

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: February 1, 2024
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Hybrid meeting – Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Grand Mound
 Centralia: 6223 197th Way SW, Rochester, Washington 98579

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of current Agenda and January 11 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current Agenda approved; January 11 summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Flood Authority Long-Range Planning	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Chehalis Basin Strategy Development	Discussion	Staff will reach out to the Farm Bureau to discuss agricultural viability efforts.
4. Spring Chinook ESA Petition	Discussion	NOAA and WDFW will continue to update the Board and/or provide information on updated findings as the spring Chinook ESA petition process proceeds.
5. Washington State Department of Natural Resources Adaptive Management Program	Discussion	Staff will revisit previously completed studies related to forest practices included in the 2012 Ruckelshaus Center report on the Chehalis Basin.
6. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Public Comment, Next Steps, and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members

NAME	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	ATTENDANCE
Vickie Raines	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Edna Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Absent
Tyson Johnston	Quinault Indian Nation	Present
Glen Connelly	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Present

J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Governor	Absent
Steve Malloch	Office of the Governor	Present

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members

NAME	AGENCY	ATTENDANCE
Michael Garrity	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Present
Colleen Granberg (filling in for Katie Allen)	Department of Natural Resources	Present
Mark Gaines	Department of Transportation	Present
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Present
Rich Doenges	Department of Ecology	Present

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Board Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Agenda and Meeting Summary Review

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an overview of the meeting agenda. The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [February 1, 2024 meeting agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the January 11 meeting summary.

BOARD DECISION: January 11 Board meeting summary approved by consensus.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [January 11, 2024 meeting summary](#)

Flood Authority Long-Range Planning

Erika Britney (ICF) updated the Board on the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's process for identifying and selecting local projects, including how the process has evolved over time, what happens to projects not funded in a given biennium, and how local long-range investment planning can be used to identify future projects. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Staff clarified that the Flood Authority will continue to seek multiple funding sources for projects, including federal funding.

- Board members expressed appreciation for the Flood Authority's proactive and collaborative long-term planning efforts.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Flood Authority Local Projects Presentation](#)

Chehalis Basin Strategy Development

Timeline, Comparative Analysis Scope, and Defining a Board Sub-Group

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) reminded the Board that OCB is in the process of finalizing an RFQ for a consultant team to support the comparative analysis. OCB anticipates an RFQ will be issued in Q1 2024 and work will begin in early Q2 2024. The March Board meeting will include a discussion of which Board members would like to participate in a comparative analysis sub-group. Board members are encouraged to inform OCB of additional representatives they would like to engage with the sub-group.

Refined Work Element Options and Definitions

Nat Kale (OCB) previewed updated work element descriptions for the Flood Warning System, Erosion Management Program, and Agricultural Viability common elements. Key comments and discussion topics included:

Flood Warning System:

- Board members were generally supportive of the Flood Warning System work element description.

Erosion Management Program (EMP):

- Board members were generally supportive of the EMP work element description and acknowledged that a broad range in cost estimates are needed because of uncertainties regarding projecting long-term demand.
- Staff clarified that there was more than double the demand for urgent and imminent erosion management projects than funding available for this biennium. In the near-term, project demand may continue to grow with increased available funding.

Agricultural Viability:

- Board members were generally supportive of the agricultural viability work element description.
- Board members suggested that this work should be consistent and not get ahead of efforts of local conservation districts. For example, bi-monthly Voluntary Stewardship Program meetings provide an opportunity to engage with conservation district staff.
- OCB should reach out to the Farm Bureau to discuss agricultural viability efforts.

OCB will return to the Board in March and April with additional updated work element descriptions, with the goal of holding a Board workshop in June/July to finalize work element

descriptions, revisit preliminary packages, and discuss evaluation factors and metrics for the comparative analysis.

FOLLOW-UP: OCB will reach out to the Farm Bureau to discuss agricultural viability efforts.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Strategy Development Process Presentation](#)
- [Common Element Development Worksheet: Flood Warning System](#)
- [Common Element Development Worksheet: Erosion Management Program](#)
- [Common Element Development Worksheet: Agricultural Viability](#)

Washington (WA) Coast Chinook Salmon: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Petition Process

Shivonne Nesbit (NOAA Fisheries) presented on the WA Coast Chinook salmon ESA petition process. She reviewed a draft timeline and how the petition process works, noting that because it is still early in the process the outcomes and impacts on the Chehalis Basin Strategy are unknown. The process passed a positive initial finding and is in a public comment and status review phase. This will lead to a 12-month finding and proposed rule anticipated to be published in July 2025, though NOAA has been running at least a year behind this legal timeline. NOAA can continue to update the Board and/or provide information on updated findings as the process proceeds. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- NOAA is not aware of how the petition process could impact any existing requests for biological assessments, including for the proposed FRE. Until a proposed rule has gone through the federal process, a regulatory requirement is not placed as part of the permitting process.
- NOAA and the co-managers continue to explore how climate change may affect fish populations.
- Board members expressed interest in following the process and hearing future presentations and process updates.

