

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** January 5, 2023  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Hybrid meeting – Montesano City Hall

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent January 5, 2023 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved;	No follow-up action.
2. 2023-2025 Budget Planning	Discussion	<p>OCB staff will develop and distribute a 1-pager document that includes highlights and key outcomes of the Board's 2023-25 biennium funding request that can be referenced when speaking with the legislators.</p> <p>Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam will provide the Board with more information on specific funding received to date for the North Shore Levee, as well as information regarding the final \$35 million requested in the current capital budget request for 2023-25.</p>
3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan	Decision	WDFW staff will return to a future board meeting to request a Board decision on funding for the Satsop 2.5-5.0 project.
4. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Erosion Management	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Chehalis Basin Strategy Process Refinement	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

## 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
- Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Dustin Klatush, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

### **Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Alex Smith, Department of Natural Resources
- Mark Gaines, Department of Transportation
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology
- Josh Giuntoli, Washington State 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 [January 5, 2023](#) meeting agenda.

**BOARD DECISION:** Agenda approved by consensus.

## 2023-2025 Budget Planning

### **Governor's 2023-25 Budget Summary**

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided the Board an overview of the Governor's \$70 million proposed 2023-25 capital budget as it compares to the Board's recommended \$73 million budget proposal for the Chehalis Basin Strategy. The Governor's proposed capital budget included \$70 million, allocating \$30.4 for aquatic species restoration projects, \$30.4 million for flood damage reduction projects, \$5.2 million for integrated projects that advance both "flood and fish" outcomes, and \$3.9 million for OCB and Chehalis Basin Board operations, oversight, fiscal accountability, etc. The Governor's proposal has identified that specific projects must be approved by at least six of the seven voting Board members, but the Board does have the discretion to reallocate funding if needed to meet the objectives of the appropriation.

The Board's key consideration for the additional \$3 million above the \$70 million proposed in the Governor's budget is for finalizing the SEPA and NEPA EISs and development of information for long-term decision-making on next steps for the proposed FRE.

## **Legislative Outreach Protocols and Process**

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded Board members that OCB has an obligation to honor the Governor's proposed budget but if there are specific legislative committee work sessions or hearings related to the capital budget, Board members do have the right to speak to the higher requested budget amount. Board members should report all in-person legislative contact and meetings related to the strategy so OCB can submit that activity to the Public Disclosure Commission.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [2023-2025 Budget and Legislative Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding how they can show official support of the separate legislative member request for the North Shore Levee project and what efforts can be made to support the work done by the Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam.
- Board members are interested in receiving a one-pager that includes detail on the federal and local match received specifically for the North Shore Levee, as well as talking points highlighting detail on the Board's accomplishments related to the strategy and 2023-25 budget priorities.
- Board members were reminded that there is a detailed memorandum that includes a summary of the Board's budget proposal for 2023-25, as well as a more detailed end of year report highlighting major work accomplishments.
- Board members highlighted that the historic success of the Board to secure funding is, in part, due to members' agreement that they must move both flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration strategies forward.
- Brian Shay, City of Aberdeen, will be testifying on January 12, 2023, in support of additional funding of \$35 million to complete the North Shore Levee through a legislative member request separate from the Board's recommended budget.

### **FOLLOW UP:**

- OCB staff will develop and distribute a 1-pager document that includes highlights and key outcomes of the 2023-25 biennium funding request that can be referenced when speaking with the legislators.
- Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam will provide the Board with more information on specific funding received to date for the North Shore Levee, as well as information regarding the final \$35 million requested in the current capital budget request for 2023-25.

## Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

### **ASRP 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Look Ahead**

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) provided an update on the ASRP's 2022 accomplishments, including development of the regional implementation team (comprised of 14 eligible sponsor organizations), onboarding the technical review team, initiating the technical advisory group (TAG), and building a project portfolio that includes nearly 20 new projects in less than 12 months.

Progress on the Early Action Reach projects include completions of the Satsop and Wynoochee river projects and season one work at Stillman Creek. Additional work has been lined up to support 3 more projects in the 2023 summer construction window, and there has been an expanded effort to increase the eligible sponsor list. These active initiatives and strategy development has led to increases in capacity, community involvement and engagement, and additional learning opportunities.

### **ASRP Project Portfolio Review**

Drew Meador (WDFW) provided an overview of the ASRP's existing and potential budget obligation for projects. There is currently \$15.4 million in obligated spending with an additional \$1.2 million that requires board approval. There is \$1.18 million in large river projects and an additional \$45K that would go toward other projects in '23-25. Since October 2022, there has been \$481K spent on projects, including restoration, barrier correction, project development, and amphibian related projects.

### **ASRP Board Subcommittee Meeting Share-out**

Dave Bingaman, Nicole Czarnomski, and Colleen Parrott provided their perspective on the ASRP process to date, including:

- Concerns about growing inflation and the impact it may have in the number of completed projects that can be completed at similar funding levels to prior biennia.
- The need to address individual communities' ability to absorb the level of project implementation happening each biennium and finding ways to address that and build capacity.
- The need for strategies to increase voluntary landowner engagement, and finding solutions that work on the ground to increase community buy in.
- There needs to be a bridge to fill the gap between flood and habitat projects and how to better integrate those efforts to ensure the process is more wholistic.

Nat Kale (OCB) provided an update on the ASRP Board sub-committee meeting held in December 2022. That meeting included Board members Jay Gordon, Steve Malloch, and all three voting steering committee members. Discussion included the All-Hs concepts and key ASRP metrics to contextualize information and tell a better story. Other key topics included developing a 6-year reporting cycle, how to leverage federal funding, and how to better integrate habitat projects with other elements of the strategy.

