

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: March 3, 2022
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent March 3, 2022 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; February 3 meeting summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Impact and Effect of Projects Supported by the Strategy During Recent Basin Flood Event	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Key Takeaways and Remaining Questions After Recent Flood Event	Discussion/ Direction	OCB staff will continue doing outreach to local and regional media to share the success of projects supported by the Strategy and the key takeaways from the January flood event.
4. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Skookumchuck Dam Analysis	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Forest Practices Impacts on Hydrology Analysis	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
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
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

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 [March 3, 2022](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of February 3, 2022 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [February 3, 2022 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: February 3, 2022 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Impact and Effect of Projects Supported by the Strategy During Recent Basin Flood Event

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle invited local project sponsors to present information related to the impacts and effects of the projects supported by the Strategy during the recent Basin flood event and provided them an opportunity to share some of their on the ground perspective.

Kim Ashmore (City of Centralia) presented impacts on flooding in Centralia, including:

- China Creek did experience flooding (evaluation still underway).
- 9,000 sandbags were used during the two worst days of flooding.
- Skookumchuck Levee held up very well, with no apparent damage and appeared to prevent flooding.
- City of Centralia received \$17K in grant funding from Department of Ecology to purchase additional flood readiness equipment.

Brandon Rakes (Airport Operations Coordinator) presented on the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee project, including:

- The Inundation map on www.chehalisriverflood.org was used as a tool several days leading up to and during the flood event.
- Pump station funded through the Chehalis Basin Strategy in 2017, with investments totaling \$1.1 million.
- New pump station is capable of pumping 10,000 gallons of water per minute.
- During January 2022 flood event, the airport pump station pumped 100 million gallons of water away from the airport.
- Levee protection to local economy includes:
 - 1,658 jobs
 - Labor Income: \$68,050,000
 - Value added: \$115,393,000
 - Business revenue: \$186,473,000
 - Tax impacts of infrastructure protected: \$9,107,490

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Airport Pump Station Chehalis-Centralia Airport Presentation](#)

Brian Shay (City of Hoquiam) presented information on the use of Hoquiam's Raymer Street Pump Station, including:

- Without the pump station, there would have been major flooding in Hoquiam.
- \$1.3M received in funding from Strategy; \$500k matching funds from City. Designed and built in 16 months.
- This project ties into the West Levee project; there are two more pump stations under design.
- Raymer neighborhoods include many homes, a big church, a school, and multiple businesses.

Bob Amrine (Lewis County Conservation District) provided an update on the perspectives from farmers and local farm pads, including:

- Four pads were used to protect livestock and equipment:

- A dairy that had previously lost all of their cattle used their pad with zero loss.
- One farmer had over 70 cows on their pad.
- All pads were built 2-feet higher than the 2007 event.
- Farmers rely on flood warning system to ensure there is enough time to move animals.
- There was a 12-hour notice to get animals and equipment out of flood areas.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members appreciated hearing that farm pads are doing what they are supposed to do.
- Board members were interested in knowing if additional support is needed to build farm pads.
- The Lewis County Conservation District gathered all the reports of the January 2022 flooding and stored that information in the local library archive.

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority) & Matt Kastberg (Parametrix Consulting) provided an update on the Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), including:

- WWTP project was conducted between 2017-2020.
- The Wynoochee River has begun migrating aggressively toward the WWTP between 2006-2017.
- The WWTP was protected in the 1990s with a sheet pile wall, but this later caused deep scowling and riverbank erosion below the depth of most of the sheet pile and the road around the plant.
- Settling ponds held 30 years of waste and was at risk of entering the river.
- Evaluated four options including, (1) extended sheet pile, (2) deflecting the river, (3) rerouting the river, or (4) inserting log jacks.
- As the best combination of effectiveness, cost, and speed, log jacks were both deployed upland (phase I) and in the water (phase II).
- Deployment was effective; scour stopped advancing, and the river moved away from the WWTP.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Montesano WWTP Presentation](#)

Emelie McKain (WDFW) presented information related to Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) projects, including:

- During January 2022 flood event, all five Early Action Reach (EAR) projects experienced ≤100-year scale flooding.
- All projects were designed for major flood events, and elements all functioning as designed.
- At the Satsop EAR:
 - Experienced water overtopping riverbanks but flood fencing allowed 80-90% of riparian plantings to remain in place.

- Large Woody Debris is causing more natural rates of bank erosion, creating deep pools (from scour around structures), and recruiting natural wood.
- Continued monitoring will help assess the impact of flooding.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Projects Update](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged the positive impact and success EAR projects have had, and encouraged increased use of social media communication reflecting those successes.

Key Takeaways and Remaining Questions after Recent Flood Event

Andrea McNamara Doyle (OCB Director) provided an update on an FAQ document and other information gathered related to the January flood events. Information was added to address questions provided by the Quinault Indian Nation about what the impact of the proposed dam would have been had it been operational in the January 2022 event. OCB is updating FAQ documents as we receive new information from local partners and consultants. OCB is also developing some technical information including hydrologic modeling and the USGS updated rating curves on the Chehalis and Newaukum rivers.

Below is the link to the presentation materials

- [OCB Flood Response FAQ - Updated 02-24-22](#)

FOLLOW UP: OCB staff will continue conducting outreach to local and regional media to share the success of projects supported by the Strategy and the key takeaways from the January flood event.

Board Member Break Out Session on Key Takeaways:

- Board members acknowledged that the basin is affected by both an atmospheric river system and tidally influenced, which make flooding events complicated to predict and can cause damage in different places from one event to the next.
- Board members would like more social media outreach and communication on strategy accomplishments.
- Board members are interested in identifying funding opportunities through the current federal infrastructure bill.
- Board members are interested in doing more in-person outreach to local community groups and organizations, including elected boards and public meetings.
- Board members are interested in discussing how to quantify benefits of projects.

Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

Glen Connelly and Todd Chaput (LAND SG Co-Chairs) provided a brief overview of the February LAND Steering Group meetings, including a recap of the Steering group discussion related to the various flood

reduction methods that have been looked at in the past to have constructive group discussions on viable alternatives.

Andrea McNamara Doyle introduced Alex Dupey (MIG Consulting) who is serving as the LAND SG project manager. MIG is currently scoping the project, doing internal meetings with subs, and conducting onboarding meetings.

Their current schedule is the following:

- Interviews with key community leaders and stakeholders in mid-March
- Broader values planning work session mid-April (2-3 days)
- Then developing and analyzing concepts through the summer
- Initial analysis and conceptual recommendations this fall, to line up with NEPA EIS timeline

Skookumchuck Dam

Nate Kale (OCB) provide the Board with a progress update on Skookumchuck dam analyses. Board members were reminded of their approval to have OCB move analysis into phase 2, which is looking at potential alternative futures for the Skookumchuck Dam. The three possible outcomes the Board were interested in seeing as part of this analysis included operational changes, modifications, and removal. We have a number of upcoming efforts that will also inform the final report. Workgroup activities are in the early stages and include habitat surveys, running flood and fish scenarios, and developing the draft and final report that will be presented to the Board in fall 2022.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Skookumchuck Dam Analysis](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members encouraged active engagement by local government and the public in this process.
- WDFW reminded Board members of Director Kelly Susewind's letter to the Board that requested that the Skookumchuck dam analyses process included review of potential options that can provide significant uplift for the status of salmon and steelhead on the river.

Forest Hydrology Study

Nat Kale (OCB) provided the Board with a progress update on the forest practices analysis. In 2016, the Governor's workgroup commissioned the forest practices and hydrology study. By early 2021, the study design was complete and included extensive monitoring in the upper Chehalis watershed on Weyerhaeuser lands, but study design leaned so heavily on access to Weyerhaeuser land and business practices, the study could not move forward. After renewing communication with John Stednick, the principal investigator, it was decided that the study would move in a different direction, to minimize reliance on Weyerhaeuser.

The study has now changed the approach as follows:

- Revise the design: John and his team will revise the study design. Estimated completion early summer 2022.

- Reduce dependence on Weyerhaeuser: with the offer to include Weyerhaeuser on the study team, but if they decline, the study will continue forward.
- Use existing data: The study will not rely on Weyerhaeuser-specific business practices, and will lean much more heavily on existing data in the basin.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Forest Practices Impacts of Hydrology presentation](#)

ASRP Symposium

Emelie McKain (WDFW) announced the 2022 Symposium on April 20-21, 2022. The event is intended to discuss ongoing research and community-based project implementation. The event will bring together restoration practitioners and community members to share ideas and develop solutions to build aquatic habitat resilience in the Chehalis Basin.

- [Registration for the 2022 Virtual ASRP Symposium: April 20 and 21, 2022](#)

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:49PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2022, to be held hybrid (in-person/online). Board members and presenters are encouraged to attend in-person and public should continue participating online.

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
- Austin Majors, Lewis County
- Betsy Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Brandon Rakes, Chehalis-Centralia Airport
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 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 Linn
- David Ortman
- DE Jensen
- Ellie Probus, Pyramid Communications
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Erik Martin, Flood Control Zone District
- Frank Corbin, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Hannah Coe, Department of Ecology
- Hope Rieden, Department of Natural Resources
- JD Stednick
- Jen Hennessey, Governor's Office
- Jennifer Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jerilyn Walley, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Jill Anderson
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia
- Lara McRea, Flood Control Zone District
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation

- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Matthew Kastberg, Parametrix
- Mike Beehler, Chehalis-Centralia Railroad
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority
- Scotty Ireland, Parametrix
- Ron Averill, Flood Authority
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club
- Todd Chaput, Economic Alliance of Lewis County
- Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner

Public Comment

Ron Averill:

"For some of you who may not know me, I'm a former County Commissioner for Lewis County during the 2007 flood. A great deal of what we were doing is because we have been studying the basin for almost a century and we have over 200 studies of the Basin. The things you find is that when the public is suffering from one of these floods, they become quite impatient. In 2007 floods, we had a few things we realized (1) The problem that we had in the Basin was not restricted to Lewis County, (2) we had to fix our warning system, and (3) and long term solution was going to take time to manage and plan. We needed to give the public something to show that we were working on flooding in the interim on smaller projects."

Scotty Ireland:

"I have been floating and fishing the Satsop River for almost 25 years now and some of the most recent projects that the strategy has supported are tremendous. Great work that is really helping balance the benefiting aquatic species as well as land conservation. I just wanted to say how much I appreciate that and it is going to make a huge difference because I've seen what that river has been doing for the past 25 years."