

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** April 7, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent April 7, 2022 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; March 3 meeting summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Proposed Project	Discussion	<p>Staff will provide additional clarity about the updated climate change modeling being used in the SEPA FEIS, including how it is describing the frequency of major and catastrophic flooding events predicted for later in the century.</p> <p>FCZD will attend a future Board meeting to provide additional updates on other areas identified as a primary concern in the draft SEPA and NEPA EIS.</p> <p>FCZD will attend a future Board meeting to provide more detail on issues of economics and environmental justice.</p>
3. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	Discussion / Direction	. Board members are strongly encouraged to attend the May 16-18 Values Planning workshop.
4. Communications and Outreach	Discussion	Pyramid will reach out to determine which community organizations & events individual Board members are willing to meet/talk with about the Strategy, and what assistance they might need in doing that.
5. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program (CFAR)	Discussion	OCB staff will return to a future board meeting with more detail on evaluation

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		<p>guidelines for policies related to demolish and rebuild.</p> <p>OCB staff will return to a future Board meeting to present the Board with the outcome of the CFAR pilot, including the effects of the policies described in the Board memo.</p>
6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Lewis Stream Team	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Director's Report	Discussion	OCB staff will return to a future Board meeting to provide a 2021-23 spending update and review unobligated funds that have been kept in reserve for future consideration.
9. 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

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

- Alex Smith, Department of Natural Resources
- 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 9:15 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

## **Consent Agenda**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [April 7, 2022 meeting agenda](#).

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

## **Approval of March 3, 2022 Meeting Summary**

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

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

## **Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Proposed Project**

### **Ecology Update**

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided the Board an update on work that has been done in preparation to completing the final SEPA EIS (FEIS). The anticipated date to finish the FEIS is early (Q1) 2023 and Ecology is meeting regularly with the FCZD and US Army Corps of Engineers. The scope of work expanded from the Draft EIS due to updated studies describing changes in major flood frequencies under climate change scenarios. Ecology is currently incorporating proposed mitigation analyses provided by the applicant, and reviewing additional information provided by the applicant related to fish passage, quarry sites, and levee design. More modeling, design, and analysis will be required for mitigation if the proposed project moves into permitting. Any proposed mitigation will require adaptive management to handle the changing situations over time.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [CBB Briefing on Chehalis SEPA FEIS](#)

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** Staff will provide additional clarity about the updated climate change modeling being used in the SEPA FEIS, including how it is describing the frequency of major and catastrophic flooding events predicted for later in the century.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in better understanding modeling used for the FEIS that defines catastrophic flood frequency and projected climate change impacts.
- Board members were reminded that the purpose of the EIS is to disclose mitigation impacts and disclose information provided by the applicant. If Ecology does not have sufficient information on mitigation impact, they have to assume the largest or most significant impacts.

## US Army Corps Update

Jim Kramer introduced Evan Carnes and Brandon Clinton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who provided a brief update on the NEPA FEIS. The anticipated date to finish the NEPA FEIS is late (Q4) 2022 and USACE is meeting regularly with Ecology, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and tribes to address any cultural resources concerns. USACE is currently incorporating proposed mitigation analyses provided by the applicant and working on updating sediment transport analyses and salmonid abundance modeling. The NEPA FEIS is meant to disclose the potential environmental effects of the project and more specific information will be required as USACE develops a Record of Decision (RoD). The timeline associated with developing a RoD is variable.

## Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Update

Jim Kramer introduced Erik Martin and Matt Dillin (FCZD), who provided the Board with an update on the work the FCZD has done to fulfill their commitment to clarifying questions related to concerns identified in the draft SEPA and NEPA EISs. FCZD has currently evaluated three of the ten areas of primary concern, including air quality, public services and utilities, and the wetlands near the airport levee.

