

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: July 1, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Hybrid Meeting – Lewis County Courthouse / Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent July 1, 2021 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved	No follow-up action.
2. SEPA/ NEPA Update	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Local Actions	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. 2021-23 Budget Recommendations	Decision	<p>Board member Tyson Johnston will engage Quinault Indian Nation staff and leadership and work with the appropriate entities to address any outstanding questions and concerns regarding the proposed 2021-23 budget elements, in an effort to develop a revised 2021-23 budget recommendation for Board consideration.</p> <p>Board Chair Raines will determine when to reconvene the Board after evaluating the likelihood of the Board's ability to approve a 2021-23 budget based on the Quinault Indian Nation's revised 2021-23 budget recommendation versus what has already been brought to the Board for consideration.</p>
5. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- 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
- Glen Connelly (alternate to Harry Pickernell), Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- 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 9:07 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [July 1, 2021](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

SEPA / NEPA Update

NEPA Update

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle introduced Evan Carnes and Brandon Clinton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who provided a brief update on the NEPA EIS. Evan reminded the Board that the USACE published their draft NEPA EIS in September 2020. The USACE has now finished their review of public comments received and are currently incorporating public comments into the final NEPA EIS (FEIS).

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [Army Corp Letter - USACE FEIS Info Request \(04-26-2021\)](#)
- [Army Corp Letter - USACE FEIS Info Request \(04-29-2021\)](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the information sent by the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) in June 2021 related to information that could be used to assist the USACE and Ecology in responding to comments on the Draft EISs as the agencies prepare the SEPA and NEPA FEISs.
- Board members were reminded of the USACE's responsibility in the NEPA EIS process, which is to produce a robust document with as much information as they can. The point of the NEPA EIS is to disclose information, and the more information they have, the better their ability to disclose to the public and inform decisionmakers.

- The USACE provided the Board with a preliminary date of December 2022 for the completion of the NEPA FEIS. At that point, they would be able to produce a Record of Decision if they had an applicant permit request.
- Board members were reminded that there is no mechanism in the rest of the NEPA EIS process for public comment. The Draft NEPA EIS was the point in time when the agency solicited and received public comments; however, the USACE will continue government-to-government consultation with other federal agencies and tribes.

SEPA Update

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided the Board an update on the SEPA EIS. Ecology has started development of the SEPA FEIS and similar to the USACE, Ecology is currently in the process of considering public comments on the Draft SEPA EIS. The SEPA FEIS will include a response-to-comment summary. The plan for the SEPA FEIS is to consider information, projects, and studies that have been developed since the Draft SEPA EIS was published, including: information developed through the Local Actions Program advisory group processes; additional project design and description information, reports prepared by the FCZD, and mitigation proposed by the FCZD for their project; Quinault Indian Nation studies and information; and Chehalis Basin Board projects and studies.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [CBB Question on SEPA EIS Information Memo](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members confirmed with Ecology and USACE staff that tasks listed in the FCZD's *Additional Info for Items Highlighted in 06-07-21 Letter from Quinault Indian Nation* memorandum would be used by the agencies to assist in creating a more robust, accurate final SEPA and NEPA FEIS.
- Board members are interested in receiving more information on the timeframe descriptions within the table in the FCZD's memo and requested clarification on the difference between the description of '*proceed concurrently with FEIS process*' versus '*will be developed for submission as part of FEISs*'.

Comprehensive Flood Damage Reduction Road Map and Local Actions Alternative

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their prior discussion and support for developing a comprehensive, basin-wide flood damage reduction roadmap as well as the development and evaluation of a Local Actions Alternative. The Board was informed that over 900 studies have been conducted over the past few decades on flooding in the Chehalis Basin, which supports the conclusions that there is no single action that can solve all the flood problems in the basin.

