is not being asked to get into endless re-writes. They will present the report with the comments and suggest the next steps. March will be the return of the draft. She asked if the enhancement study should come in April.

Mr. Vander Stoep suggested one report on both studies in April.

Commissioner Valenzuela did not like the idea of one report. She stated she was confused about the terminology: she thought part of the reason Anchor was asking for the additional funding was because of the comments and response time. Are they not going to respond to the comments?

Ms. Fowler stated they are working on responding to all the comments that came in and that will update the report. Chairman Raines stated once the report goes out there will be other comments and those will become part of the report.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated she sees Anchor's work as two distinct pieces. She would like to deal with the fish report and Anchor's response to those comments, put that to bed before the Flood Authority moves into the Enhancement study.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated they aren't going to put it to bed – they are working on both pieces now and the Flood Authority needs to take ample time, look over the main stem report and ask questions. Then

there's the second report that the Flood Authority hasn't seen. That way the Authority can see the whole picture about the fisheries studies at the same time. There will be comments that follow the second piece, similar to what we saw in January.

Ms. Fowler stated we need to check with Anchor about what else is on the agenda and how to play out the next couple of months.

Chairman Raines agreed with Mr. Vander Stoep – have Anchor come one time because of the budget. The Executive Committee will follow up on the scheduling questions.

**c. Fisheries Enhancement Study**

Ms. Fowler stated the Phase 1 report is ready for distribution to the stakeholders. It lists the projects that are out there. She brought a copy of an email from Jim Shannon that tells how to get on to the site to review the report.

**d. OFM Report/Next Steps**

Ms. Fowler stated Mr. Kramer could not attend today's meeting, however he put together a proposal for next steps and the Authority heard some of those earlier. At the last meeting Mr. Kramer outlined pieces of the report and requests about who is doing which piece so we are clear as to what is going on. More information will be coming in with the H & H studies and fisheries in March and April. Monthly meetings do not provide enough time to get through the number of subjects. Mr. Kramer put together a proposal with about 12 subjects, which were named in the handout. He thought about setting aside some time – several hours or days in two or three days to get through the material adequately. He was looking at early May for these workshops. The Flood Authority would have all the information to come back with policy decisions to put in the report for OFM. She asked for feedback from the Board.

The Commissioners and many of the other Board members said they could not take that kind of time. Ms. Powe suggested starting earlier and going longer. Chairman Raines suggested at the May meeting the Board hold a short business meeting early, ending at 9:30 a.m. and then working until 5:00 for the workshop. There were mostly thumbs up to that idea. Chairman Raines stated they could look at another day at the end of May and if they could not finish then and do the same in June.

Commissioner Valenzuela thought that was workable.

Mr. Pinn stated it might be necessary to have information ahead of time so the Board can do its homework to work through the agenda.

Ms. Fowler stated she would take this feedback back to Mr. Kramer and work out the dates. She understood that the Board was saying yes, there is a need for this work; no, a three-day block will not work. Chairman Raines stated she would like to use the May and June regular meeting dates and schedule another half day if necessary.

Commissioner Willis asked if bridges will be discussed.

Ms. Fowler stated the impacts of the Mellen Street bridge will be in the hydraulic modeling. Mr. Karpack is modeling for all bridges. Chairman Raines stated Mr. Kramer's letter said these things will be ready to discuss in May.

Mr. Swartout stated the Board will be asked to make policy decisions. Will it be possible to list questions? Commissioner Willis asked what the Board is expected to do at this meeting. Will we be prepared to make a decision?

Ms. Fowler stated she will take the information back to Mr. Kramer with questions that are being asked and figure out the timing. The goal is to finalize the technical material and figure out what else we need to know.

Commissioner Averill stated the hydraulic model was requested because whatever project we do will have impacts. If we widen Mellen Street the problem is transferred downstream, so what needs to be done at the next block point, etc. The study will show there are more locations on the river to take care of so someone is not inundated with water.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated he is impressed with Mr. Kramer – he is doing what the legislature instructed. He also stated that the State agencies will give their opinions and at some point the Flood Authority should give their opinion as a Flood Authority. This group has been sitting at this table for four years through many meetings and many studies. At some point before July the Flood Authority ought to give its opinion or a recommendation on the policy issues for flood control.

**e. Sub-Committees: Executive, Education/Outreach, Project**

Ms. Fowler stated the Education and Outreach Committee is working on who the Flood Authority can communicate with and follow up on reaching out to the legislators to let them know what the Authority is doing regarding projects.

The Project Committee has a list of projects and distilled it down. They need to add more detail to some of the projects and then pull from that list.

Ms. Fund stated the website is an ongoing project and the FAQs are still being worked on.

**10. Update on Budget Discussions; Expenditure Review**

Ms. Fowler stated the Anchor Budget Amendment Request that was handed out explains what the contract was for, what the supplemental contract was for and what the request was for versus the estimated costs. OFM is willing to make the \$40,000 available from the State budget rather than from the Flood Authority budget. At the last meeting the Flood Authority recommended that the money be awarded.

Commissioner Averill stated the Authority asked to look at where the \$40,000 comes from. Did we authorize the committee to go ahead with the project? Lewis County can go ahead and do an amendment to the contract but he needs something that shows that the Flood Authority approved Lewis County to do this. There will be an audit. Chairman Raines stated there has been a request to OFM to help address funding for the audit.

Ms. Fowler summarized the expenditure report, which was distributed to the Board.

Commissioner Averill stated the money that the Conservation Commission provided is carried in a separate budget. The Authority needs to hear how they are doing. Ms. Fowler stated the Conservation



District will be meeting with affected land owners next week. The Authority is engaging with them and with the OFM study.

**11. Confirm March 15, 2012 Meetings, Locations, Topics**

The next meeting will be on March 15 in Montesano at City Hall.

**12. Adjourn**

The Authority business concluded and the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

DRAFT