Commitments:

1. **Air Quality:** Large woody debris will not be burned. Instead, it will be used for habitat restoration, adding woody debris to the river. (*Vegetation Management Plan, 12/17/2021, Plant Replacement Plan, 9/3/2021 Large Woody Material Management, 9/3/2021*)
2. **Public Services and Utilities:** The FCZD will provide funding and conduct the engineering necessary to ensure that PeEll's water supply will not be disrupted. (*SEPA DEIS Comments 5/27/2020, Cover Letter 9/3/2021*)
3. **Wetlands near Airport Levee:** The FCZD will utilize construction techniques and materials to remain within the existing levee footprint. (*Airport Levee Wetland Avoidance, 8/20 & 2/22/2021*)

Below are the links to the presentation materials:

- [OCB Board - FCZD Presentation](#)
- [OCB Board - FCZD Handout](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in learning more about the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project with the current projections of major and catastrophic floods in mid- and late century.

### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:**

- FCZD will return to the Board at a future meeting to provide additional updates on the other areas identified as a primary concern in the draft SEPA and NEPA EISs.
- FCZD will return to the Board at a future meeting to provide more detail on issues of economics and environmental justice.

## Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

Glen Connelly (LAND Steering Group Co-Chair) provided a brief overview of the March LAND Steering Group (SG) meeting, including a recap of the LAND SG discussion related to the Lewis County housing initiative and approaches and opportunities for community outreach and engagement on the LAND process.

Glen and Dan Maughan (LAND SG member) shared their perspectives on the March 16 Chehalis Basin site tour which was intended for SG members, OCB staff, MIG consultant team, elected officials, and local government representatives. The tour took participants through locations in Centralia, Chehalis, and Adna, and was designed to showcase key areas in the upper basin that experience flood damage, a selection of flood damage reduction projects, and areas that have the potential for further flood damage reduction in the future.

Andrea McNamara Doyle introduced Alex Dupey (MIG Consulting) who provided a high-level overview of their consultant team's activities and events currently underway for the LAND process, including:

- Technical staff onboarding sessions
- In-person interviews with Board members and other key stakeholders
- Project scoping with sub-consultants
- Upcoming Values Planning workshop in mid-May

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** Board members are strongly encouraged to attend the May 16-18 Values Planning workshop.

## Communications and Outreach

Lizzie Jespersen and Izzy Zucker (Pyramid Communications) provided the Board an update on the status of digital engagement, public input, and the Board's 2022 communication and outreach priorities in progress. 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.

Communication and outreach activities currently in progress include:

- Restructuring and redrafting content on [www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com](http://www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com) to highlight Chehalis Basin residents as Strategy partners, making it easy to learn about success stories to-date and how to access resources and support.
- Developing a centralized place for Strategy partners to access leave-behinds, FAQs, contact information, and more to support their work with landowners and other residents.
- Following up on the well-attended Skookumchuck Dam webinar with additional informational webinars, informed by elected officials' interests.
- Developing and circulating an internal-facing template for project partners to share back project successes; will be used to standardize available information and inform communications materials.
- Drafting e-newsletters, social media, as well as providing ad hoc support for earned media and other activities.

- Developed list of local organizations for Board members to visit with as pandemic restrictions ease and groups return to in-person.

Key comments and discussion:

- Board members noted that communications and outreach efforts have not always translated well to the public and there is still room for improvement in educating people on the two objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy – flood damage reduction and aquatic species habitat restoration – and the successes achieved to-date.
- Board members were reminded of their willingness to volunteer to visit with local organizations and share about resources and opportunities available through the Strategy and partners.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** Pyramid will reach out to determine which community organizations & events individual Board members are willing to meet/talk with about the Strategy, and what assistance they might need in doing that.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [OCB Comms Update - April 2022 Board Meeting](#)

## Community Flood Assistance& Resilience Program (CFAR)

### **CFAR Provisional Pilot Policy – Public and Private Interests**

Nat Kale (OCB) reminded Board members of their previous conversation at the February 3, 2022 Board meeting, where OCB staff requested guidance from the Board for establishing policies for the CFAR program. The specific policies discussed addressed situations where the interests of the landowner stand in opposition to the informal, non-adopted interests of the local government or its representatives.

