

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: September 2, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent September 2 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved	No follow-up action.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Decision: 2021-23 ASRP priorities and spending plan approved by consensus	WDFW staff will provide Board members with information on differences between landowner compensation for public participation versus the ability to provide compensation and incentive offers to landowners for easements or fee simple purchases.
3. Flood Authority 2021-23 Local Flood Damage Reduction Project Priorities	Decision: Revised 2021-23 local flood damage reduction project list approved by consensus	No follow-up action.
4. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	Decision: Consensus approval to hold special Board meeting in September 2021, only in the event that the Board is ready to select participants for the LAND Steering Group.	OCB staff will provide the Board with a revised draft of planning assumptions and outcomes for a LAND Alternative that reflects Board direction. OCB staff will work with Board members Tyson Johnston, Steve Malloch, and Harry Pickernell while developing a draft request for qualifications (RFQ) for a third-party consultant team to develop a LAND Alternative.
5. 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
- 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 9:06 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [September 2, 2021](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

ASRP Spending Plan

Nate Kale (OCB Staff) provided the Board with an update on the 2021-23 ASRP spending plan. Spending has been separated into three major categories, including ASRP development, implementation support, and projects:

- Development/Support: Totaling \$4.21M, funds all the policy, technical, and administrative expertise that keeps the ASRP functioning. This category of spending supports staffing and participation in the ASRP Steering Committee, technical committees, as well as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) that administers all ASRP contracts and grants.

- **Implementation Support:** Totaling \$6.3M, supports project sponsors and ensures they have everything they need to create successful projects. This also includes materials sourcing, which involves local organizations creating stockpiles of logs and seedlings, so that when major projects are shovel-ready, material provision is as efficient as possible.
- **Projects:** Totaling \$20.5M, divided into seven types of expenditures. The Steering Committee is proposing to spend as much on reach-scale projects as on all the rest of the projects combined because they're very large projects, and their benefit is correspondingly high. These projects involve design and construction, like other projects, but they also integrate property acquisition, either fee title or easements. The types of project activities to be designed are also diverse and involve specific parts of rivers targeted for restoration, including the Lower Satsop, the Lower Skookumchuck, and much of the Newaukum. The Steering Committee recommended that the \$8.53M the Board asked to be held in reserve as unobligated come from this category until 2022 Board check-in(s).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: WDFW staff will provide Board members with information on the differences between landowner compensation for public participation versus the ability to provide compensation or incentive offers to landowner for easements or fee simple purchases.

ASRP Priorities

Emelie McKain (WDFW) presented the Board with the Steering Committee's spending plan priorities, which acts as the road map of where, what, and how much funding is available for specific project types. With direction by the Board, local implementation teams will work collaboratively to develop project opportunities with interested landowners that meet those Steering Committee priorities. These opportunities will be vetted at the technical level to ensure fit with ASRP priorities, and if merited, input onto a project portfolio.

The Steering Committee will engage in recommending phased funding for projects in the portfolio. Phased technical reviews will occur before funding is actually contracted to a project, to ensure that as projects are designed they continue to provide substantial habitat benefit. In the final phase of the process, project sponsors will work with landowners and their local implementation team to manage projects through completion.

Early Action Reach (EAR) Update

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) provided the Board with an update on the Early Action Reach projects, highlighting the completion of the Skookumchuck EAR in-water work. Capital Land Trust just finished acquisition of 1.5 river miles and created the Skookumchuck Reserve.

Both the Satsop and Wynoochee EARs are at mid-points in construction, and work will continue into Phase 2, with completion targeted for next summer. Summer 2022 will also mark Phase 1 construction in Stillman Creek and Newaukum EARs.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Implementation Recommendations 21-23](#)

Key comments and discussion on all ASRP topics included:

- Board members are interested in ASRP spending related to land acquisition in the EARs.
- Steering Committee members emphasized that the fiscal year ends in the middle of the construction window, so there will be significant reappropriations from the 21-23 biennium.
- Board members were provided clarification on how a project goes from project development into the project portfolio. There are two components: Obtaining landowner acknowledgement forms, and identifying the suite of potential project actions in an area. That form will be reviewed by the project technical review team for inclusion in the portfolio.
- Board members expressed interest in doing EAR site tours in spring/summer 2022.
- Board members were reminded that actual development of projects will be determined by landowner participation and project sponsors. Vetting those projects will be a combination of cost effectiveness, on site conditions, and more.