Board members discussed, in principle, a structure and process for their support of a \$2.5M budget allocation for the Local Actions Alternative and Comprehensive Basin-Wide Flood Damage Reduction Road Map. The Board's discussion included an approach that would delegate work to new groups to

complete the following tasks to support the Board's decision-making on a comprehensive, basin-wide strategy for flood damage reduction:

1. Develop a recommended Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap (Roadmap) for the Board to consider. The Roadmap will include a suite of prioritized flood damage reduction projects and programs that may or may not include a dam.
2. Develop a recommended Local Actions Alternative (or "non-dam" alternative) to be considered for potential inclusion in the Roadmap. The Local Actions Alternative (LAA) will assume there is no dam and include a suite of actions to reduce flood damage throughout the entire Basin.
3. Conduct an independent evaluation of the LAA to determine its potential to reduce flood damage and its environmental and socioeconomic implications.

Board members also expressed the need to provide additional guidance and direction on:

1. Chartering a policy-level group to make recommendations to the Board on a Roadmap
2. Chartering an additional policy-level group to develop a recommended proposal for an LAA
3. An independent environmental, feasibility, and/or cost-benefit review of a LAA that is desired, and who would be most appropriate to lead and perform the work
4. Expectations for when work products and recommendations should be available from these groups to support the Board's decision-making

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [Next Steps on Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap, Local Actions Program, and Local Actions Alternative](#)
- [Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap and Local Actions Alternative](#)
- [Memo re Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Alternatives Considered](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the proposed \$2.5M budget and were provided details on how that value was established, which was based on the comparative costs associated with the ASRP document development and Steering Committee and Science Review Team coordination and facilitation, which included consultant time as well as state and tribal engagement.
- Board members suggested additional detail be provided to clarify language surrounding the concept of a "roadmap" and the level of engagement and funding needed.
- Board members provided direction that they would want a program that is not completely delegated to an outside group or committee, and they wish to have a more direct level of involvement in the decision-making process.
- Board members discussed the need to more clearly define how this program would interact and engage with existing groups, and the interaction between the local actions alternative process and an independent evaluator.

2021-23 Budget Recommendations

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented a proposal from Board Chair Raines for a 2021-23 budget and spending plan. The major changes from the June 3, 2021 budget proposal include:

- A change in the timing of proposed Board check-ins – from mid-2022 to potentially multiple times during 2022 – to assess spending and progress to date on all Chehalis Basin Strategy 2021-23 activities.
- \$10.5M is reserved as unobligated until 2022 Board check-in(s) on the ASRP. The ASRP Steering Committee would be asked to make recommendations to the Board for how to adjust and prioritize specific projects within the total \$31.15M level, including any adjustments necessary due to the reservation of \$10.5M.
- The revised \$9.6M total for the FRE/Airport Levee would not fund any work identified by the FCZD in their June 21 memo that could occur after completion of the FEISs. \$2M would be reserved as contingency for the FRE/Airport Levee budget line item, to be obligated by the OCB Director only for unforeseen costs associated with completing the final SEPA & NEPA EISs. The Board will allocate the remaining unobligated reserve based on their 2022 check-in(s).

Erik Martin (FCZD) provided additional responses to the Board related to the 23 budget items for the proposed FRE/Airport Levee budget that the Quinault Indian Nation specifically requested further clarification on. The FCZD developed a table (*2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request-additional information Table 1*) that included each budget line item, the budget amount, the agency or agencies requesting the information, the purpose of the information, and a summary description of the work to be performed.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [Revised Chehalis Basin Strategy 2021-23 Capital Budget Spending Plan Proposal](#)
- [Memo re Response to QIN Info Requests of June 6 Board](#)
- [Memo re: Contingency Budget](#)
- [2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request-additional information](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Chair Vickie Raines reiterated the importance of passing a budget as soon as possible, and the potential impact a budget delay could have on project implementation and the overall continuity of the Strategy.
- Tyson Johnston (Board member) provided a response on behalf of the Quinault Indian Nation, stating that the Nation is not comfortable supporting a budget that they feel approves immediate funding for work beyond what is required to complete the SEPA and NEPA FEISs.
- Chair Vickie Raines requested the Quinault Indian Nation provide an alternative 2021-23 budget recommendation that identifies which specific budget elements they believe are not required for the SEPA and NEPA processes. She also offered to help set up and participate in a meeting

between the Nation and relevant agencies to expedite resolution of the Quinault's outstanding questions and concerns.

- There was discussion and acknowledgment by the Board that there may be a difference of opinion on what is "required" by SEPA and NEPA; when the Quinault Indian Nation determines what they believe is required under SEPA and NEPA, there will likely need to be further Board discussion.
- Some Board members expressed concern with the reservation of \$10.5M for future expenditures of the ASRP due to the planning efforts the Steering Committee has made to identify how and what funding could be spent on in the near-term.
- Some Board members requested more clarification on the Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Road Map and Local Action Alternative processes, and the need to have a more detailed discussion at a future Board meeting.
- Tyson Johnston (Board member) stated the Quinault Indian Nation is only opposing specific funding elements related to the proposed FRR/Airport Levee and has no objections to the other elements of Chair Raines' budget proposal.
- Erik Martin (FCZD) highlighted that in the *2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request-additional information Table 1* – Items 36-41, 43-45, 56-59, 63, 70-71 are items the FCZD determined are significant, relevant, and necessary for the SEPA and/or NEPA EISs and were specifically requested by either/both Ecology and USACE. These items total \$3.2M and would be directed to the FCZD. The remaining \$6.4M would go to the agencies to continue their work on the SEPA and NEPA EISs, respectively.
- J. Vander Stoep (Board member) highlighted that the FCZD *2021-2023 Biennium Budget Request-additional information Table 1* identified information that is required as part of the SEPA and NEPA EISs and the Board has received confirmation from the agencies which subjects were pertinent for the SEPA and NEPA FEISs.
- Steve Malloch (Board member) offered to work with OCB staff to refine the proposed Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Road Map and Local Action Alternative processes.
- Board members discussed and agreed that the decision to reconvene the Board will be made by Board Chair Raines after evaluating the Quinault Indian Nation's alternative 2021-23 budget recommendation that identifies which specific budget elements they believe are not required for the SEPA and NEPA EIS processes versus what has already been brought to the Board for consideration.
- Several Board members stated their opposition to passing a partial 2021-23 biennial budget and proposed postponing a decision until an approval can be made on a comprehensive budget.
- Board members were reminded that ASRP construction projects for this season are mostly funded through 2019-21 dollars, and not affected by short-term budget delays, but without a 2021-23 budget, some of the proposed studies and monitoring and adaptive management analyses planned for this summer may not occur.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION:

- Board member Tyson Johnston will engage Quinault Indian Nation staff and leadership and work with the appropriate entities to address any outstanding questions and concerns regarding the proposed 2021-23 budget elements, in an effort to develop a revised 2021-23 budget recommendation for Board consideration.
- Board Chair Raines will determine when to reconvene the Board after evaluating the likelihood of the Board's ability to approve a 2021-23 budget based on the Quinault Indian Nation's revised 2021-23 budget recommendation versus what has already been brought to the Board for consideration.

Contingency Planning

Because the Board did not reach agreement on a 2021-23 budget at the meeting, OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided the Board a summary of budget contingency planning recommendations which include:

- Adequate resources for OCB, and where necessary participation by partner organizations, to support the Board's continued deliberations to approve a new 2021-2023 budget and spending plan.
- Reserving the \$4.4M of unobligated re-appropriated funding from the 2019-2021 biennium as contingency funds to be used at the OCB Director's discretion to cover costs associated with the scaled-down operations as needed until the Board approves a new 2021-2023 budget and spending plan.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Memo re: Contingency Budget](#)

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited
- Arthur Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Betsy Dillin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carol Schultze
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Hansen, Orca Network
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Christina Riley, LECET/LIUNA
- Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe, ASRP Steering Committee
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David Linn
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Erik Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Izzy Zucker, Pyramid Communications
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jan Strong, Grays Harbor Audubon Society
- Jennifer Hennessey, Washington Governor's Office
- John Robinson, Consultant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Jim Waldo, Consultant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- John Henricksen
- John Newman
- Krestine Reed
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper

- Linda Orgel
- Lara McCrea, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Lizzie Jespersen, Pyramid Communications
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Rebecca/Greg, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Ronald Averill, City of Centralia, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tammy Domike
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club