

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: August 16, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Hybrid Meeting – Grays Harbor Commissioners Hearing Room / Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent July 1, 2021 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; June 3 and July 1 meeting summaries approved	No follow-up action.
2. 2021-23 Budget Recommendations	Decision: The revised 2021-23 budget and spending plan was approved by consensus.	
3. Comprehensive Basin-Wide Flood Damage Reduction Road Map and Local Actions Alternative	Discussion	OCB staff will develop a high-level timeline for the development and evaluation of a LAND Alternative.
4. 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
- 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

- Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology
- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation

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 [August 16, 2021](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of June 3, 2021 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [June 3, 2021 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: June 3, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Approval of July 1, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

BOARD DECISION: July 1, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

2021-23 Budget Recommendations

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle presented a revised proposal from Board Chair Raines for a 2021-23 budget and spending plan. The major changes from the July 1, 2021 budget proposal include:

- Funding for the proposed flood retention facility/airport levee project was adjusted to be \$10.5M. This revised budget was the result of a series of discussions and correspondence exchanged between the Chehalis Basin Board Chair, OCB Director, and representatives of the Quinault Indian Nation, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD), Department of Ecology, and US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Unobligated reserves were reduced, for both Aquatic Species Habitat Restoration & Flood Damage Reduction categories. For both elements, \$8.53M of the \$30.87M would be held as unobligated until 2022 Board check-in(s):
 - *Aquatic Species:* ASRP Steering Committee would be asked to make recommendations to the Board for how to adjust and prioritize specific projects within the total \$30.87M level, including any adjustments necessary due to the reservation of \$8.53M.
 - *Flood Damage Reductions:* \$2M of the \$8.53M would be reserved as contingency for the flood retention facility/airport levee budget line item, to be obligated by the OCB Director only for unforeseen costs associated with completing the final SEPA & NEPA EISs.

- Funding proposed for the Local Actions Alternative and Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap was increased to \$3.26M and would be prioritized for developing and evaluating a recommended proposal for a Local Actions Alternative for a basin-wide suite of actions for flood damage reduction that does not include the flood retention facility/airport levee project and developing a comprehensive basinwide flood damage reduction roadmap.
- An addition of \$560K to a new Integrated project to fund a habitat/water quality demonstration project. The intention of the project is to demonstrate the efficacy of a hyporheic exchange location in the Chehalis River Basin to assist agencies in their assessment of this type of mitigation feasibility and to inform other aspects of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, including the ASRP.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [OCB Chair's Aug 4 Budget Proposal](#)
- [2021-23 Biennium Capital Budget Spending Plan presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- In response to the expressed concerns of having some of the ASRP funding held as unobligated, Board members highlighted that they are holding the same amount of unobligated funds for flood damage reduction, and they are tasked to spend money equitably between flood damage reduction and aquatic species habitat restoration.
- Board members discussed the importance of having the Chehalis Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, and others provide input at every stage of the Local Actions Alternative and Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap processes.
- Jennifer Hennessey (Governor's Office) thanked the Board for their efforts in response to the Governor's request. She acknowledged that there has been lots of progress made on creating a Local Actions Alternative, as well as continued review and evaluation of the proposed flood retention facility. The Governor's office encourages continued use of the best available science to inform future Board decisions.
- Board members discussed the value of the newly added hyporheic exchange project and how it has the potential to be informative and provide benefit to the FCZD as well as others inside and outside of the basin.

BOARD DECISION: The revised 2021-23 budget and spending plan was approved by consensus.

Comprehensive Basin-Wide Flood Damage Reduction Road Map and Local Actions Alternative

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their prior discussions about developing an approach that would delegate work to new groups to complete a set of three tasks to support their decision-making in responding to the governor's request to evaluate a basin-wide non-dam alternative, and approve a comprehensive, basin-wide strategy for flood damage reduction.

The tasks discussed related to delegating to new groups include the following:

1. Develop a recommended Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap (Roadmap) for the Board to consider.
2. Develop a recommended Local Actions Alternative (or “non-dam” alternative) to be considered for potential inclusion in the Roadmap.
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 agreed on 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

Based on further conversations between OCB staff, Board member Steve Malloch, and others since the July 1 Board meeting, OCB staff is now recommending a modified proposal for development of a Local Actions Non-Dam (LAND) Alternative & Comprehensive Basin-Wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap. Below are highlighted changes:

- Increased funding: Based on Chair Raines’ August 4, 2021 proposal, \$3.26M would be prioritized in the 2021-23 budget for developing and evaluating a recommended proposal for a Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative and developing a Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap.
- Role of Advisory Group: A newly chartered LAND Alternative Steering Group would serve in an advisory capacity on technical, policy, and/or implementation feasibility issues while a third-party consultant team develops options for a non-dam alternative.
- Role of Independent Third-Party Consultant: A consultant team would both develop and evaluate a proposed local actions non-dam alternative, under the direction of OCB and advisory group.
- Role of Policy-Level Group: The chartering of a policy-level group (e.g., a Flood Damage Reduction Steering Committee) to make recommendations to the Board on a comprehensive, basin-wide flood damage reduction Roadmap should not occur until after a non-dam alternative is developed and evaluated.

Board member Steve Malloch reminded the Board that the Governor asked them to put together an alternative to the proposed dam. Based on his recent work with OCB staff and others, he is hopeful of the opportunity to generate and evaluate ideas of what actions might provide significant flood risk reduction, other than a dam, in critical parts of the basin. Steve also acknowledged that the proposed dam and the LAND Alternative are likely to produce different costs, benefits, and impacts. By working

with a consultant to put together a conceptual plan for the LAND Alternative, the Board will have the opportunity to consider those costs, benefits, and impacts and inform their decision making.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [MEMO Revised LAA & Road Map Proposal](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members voiced their support for this work effort and highlighted the importance of clear messaging to basin and tribal communities.
- Some Board members suggested that the consultant that develops the LAND Alternative should not also evaluate the alternative.
- Board members suggested that this process should be approached similarly to the Yakima Integrated Plan process, which created a structured and phased framework for how to make decisions now and in the future.
- Board members asked OCB staff to develop a high-level timeline for the development and evaluation of a LAND Alternative.

FOLLOW-UP: OCB staff will develop a high-level timeline for the development and evaluation of a LAND Alternative.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 10:57. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is October 7, 2021.

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
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County
- Brett Swift
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carson Coates, Office of Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler
- 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
- COL (Ret) Ronald Averill, Flood Authority
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dan Penn, Chehalis Tribe
- Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David Linn
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Rosane, The Centralia Chronicle
- Frank Gordon
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Izzy Zucker, Pyramid Communications
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jennifer Hennessey, Washington Governor's Office
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Jim Waldo, Consultant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- John Henricksen
- Julie Ann, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Krestine Reed
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Lara McCrea, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Linda Orgel, GHAS
- Lizzie Jespersen, Pyramid Communications
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Phyllis Farrell
- Raelene Gold, LWVWA
- Rebecca/Greg Durr, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Sarah Kohout, Office of U.S. Senator Cantwell - SW Outreach Director
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tammy Domike
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club
- Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis
- Tye Menser, Thurston County