The CFAR program is committed to working cooperatively with local governments and acknowledging that they have authority over land use, zoning, and community development. The CFAR program will work with local governments by providing an opportunity for them to formalize preferences or opinions that may have previously been informally assumed, or that may be working their way through an adoption process. The CFAR program also recognizes a general principle that citizens have a right to provide input on government decisions that affect them.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [CFAR Pilot Policies Public Private Conflict](#)

### **CFAR Provisional Pilot Policies – Rental, Demolish, and Rebuild**

Nat Kale (OCB Staff) provided an update on the CFAR pilot program, which identified 14 properties in the Chehalis basin to retrofit, remove, or rebuild in 2022. OCB staff and consultants have identified several policy considerations among these 14 projects. Three additional provisional policies have been developed to address elevation of rental properties, using property protection funds to acquire and clear flood prone structures, and to pay to demolish a structure and construct a new one on the site.

To complete the 14 CFAR pilot projects, OCB will work with RCO to distribute a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to bring one or more companies with the necessary construction and engineering experience under contract. OCB staff plan to draft, release the RFQ this spring, contract with the successful bidder or bidders, and begin work this summer with a goal of completing all 14 sites by summer 2023.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [CFAR Pilot Policies Rental Demo Rebuild](#)

Key comments and discussion:

- Board members voiced no opposition to the provisional policies.
- Board members requested more detail on how the CFAR program would determine if a structure should be purchased to demolish or when to construct a new one on the site. This includes how the CFAR program will evaluate if the existing building is not worth the cost of the protection measure.
- Board members were reminded that CFAR is using current climate change conditions when making decisions on project qualification.

#### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:**

- OCB staff will return to a future board meeting with more detail on evaluation guidelines for policies related to demolish and rebuild.
- OCB staff will return to a future Board meeting to present the Board with the outcome of the CFAR pilot, including the effects of the policies in the memo.

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

Emelie McKain provided the Board with Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) updates, including a review of the projects funding strategy, 2021-23 project portfolio, and the upcoming ASRP symposium.

A newly created implementation framework has allowed the ASRP Steering Committee to prioritize and sequence projects, which has informed their new implementation guidance. There are currently eleven on-the-ground projects that are either nearing completion or complete (funded last biennium) and six new projects funded in 2021-23, totaling \$10.5M. Under the current 2021-23 project portfolio, projects include sediment wedge development, beaver dam analogs, barrier corrections on Wildcat Creek, and a new reach-scale project at Riverbend Ranch.

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 ASRP relates to the Governor's Salmon Strategy, including what is being considered and how it might impact progress on the ASRP.

## Lewis Stream Team

Jim Kramer introduced Kenna Fosnacht (Lewis County Conservation District), who provided the Board with an update on the development and implementation of the Lewis County Stream Team (Stream Team). The Stream Team provides hands-on opportunities for the Lewis County Community to participate in stewardship and citizen science to improve the health of local streams and habitats. The goal is to partner with local teachers and students, agencies, and citizen volunteers to offer educational activities that strengthen public interest in the environment

Lewis County Stream Team's first two tree planting events in February/April 2021 had a total of 24 volunteers and planted almost 669 willows and bare root cedars. Focusing on Mill and Weisner Creek basins, they were able to bring local landowners onboard and made them more passionate about native species restoration work.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Lewis County Stream Team Presentation](#)

## Director's Report

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates, including:

- Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) has reallocated Nat Kale to be OCB Principal Planner (Environmental Planner 5).
- Washington State Conservation Commission received several new funding opportunities, including Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program funds, Voluntary Stewardship Program funding, and farmland protection funds.
- The Board has \$17M reserved in the 21-23 budget that the Board will need to revisit during the biennium.
- 2023-25 budget development is underway and OFM is likely to ask agencies to submit budgets to the Governor's office in September 2022.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** OCB staff will return to a future Board meeting to provide a 2021-23 spending update and review unobligated funds that have been kept in reserve for future consideration.

## 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 May 5, 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
- Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited
- Arthur Grunbaum, FOGH
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- COL Ron Averill, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Dan Maughan, LAND Steering Group
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David Linn
- Darrin Raines, Cosmopolis
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Erik Martin, Flood Control Zone District
- Hope Rieden, Department of Natural Resources
- Jennifer Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jim Weber
- John Henricksen
- John Robinson, Flood Control Zone District
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Lara McRea, Flood Control Zone District
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Matt Dillin, Flood Control Zone District
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Nichole Czarnosmski, WDFW
- Scott Boettcher, Flood Authority
- Tammy Domike
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club
- Victoria Knorr