### **ASRP Project Funding Approval Request**

Drew Meador (WDFW) reminded Board members of their approval process for project funding requests exceeding \$500,000. This is a two-part approval process, which includes a project introduction summary

provided to the Board, followed by a second meeting where Board members are asked to decide to approve (or not) the project for funding.

Anthony Waldrop (Grays Harbor conservation district) reviewed in more detail the Satsop 2.5-5.0 project, which is the first ASRP project to go through this new approval process. The project includes reach scale restoration of 2.5 miles along the Satsop River including engineered log jams (ELJs), riparian restoration, and invasive species management. The project was initially estimated to cost \$3.59 million but has increased an additional \$1.18 million due to inflation and design changes. Final design was completed and approved by the ASRP technical review team, and permit and construction bids would begin in early 2023 to start phase 1 construction by summer 2023.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Presentation](#)
- [ASRP Board Handout Q4 2022](#)
- [Satsop 2.5-5.0 construction](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding if ASRP or other restoration projects in the Basin are being funded through sources other than Strategy funds, and the need to identify and track those funding sources to report on spending more comprehensively.
- WDFW staff highlighted that the ASRP does not require a partner match in the same way the Recreation and Conservation Office does and offered to return to a future Board meeting to discuss how other funds are being tracked for projects.

**FOLLOW UP:** WDFW staff will return to a future board meeting to ask the Board for a decision on funding the Satsop 2.5-5.0 project.

## Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

Glen Connelly (LAND Steering Group Co-Chair) provided an overview of the December LAND Steering Group (SG) meeting, including their discussion on refinements to the LAND alternative concepts and the approach for the January 19th community workshop. Four concepts are moving forward for community input, and the SG recommended that land use recommendations be an explicit part of each of the concepts along with the other non-structural and structural elements.

Alex Dupey (MIG) provided Board members with a high-level schedule for Q1 of 2023. The SG's preliminary LAND Alternative recommendation is on schedule to be presented to the Board by April 2023.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Land SG December 12, 2022 Meeting Synthesis](#)
- [MIG Chehalis Board Presentation](#)

## Erosion Management

Nat Kale (OCB) provided the Board a summary of the purpose of the erosion management program, which is to reduce the use of hard bank stabilization practices within the Chehalis Basin that degrade habitats and promote the use of bioengineering techniques that can provide effective erosion management that can also improve aquatic habitat conditions. The program will work with willing landowners to address both urgent and longer-term erosion concerns. The program will also provide funding and technical assistance to jurisdictions and Tribes within the Chehalis Basin to reduce future development of structures and infrastructure in erosion hazard areas.

With the success of six pilot projects in the 2021-23 biennium, OCB plans to start funding a small number of integrated erosion management projects in the 2023-25 biennium. Funding will support technical assistance, technical advancement studies, and erosion management projects.

Program objectives include:

- Address urgent and imminent erosion threats to eligible structures and lands while also protecting and/or improving habitat conditions.
- Incentivize proactive projects that can address reach-scale erosion concerns for multiple landowners while also providing substantial habitat benefits.
- Provide technical assistance and resources to support basin jurisdictions to reduce future development of structures and infrastructure in erosion hazard areas

The highest priority for the 23-25 biennium is creating a guidebook for homeowners and contractors, explaining how to build common bioengineering designs and how they work and to keep meeting with some of the members of a workgroup, growing and expanding the conversation about erosion management in the basin.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding how artificially accelerated erosion factors into prioritization of projects.
- OCB staff highlighted that modeling of bank erosion is addressed to ensure that any proposed protection would be similar to what would naturally occur.

## Chehalis Basin Strategy Process Refinement

Sam Imperati (ICM resolutions) provided the Board an overview of the scope of work and tasks that he will be addressing as part his work to refine the Chehalis Basin Strategy process and support long-term decision making. Major tasks in the near-term include affirming the Board's overarching charge, establishing agreement on specific topics, and agreeing on process protocols. Sam will be dedicating time in future Board meetings to address these topics, among others.

Below is the link to the topic materials:

- [CBB 1-5-23 assessment presentation](#)

## Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next regular Board meeting will be February 2, 2023 as a hybrid (in-person/online) meeting.

## Attachment A

### **Board Staff/Board Guests:**

- Alex Dupey, MIG
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Brian Shay, City of Aberdeen
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Celest Wilder, City of Chehalis
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cheryl Vincent, SBGH Partners
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Drew Mealor, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jennifer Tice, Ross Strategic
- J. Paul Rinehimer, West Consultants
- Jim Kramer, Facilitator
- Jim Weber, CELP
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kat Dickey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Krestine Reed, Boards of Wilderness
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lizzie Jespersen, Pyramid Communications
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Marri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Mike Olden



- Nick Bird, City of Aberdeen
- Ron Averill, Flood Authority
- Sam Imperati, ICM
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Steve Hinton
- Tammy Domike, Citizens for a Clean Harbor
- Teri Wright, Wild Orca
- Todd Chaput, Economic Alliance of Lewis County
- Victoria Knorr, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wendy Brown

## Attachment B

### Public Comment

*“The Department of Ecology has embarked on an aggressive program of uneconomical and environmentally damaging water projects in the Yakima River Basin, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and the Chehalis River Basin. For each one, Ecology has selected a small “advisory” group to help rubber stamp its water project agenda. In addition, Ecology has also established a separate Office of Columbia River Policy Advisory Group, which is also meeting this morning. It is not helpful for public to have to try and cover both the OCRPAG AND the Chehalis River Basin meetings at the same time. Can someone please direct Ecology to not double up meetings such as these?” David E. Ortman, Seattle, WA*