

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom online meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent August 6 Agenda; Approval of June 4, 2020 meeting summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; June 4 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will draft a set of potential measurable outcomes for the Local Actions Program that can be used in the design of the process requested by the Governor. Based on Board feedback on the draft outcomes, OCB staff will develop draft options for the Board's process to meet the milestones laid out in the Governor's letter.
3. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)	Discussion	OCB staff will bring additional topics related to CFAR program development to the Board this fall for policy input/direction.
5. Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Vickie Raines, Chair, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor

- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [August 6, 2020 Meeting Agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of June 4, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [June 4, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: June 4, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Long-term Strategy Assessment

Governor's request to Board

OCB Director McNamara Doyle outlined the major issues the Board will need to consider in responding to Governor Inslee's July 22, 2020 letter on development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. Board direction and guidance will be necessary over the next 5-6 months to meet key milestones related to the Governor's letter, 2021-23 biennium budget recommendations, and development of the Long-Term Strategy Assessment (LTSA).

Governor's letter from July 22, 2020 requests the Board work together to:

- "Define a process and timeline for developing and evaluating a basin-wide non-dam alternative to reducing flood damage.
- "Continue evaluating the issues raised regarding the retention project and other flood risk reduction projects and the potential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the identified impacts.
- "Deliver a consensus recommendation on the process back to me no later than the end of September 2020 that will lead to a long-term strategy for consideration by me and the legislature in the first quarter of 2021."

Jennifer Hennessey (Governor's Office) echoed Governor Inslee's recognition that the success to-date in the Chehalis Basin has been built through the collaboration of Board members and local communities, and further collaboration is needed to move forward in finding consensus-based solutions. The Governor's letter was developed to support the Board's process moving forward.

Director Laura Watson (Dept. of Ecology) acknowledged the significant level of effort that Board members have put into this process. Referencing the Governor's letter to the cabinet agencies, Director Watson highlighted the importance of the Board's next steps for the long-term strategy, including developing a basin-wide, non-dam alternative and evaluating the potential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of the proposed flood retention facility and other flood risk reduction projects.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed key upcoming milestones and decisions points based on directives from the Governor's office and Legislature:

- **September 30, 2020:** Board-approved path forward to analyze non-dam alternative and mitigation opportunities for proposed flood retention facility
- **December 2020:** Board-approved recommendations for 2021- 23 capital budget request
- **January 1, 2021:** OCB report due to Legislature

Board members were reminded of the previous discussion at the June board meeting where they discussed potential goals and elements for flood damage reduction in a non-dam alternative (Local Actions Program). OCB Director McNamara Doyle also reviewed suggested steps for development of a Local Actions Program, process oversight needs, and potential program elements. For each of these elements, it will be important for the Board to agree on the roles and responsibilities of Board members, OCB staff, and other participants in the process.

Below is a link to the LTSA presentation materials:

- [Letter from GOV to Board](#)
- [Letter from GOV to ECY/WDFW](#)
- [Board memo re Responding to GOV letter](#)
- [Board PPT re Responding to GOV letter](#)
- [Review of Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project Draft SEPA EIS](#)

LTSA Break Out-Groups

In order to help meet the September 30, 2020 and January 1, 2021 milestones, Board members were divided into two breakout groups for two separate breakout sessions. The first breakout session was intended to further the conversation about the Local Actions Program. The second breakout session was intended to discuss Board members' thoughts related to responding to the Governor's letter to the Board.

Breakout Session 1

Below is a summary of the Board member discussion on the two breakout session questions:

Are there additions or refinements you would recommend to the potential list of goals and program elements of a Local Actions Program outlined in the Board memo?

- Board members discussed the importance of initially identifying measurable outcomes that a Local Actions Program should achieve; after outcomes are defined, technical staff can help explore what actions could achieve those outcomes. Board members agreed that defining

outcomes can also help inform the design of the process to achieve the milestones directed by the Governor.

- Board members noted the Local Actions Program should acknowledge that flooding cannot be entirely stopped, and the program should define an acceptable level of risk.
- Board members are interested in seeing a combination of goals based on sub-areas of the basin where flooding sources vary, e.g., riverine flooding, coastal flooding.
- Board members refined their thinking around some the goals they discussed in June, such as not constraining the Local Actions Program to cost the same or less than the proposed dam. It was also noted that including a metric of success based on the number of people removed from the floodplain would not be helpful in garnering community support. .

What are your thoughts on OCB's role and the Board's role in leading development of the Local Actions Program?

- Board members agreed with Governor Inslee's letter that it is the Board's responsibility to support what is included in the Local Actions Program and the Board will need to be more involved in providing direction to develop the program.
- Board members suggested OCB staff should research other areas that have developed programs and implemented actions similar in intent to the Local Actions Program, both in Washington and beyond, to understand what has been successful.
- Board members recognized there will be different perspectives and findings from technical analyses of the Local Actions Program and there needs to be a way to structure the technical process that allows the Board to understand the different perspectives and provide direction based on those differences.

Breakout Session 2

Below is a summary of the Board member discussion on the second breakout session questions:

What are your initial thoughts in response to the Governor's letter?

- Board members generally agreed that Governor Inslee's letter to the Board was a constructive addition to the Board's process. Some Board members noted the need to reach out to their respective constituencies to explain the letter in detail.
- Board members noted that the process to respond the Governor's letter should be understood by the broader community, not just the Board.

In developing the process requested by the Governor, what guidance do you want to provide to staff to develop options for your consideration?

- Board members recognized the need for completing technical analyses to develop the Local Actions Program, and that the process should efficiently engage diverse technical experts to answer priority questions.
- Board members suggested, to the degree possible, the process builds on readily available information.

- Board members recognized the need to engage local governments and other key audiences in the process.
- Board members requested OCB staff develop more than one process option for the Board to consider, including the potential creation of a technical and/or policy group to guide processes.

FOLLOW UP ACTION: OCB staff will draft a set of potential measurable outcomes for the Local Actions Program that can be used in the design of the process requested by the Governor. Based on Board feedback on the draft outcomes, OCB staff will develop draft options for the Board's process to meet the milestones laid out in the Governor's letter.

Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided the Director's report on various topics, including:

- Three voting Board members have been re-elected to serve on the Chehalis Basin Board. Board Chair Vickie Raines and Commissioner Edna Fund will continue to represent the Board on behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and J. Vander Stoep was reappointed by the Governor.
- HB2109 introduced by Representative Blake during the 2019-2020 legislative session has gone into effect as of July 2020. This bill ensures that both the Quinault Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation can appoint an alternate voting delegate to the Board.
- Based on changes to the current work plan, OCB will maintain holds on the calendar for additional special Board meetings on September 30, 2020 and November 4, 2020.
- The State Department of Commerce and FEMA are working toward integrating natural hazard mitigation planning with local government comprehensive planning. Their effort will develop resources for local planners, including a resource handbook that will integrate risk reduction hazard mitigation planning information and the development of a resource advisory committee that is planning to meet later this year.

Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) briefed the Board on Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) interim program solicitations for technical assistance, technical support, and project development. The "interim" program phase will run through the end of the current biennium (June 30, 2021). The objective of the interim phase is to identify early project opportunities, gauge interest for technical support and assistance across jurisdictions and landowners, and identify lessons learned that will inform the long-term program. To date, OCB has received two requests for technical support, ten requests for technical assistance, and identified potential early project opportunities in Centralia, Bucoda, and Aberdeen.

Board members were reminded of the potential CFAR goals that were shared last fall, with the understanding the goals would continue to be refined with input from the Board, local governments, landowners, and others. OCB has identified the need for policy direction related to what it would mean to develop protection levels that account for future flood levels resulting from climate change. OCB is developing a guidance document that contains information to help property owners understand topics like river gage readings and the flood warning system.

Below is a link to the CFAR presentation:

- [CFAR Interim Solicitation and Policy Briefing](#)

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will bring additional topics related to CFAR program development to the Board this fall for policy input/direction.

Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) provided a status update for the 2021-23 local project proposal solicitation that the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority opened on May 14, 2020. Through the solicitation process, the Flood Authority received eight project proposals totaling \$10,421,063. Seven project proposals are continuations of projects that have been previously funded and are working toward their next phase and one project is new. The review process will be carried out by two groups, a Local Projects Reviewers Group and a Cultural Resources Assistance Group. Review Groups will additionally serve as a sounding board for future characterization and scaling of local projects beyond the 2021-23 biennium (to help inform the Long-term Strategy Assessment).

At the September 17, 2020 Flood Authority meeting, Flood Authority members will approve a ranked and prioritized funding recommendation for 2021-23 local project proposals. Flood Authority staff will then present their recommendation to the Board for consideration at the December 2020 Board meeting.

The Flood Authority developed an interactive 2021-23 local project proposal GIS map, showing detailed information on each of the eight project proposals. This includes six lower basin projects, one mid-basin project, and one upper-basin project. All eight projects submitted can be completed in the 21-23 biennium.

Below is a link to the Local Projects presentation:

- [2021-23 Local Project Proposals](#)
- [2021-23 Local Project Proposals MAP](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board Members were reminded that the two Hoquiam pump station project proposals are not considered part of the North Shore Levee and the North Shore Levee is now considered a large-scale flood damage reduction project that is not eligible for local project funding.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (Department of Fish and Wildlife) provided an update on the ASRP implementation planning process. The ASRP Steering Committee has developed two options for an implementation structure and processes that are capable of restoring and protecting approximately 440 miles of rivers, streams and floodplains by 2050:

- Option 1: recommended structure and processes to fit within “existing frameworks”
- Option 2: recommended changes to existing framework and processes in order to successfully implement the ASRP

An Implementation Planning Workgroup has been formed to develop recommendations for each “option” above for the Steering Committee and Board to consider. ASRP staff and Steering Committee

members are also working on ASRP scenario refinement and sequencing recommendations for program implementation.

Below is a link to the ASRP presentation:

- [Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Update](#)

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020 as an online webinar.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Washington Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anne Van Sweringen
- Barbara Cairns, Pyramid Communications
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Betsy Dillin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carson Coates, Office of Congresswoman Herrera-Butler
- Celina Abercrombie, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chrissy Bailey, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Hansen, Orca Network
- Colleen Granberg, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Colton Dodgson, Lewis County Chronicle
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Washington Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Frank Corbin
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Izabella Zucker, Pyramid Communications
- Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- John Robinson, Consultant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- John Hoyte
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keepers
- Linda Orgel, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Mark Glyde, Consultant to Quinault Indian Nation
- Nicole Czarnomski, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Scotty Ireland, Parametrix
- Steve Lyle
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tess Wendel, Ross Strategic
- Thomasina Cooper

Meeting summary addendum

Public Input Provided for Board Consideration

Below is a summary of the public comments based on Board discussion from the breakout session questions.

- Board meeting attendees provided input on the flood and fish only approach, stating that it ignores the ecological systems involved in both floods and fish. It was proposed that A net ecological gain metric could be considered as a desired outcome and if ecological systems are restored and functional, flood resiliency and aquatic species will be included.