

**Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Morning Work Session
Bucoda Community Center
Bucoda, WA**

**November 17, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.
Meeting Notes**

Board Members Present: Alan Carr, Town of Bucoda; Vickie Raines, City of Montesano; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell; Ron Averill, Lewis County; Edna Fund, City of Centralia; Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County

Board Members Absent: Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen

Others Present: Please see sign in sheet

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- PowerPoint
- PowerPoint

1. Call to Order

Chairman Raines called the meeting to order at 11:30 following a tour of the Skookumchuck Dam.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Brief Update on H & H Modeling – WSE

Mr. Larry Karpack stated the Flood Authority approved the WSE work plan at the last meeting. Two of the work tasks related to hydraulic modeling were the hydraulic model from Grand Mount to Porter and from Montesano to the mouth of the river. The reach between Porter and Montesano is being done by WEST Consultants. He stated surveyors are collecting data from the lower reach and WEST is continuing to work with the Corps. All the work is on schedule; the lower reach survey is still being worked on.

Commissioner Averill stated Lewis County will be doing about 180 square miles of LiDAR that will update the 2006 data. Mr. Karpack stated the model is based on LiDAR for overbanks and cross sections. Only one area has 2002 LiDAR data and it is not complete. Thurston County has collected LiDAR for all of Thurston County and that data will be available by the end of November. The LiDAR being flown this month will not be available until next March. The data can be swapped out in the model tool once the model is set up.

Ms. Fowler asked Mr. Karpack about coordination with the Corps. Mr. Karpack stated that because WEST is working with the Corps and with WSE there is good coordination. WEST has completed the hydrology for the entire basin and it is being reviewed. In terms of coordination for tasks for the lower Chehalis, WSE is independent of needing input from the Corps. In general, everything is going fine. Having WEST on board is a good thing for coordination.

Mr. Karpack stated the surveying downstream is right on time; it might be a week or so behind on the rest. Because of the lower water level they encountered some log jams, but there will not be a problem speeding up the process. Survey data collection has been slower because of conditions but it is basically on schedule.

4. Briefing on Fisheries Impact Study – Anchor QEA

Mr. Paul Schlenger handed out the fish study and six appendices that were prepared for that study. A flyer gave instructions to access the website.

Mr. Schlenger presented a PowerPoint on the Chehalis River Fish Study Findings. It reviewed the scope of work and process and showed the draft results of the Fish Study Analysis Components which included hydrology, water quality, geomorphology, fish habitat modeling (PHABSIM), fish habitat inventory of the upper watershed, and the fish population modeling (SHIRAZ).

Commissioner Willis asked if there is blockage at Mellen Street from August to October, could this model indicate whether a multi-purpose dam would get fish through, and if you can improve the temperature and oxygen levels in the water will it remove blockage at Mellen St. Mr. Schlenger stated there are model predictions for benefits and 3 degrees Centigrade is enough to let them through.

Mr. Schlenger stated he would like comments no later than January 2, but preferably earlier. On the SharePoint site there is a comment review form and he encouraged people to submit those. He stated details such as page number and line number would be helpful for more accuracy in responding to comments.

Ms. Fowler stated on Monday, December 12 Anchor is going to review the SHIRAZ model and that might be an opportunity for technical information. Mr. Schlenger stated the morning session would be a data transfer workshop where practitioners can learn the model. In the afternoon there will be a question and answer session. There is an extensive list of people who know about this report and some reviewers will be paid through OFM.

Ms. Powe asked if this study is pre-enhancement and Mr. Schlenger stated it was.

5. Update on Fisheries Enhancement Effort – Anchor QEA

Mr. Bob Montgomery presented a PowerPoint on the use of hydrologic and hydraulic models, the effect on flooding, temperature modeling in reservoirs and the Chehalis River, sediment transport calculations, and how they inform the SHIRAZ fish population model.

In answer to a question, Mr. Montgomery stated the study will not tie enhancement to mitigation at this time. Mr. Hueckel stated the impacts need to be addressed and regulators will look at impacts: are they avoidable, can they be replaced, or can they be softened. There is a sequencing process that goes on and during that process they will look at those three options. Anchor has been looking at a variety of enhancements if that decision needs to be made. Mitigation is not there yet.

Commissioner Valenzuela suggested considering Earth Economics' information as that could be helpful.

Commissioner Averill stated the workshop at the Veteran's Museum included maps and recommendations were made on what they saw. He is not sure the right people were there. Mr.

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Montgomery stated no information was traded because no one had any projects. Some projects on the list were already being implemented and he is still looking for projects.

Ms. Powe stated the Chehalis Basin Partnership was there and asked if their implementation plan was considered. Mr. Montgomery stated he did not know and would ask Jim Shannon about that.

Adjourn

Chairman Raines adjourned the meeting at 1:20. She stated Dr. Curtis would be on the agenda for the afternoon meeting since time ran out in the morning session.