FOLLOW-UP: NOAA and WDFW will continue to update the Board and/or provide information on updated findings as the process proceeds.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [NOAA WA Coast Chinook ESA Process Factsheet](#)

WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Adaptive Management Program (AMP)

Lori Clark (DNR) discussed WA State DNR's Adaptive Management Program (AMP), including a review of the program background, structure, participants, proposal initiation process, and current AMP projects. The program is strengthened by diverse perspectives and culminations of long-term collaboration. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged questions they regularly receive regarding the relationship between historic and current forest practices, peak flows during major storm events, and low flows in the summer.
 - Lori Clark noted that moving through the AMP process can take 6-12 years to complete, from initiation to a final report. All projects must follow the same steps and be reviewed by the Forest Practices Board, which meets quarterly.
- Department of Ecology has provided grant funds to the Nisqually Tribe and the Nisqually Watershed Council to purchase commercial timberlands to manage aquifer recharge by having a longer forest cutting rotation than commercial lands.
- Board members were encouraged to review previously completed studies related to forest practices included in the 2012 Ruckelshaus Center report on the Chehalis Basin, to help determine what additional analyses may be needed to address the Board's objectives.
- Outside of the AMP, DNR has a robust forest riparian easement program where conservation districts work with landowners to help them with forest plans and answer technical questions.

FOLLOW-UP: Staff will revisit previously completed studies related to forest practices included in the 2012 Ruckelshaus Center report on the Chehalis Basin.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program Presentation](#)
- [Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program Factsheet](#)

Director's Report

OCB Director Jeff Zenk provided the following updates:

- A number of contracts have been executed through RCO and partners including:
 - Flood Control Zone District - engineering contract
 - WDFW - monitoring and adaptive management contract
 - Washington State Conservation Commission - Early Action Reach planting
 - City of Centralia - small works roster for public works
 - Washington State University - Working Riparian Lands Initiative
 - Grays Harbor Conservation District - Wynoochee erosion project
 - Washington State Parks - Marwood Farms property acquisition partnership
- Contractor bids are expected to be received on February 12th for the CFAR elevation project solicitation.
- The ASRP team completed a web-based year-end online report ([on the Chehalis Basin Strategy Website](#)).

- OCB is in the process of negotiating a contract with Moffatt & Nichol to refine the levee /diversion/conveyance projects identified in the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative process.
- The January 30th Federal Funding Workshop was successful and well attended. A number of sponsors and partners across the basin identified clusters of projects and concepts with shared themes, to look at how projects could be presented in packages.
- The ASRP subgroup is meeting on February 5th to discuss other-Hs and predation.

Public Comment

No public comments were provided.

Next Steps and Closing

Ken Ghaleb (Ross Strategic) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The Board will next meet on March 7th at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Grand Mound Centralia.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.

- Alexandra Gustafson, Trout Unlimited*
- Becky Holloway*
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam*
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest*
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic*
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Cherise Gaffney*
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority*
- Colleen Parrott, Chehalis Tribe*
- Curt Hart, Ecology*
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC*
- Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Drew Mealor, WDFW
- Erik Martin, HDR*
- Erika Britney, ICF*
- Gary Marston, Trout Unlimited*

- Heather Page, Anchor QEA*
- Jeff Zenk, OCB
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic*
- Jennie Lewis, OCB
- Jennifer Hennessey, Ecology*
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center*
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA*
- Karen Allson, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Kat Dickey, OCB
- Katrina Sukola, ICF*
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kylin Brown, Pyramid Communications*
- Larry Karpack, WSE*
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic*
- Lori Clark, DNR*
- Marisa Litz*
- Matt Dillin, FCZD*
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA*
- Nat Kale, OCB
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis Basin Flood Authority*
- Seth Ballhorn, Ecology*
- Shivonne Nesbit, NOAA Fisheries*
- Steve Emrich*
- Stevie Colson, OCB
- Val Tribble*
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW