

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** January 6, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent January 6, 2022 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; November 4 meeting summaries approved	No follow-up action.
2. Emergency Flooding Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	WDFW will provide the Board with more information on how the Chehalis Basin could be impacted through the Governor's Salmon Recovery Plan.
5. Board Outreach, Engagement, and Public Involvement	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Director's report	Discussion	OCB staff will provide the Board with a link to the new Floodplain Coordinator job posting.  OCB Director will provide Board with more legislative information for SB5632 and SB5665.
7. Board "Housekeeping"	Decision: Board approved by consensus all Board Handbook amendments.  Decision: Board approved by consensus the delegated authority to Board Chair and	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
	OCB Director to determine future 2022 meeting locations and platforms.	
8. 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
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- Glen Connolly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation

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

- Alex Smith, Department of Natural Resources
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission
- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology

### Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

### Public comment(s)

- See Attachment B

## Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

## Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [January 6, 2022](#) meeting agenda.

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

## Approval of November 4, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

**BOARD DECISION:** November 4, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

## **Emergency Flooding Report**

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle invited Board members to provide current information related to emergency management activities regarding the flood event in the basin.

### **Grays Harbor County DEM:**

Board Chair Vickie Raines shared the following information from Grays Harbor Department of Emergency Management:

- Heavy rain overnight and rapid warming has led to low lying roads already being closed due to water over the roadway.
- Impacts will continue throughout the day and throughout the weekend due to heavy rainfall and flooding.
- Grays Harbor could see excessive rainfall of 3-4 more inches today to tomorrow afternoon
- Many rivers will hit flood stage today and will remain in flood stage throughout the weekend
- Chehalis River flooding will impact areas near the river.
  - Chehalis River near Grand Mound will hit Major Flooding 145.01 ft (flood stage is 141 ft)
  - Chehalis River in Porter will hit just below Major flooding at 51.13 ft (flood stage is 48 ft)
- Satsop River will see minor flooding at 38.27 ft (flood stage is 38.0 ft)
- Wynoochee River also will see some flooding that could lead to impacts

### **Chehalis Tribe Updates:**

Glen Connelly (Chehalis Tribe) shared the following information regarding the Chehalis Tribe's reservation:

- 75% of the reservation is in the floodplain.
- Travel to the Casino, Tribal Community Center, and community housing may be cut off and river levels are predicted to hit over 145ft (Major Flooding).

### **Department of Ecology:**

Rich Doenges (Ecology) shared the following information:

- Ecology's Solid Waste Program is working with Lewis County Emergency management to address possible debris or any livestock fatalities.
- Water Quality staff are reaching out to wastewater treatment plants and giving them some technical assistance to avoid impacts from flooding.
- Washington Conservation crews can be available to help with sandbagging, setting up shelters, and delivering food and water.

## **Quinault Indian Nation (QIN):**

Tyson Johnston (QIN) shared the following information regarding the QIN's reservation:

- Major breach to community seawall caused the evacuation of the lower parts of village and QIN is working to get people into alternate accommodations.

## **Emergency Alert Systems:**

Below are links to the basin's County/Tribal/Flood Authority emergency alert systems:

- [Lewis County Emergency Alert Program](#)
- [Thurston County Community Alert System](#)
- [Grays Harbor County Emergency Alert System](#)
- [Chehalis Tribe CodeRED Emergency Alert System](#)
- [Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System](#)

## **Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)**

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided the Board with an update on the local actions non-dam alternative (LAND) RFQ, which focuses on recruiting a consultant team to develop a suite of actions aimed at basin wide flood damage reduction without the proposed dam. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) issued the RFQ and OCB staff held a pre-proposal conference on December 15 for prospective consultants to ask questions. Proposals are due January 10 and the highest scoring firms will be invited to conduct interviews virtually on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided a summary of the December LAND SG meeting. The Steering Group met in person for the first time and approved their charter, ground rules, and operating procedures. They adopted a consensus based decision-making model very similar to how the Board operates, and selected co-chairs to lead the group.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Glen Connelly acknowledged that there is a good mix of people and different interests on the Steering Group and conversations have been positive and are allowing the group to see different perspectives that will help guide the work.
- Tyson Johnston added that the first session felt productive, and he appreciated how well staff mapped out the group's timeline for tasks that need to be accomplished over the next year.
- Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded meeting participants that if they are interested in receiving notice of the meetings and attending the meetings, OCB has a separate distribution list that is available, and to contact Cindy Bradley ([cindy.bradley@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cindy.bradley@ecy.wa.gov)).

## **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)**

Emelie McKain provided the Board with Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) updates, including 2021 accomplishments, implementation structure roll out, and the implementation report.

- ASRP projects implemented in 2021 included the first reach of the Skookumchuck Early Action Reach, the completion of the Marker 19 oxbow and fish passage, and the Camp Creek fish

passage barrier correction. These projects were completed in partnerships with Lewis County Conservation District, Weyerhaeuser, Trout Unlimited, and WSDOT.

- 2021 planning accomplishments included the completion of the Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan, sequencing of restoration and protection actions for ASRP, and the implementation structure preparations.
- The ASRP adaptive management structure annual report will be released soon and will include information such as refinements to ASRP implementation strategies & near-term priorities, and how ASRP will track progress toward goals.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Board Updates](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in understanding how the Governor's Salmon Strategy and is being considered and how it might affect the progress on the ASRP.

**FOLLOW UP:** WDFW will provide the Board with more information on how the Chehalis Basin could be impacted through the Governor's Salmon Recovery Plan.

## Board Outreach, Engagement, and Public Involvement

Lizzie Jespersen (Pyramid Communications) provided the Board with information on the current status of digital engagement, public input, a communications needs assessment, and the Board's 2022 priorities. Chehalis Basin Strategy digital channels cumulatively reach substantial numbers of Chehalis Basin residents and are the primary audience being most served by social media channels.

Based on small group conversations with Chehalis Basin Board members and a number of partners who regularly interact with Chehalis Basin residents and landowners, Pyramid had two primary findings:

1. The ChehalisBasinStrategy.com website is not easily navigable for residents or partners. There is a need for a "one-stop-shop" website that clearly provides information and resources.
2. Partners are overwhelmed by resources and information spread across multiple places. They request a toolkit that streamlines various resources and materials, as well as a Chehalis Basin Strategy leave-behind for residents.

Communications priorities for 2022 included three primary objectives:

1. Connect residents to up-to-date and transparent information about the Chehalis Basin Strategy, demonstrating it is an example of a government process that works.
2. Foster regional collaboration by positioning the Chehalis Basin Strategy as a climate adaptation and resilience model.
3. Strengthen the Chehalis Basin Board's communication in support of keeping the Strategy moving forward.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [OCB Comms Update](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in seeing communication that is more balanced and highlights successful flood projects that have been completed.
- Board members raised questions on outreach strategies focused on underserved communities that may not be getting the information due to various reasons, such as language or technology barriers.
- Social Media Handles provided:
  - Twitter handle – <https://twitter.com/ChehalisBasin>
  - Facebook Handle - <https://www.facebook.com/ChehalisBasinStrategy>
- OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board that OCB has coordinated communication efforts with other state agencies to develop a more unified approach.

## Director's Report

### OCB Updates

The Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) is looking to fill a Flood Risk Reduction Program Coordinator (Environmental Planner 4) position. For a full job description and to apply, follow this link: [Flood Risk Reduction Program Coordinator \(Environmental Planner 4\)](#)

**FOLLOW UP:** OCB staff will provide the Board with a link to the new Floodplain Coordinator job posting.

### Legislative Updates

The 2022 Legislature session will be a short session and is scheduled to start January 10, 2022. Bills to note:

- [SB 5632](#) - Concerning investments in critical water infrastructure projects: Establishes that the Washington water infrastructure program will be administered as a competitive grant program and directs Ecology to apply for any federal assistance available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. OCB's role would be to review and evaluate project proposals intended to reduce the risk of flooding, protect against damage caused by flooding, or restore flooded areas. Highest priority is to be given to projects that implement the Chehalis basin strategy (RCW 43.21a.732). Preference is also given to projects that are located in historically vulnerable areas or minimize future damage to infrastructure.
- [SB 5665](#) – Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery: The bill establishes a new riparian management zone standard that landowners are required to implement.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Jennifer Hennessey (Governor's Office) provided additional detail on SB 5665, sharing that the Governor's office is coordinating with the OCB Director on the Governor's recently released salmon strategy.
  - Board members shared concerns that funding might prioritize ESA-listed species and the basin doesn't currently have any listed salmon species.

**FOLLOW UP:** OCB Director will provide Board with more legislative information for SB5632 and SB5665.

## Board "Housekeeping"

### Board Handbook

Cindy Bradley (OCB) provided the Board with an update to the CBB handbook, last approved in January 2021. OCB has made necessary amendments through 2021 that reflect both Board-approved changes, as well as administrative/housekeeping changes.

All other updates included:

- Adoption of the 2022 meeting dates
- Board Member and OCB Staff Contact Information
- OCB Org Chart
- Compensation and Travel Reimbursement process
- All the associated Appendices

Below are the links to the presentation materials:

- [CBB Handbook Updates Memo](#)
- [Chehalis Basin Board Handbook - Jan 2022](#)

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus all CBB handbook changes.

## 2022 Board Meeting Dates

Chair Vickie Raines reminded Board members of previous discussions on 2022 meeting locations (online vs in-person) due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. While recognizing the importance of having in-person meetings, Board members and OCB acknowledge current health and safety concerns. It is the recommendation of the Chair to continue holding 2022 monthly meetings virtually but request delegated authority to make executive decisions to evaluate and determine 2022 meeting locations and platforms as needed.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus the delegated authority to the Board Chair and OCB Director to determine future 2022 meeting locations and platforms.

## Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:48. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021, to be held virtually.

## Attachment A

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

- Anne Reese, Rock PM Services
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Colin Swanson, Office of US Rep. Jamie Hererra Beutler
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David E Ortman
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Rosane, The Centralia Chronicle
- Frank Corbin, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jennifer Young, Parametrix
- Jennifer Hennessey, Washington Governor's Office
- Jerry Louthain
- Julie Tyson
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Mara Zimmerman, Costal Salmon Partnership
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Paul Schlenger, ESA
- Raymond Walton
- Scotty Ireland
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club



## Public Comment(s):

David Ortman:

*"Thank you, my name is David Ortman. I am here in Seattle Washington, I have monitored a number of Department of Ecology group processes, including the Grays Harbor Estuary Management Task Force back in the 70s and 80s and the current Yakima Icicle Work Group and opposite Columbia Rivers Policy Advisory Groups. After hearing pyramid communications presentation, it is alarming to hear some of the same mistakes being repeated by Ecology. This morning pyramid presentation says the for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, that is quite important that Board members are consistent in their messages that the strategy must demonstrate that it is a government process that works and that the strategy investments benefit the communities or alternate views are discounted discouraged...*

*And since it was a mention of Senator Honeyford's SB5632, that I've just taken a look at this is also alarming because it does not have any mechanism for evaluating projects as just was mentioned on cost benefit analysis. Why should the State be spending money on projects where the benefits do not exceed the costs and no mention of compliance with the state environmental policy act? Senator Honeyford seems to have a deficit of interest in having environmental impacts analyzed and required before money is spent. Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments."*

Teri Wright (Sierra Club):

*"I first want to thank the Board. I do not always agree with some of the outcomes that come out of Board meetings, but I do want to thank you for your nimbleness, especially recently by including the public and giving us more of a voice. I think that is great you are one of my favorite Board meetings to attend because of that, I also want to give a big shout out to the creation of the Local Actions Non-Damn Steering Committee. I am really looking forward to what they come up with because I believe that it is a group of dedicated individuals who will work hard to resolve some other more pressing problems that faced the basin. I also wanted to say that while salmon may not be on the ESA list they're not doing well and the basin, and I hope that the LAND Steering Committee will continue to work and be mindful of making sure that salmon do better. I also just wanted to stress that, since the pandemic and the use of zoom I think it is great that we are allowed to attend the meetings via zoom and I hope that you continue. To keep that as an action, because it really does help the public to attend these meetings, thank you."*