

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: January 29, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Location: Lewis County Historic Courthouse - 351 N.W. North Street, Chehalis, WA 98532

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent January 29, 2020 Agenda	Decision: Agenda approved.	No follow-up action.
2. HB 1154, Regarding financing of Chehalis basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects	Decision: Board approved with consensus support for PSHB1154 with modifications that ensure six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions and that funds be spent equally between flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.	No follow-up action.
3. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Vickie Raines, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Harry Pickernell, Chehalis Tribe

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology

Welcome, Introductions

Board member Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 4:08pm and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Board members provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [January 29, 2020 meeting agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus with verbal voting by all Board members.

Public Comments regarding HB1154

Dennis Dawes, Chehalis City Mayor, went on record requesting the Chehalis Basin Board support HB 1154 and understands that \$700 Million is a lot of money. He has been a lifelong resident of Chehalis and noted several floods happen since the 2007 flood. He stated that there is still a lot of work needed to be done since the last large flood. On behalf of the City of Chehalis, he will be sending a letter of support to Representative Tharinger, Chair of the House Capital Budget Committee.

Ron Averill, City of Centralia, went on record stating that he has been a member of the Flood Authority since 2008 and has seen major problems with flooding due to the lack of federal funding within the basin. He voiced his support of HB1154 and presented a letter of support by the City of Centralia.

PSHB 1154, Regarding financing of Chehalis basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided background and reviewed previous discussion by the Board on Rep. DeBolt's proposed substitute bill language for PSHB 1154 (H-4036.1) reminding the Board that it has not yet been proposed and there is no scheduled legislative committee hearing.

Proposed substitute bill language included:

- Increases the level of authorized general obligation bonds from \$480 million to \$700 million.
- Revises the intent of the legislature to appropriate the proceeds of the new bonds authorized in phases over seven biennia, instead of five biennia.
- Directs the Chehalis Board to determine the allocations for the funds appropriated under the act.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided options for possible board consensus which included taking a more nuanced, qualified position on the bill rather than an unequivocal position on the proposal as written, or taking no action.

Key comments and discussion topics among the Board members included:

- Voicing their support for PSHB1154 if revisions can be made to address equal division of funding between Flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

- Proposing language that would require at least six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions and that funds be spent equally between Flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved with consensus support for PSHB1154 with a modification that ensure six of the seven voting members approve allocation decisions and that funds be spent equally between Flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020 at the Chehalis Tribe Gathering Center in Oakville, WA.