BOARD DECISION: 2021-23 ASRP priorities and spending plan approved by consensus, including holding \$8.56M of the \$20.5M for new projects as unobligated until the Board authorizes use of the reserved funds in 2022 Board check-in(s).

Flood Authority 2021-23 Local Flood Damage Reduction Project Priorities

Chrissy Bailey (OCB Staff) presented the Flood Authority's recommended 2021-23 project list for Board approval, reminding the Board members of their previous request to have the Flood Authority make recommendations for adjusting and prioritizing local projects within the overall funding level set by the Board. The 2021-23 funding level for local projects set by the Board is \$4.05 million.

The Flood Authority's recommended 2021-23 project list continues to facilitate construction of critical projects already started, getting new projects shovel ready, and preparing for the next round of construction funding. This refined list also includes the consideration of future uses of unallocated and available funds for immediate construction of critical projects.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [FA local projects presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged the work that has been done through the Flood Authority process to support projects that benefit both objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

BOARD DECISION: Revised 2021-23 local flood damage reduction project list approved by consensus.

Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded Board members of the previous discussions related to the development and evaluation of a recommended proposal for a Local Actions Non-Dam (LAND) Alternative and development of a Comprehensive Basin-wide Flood Damage Reduction Roadmap.

OCB staff developed six draft planning assumptions adapted from the 2020-2021 Local Actions Program Advisory Group process for Board consideration. These draft assumptions would act as a guide when

refining draft flood damage reduction outcomes that would support the development of a LAND Alternative and the evaluation of what can feasibly be achieved within a timeframe of up to 30 years.

The draft flood damage reduction outcomes proposed are similar to those the Board used in directing the Local Actions Program Advisory Groups last biennium. However, several outcomes were not included because of the more focused geographic area, including:

- Homes and Businesses Protected from Seasonal Urban Flooding
- Lower Basin Properties and Businesses Protected from Coastal Storm Surges
- Transportation Routes Protected

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [Revised LAND Proposal for Sep 2 Board draft](#)
- [LAND Alternative Sept 2021](#)

Breakout Room Comments/Report Out

Board members discussed draft planning assumptions and outcomes for a local actions non-dam (LAND) alternative that a new LAND Steering Group would be developing.

Major changes and refinements suggested:

- Board members noted that the LAND Steering Group should have the ability to revise the assumptions and/or outcomes for Board consideration.
- Board members were interested in seeing reference to both current and future 100-year flood conditions in 2080.
- Board members discussed the implementation timeframe assumption to emphasize moving expeditiously with planning and the need for sustained investment over the longer term for implementation.
- Board members were interested in seeing the development of two options for the geographic focus area assumption for the Board to consider (geographic focus similar to the dam and basin-wide).
- Board members discussed that in the focus on existing development assumption that there should be separate efforts to integrate information on the 2080 predicted 100-year floodplain into local floodplain management.
- Board members wanted to include a new planning assumption on the use of existing analyses and concurrent planning efforts to describe how the LAND alternative would consider:
 - Local projects from the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
 - Transportation improvement projects by the Washington State Department of Transportation and local governments.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will provide the Board with a revised draft of planning assumptions and outcomes for a local actions non-dam (LAND) alternative that reflects Board direction.

LAND Alternative Steering Group

Based on the wide range of suggestions and options Board members and others have offered for governance structures, membership, and roles for potential groups, OCB Director McNamara Doyle proposed an outline for a newly chartered LAND Alternative Steering Group. This steering group would be responsible for recommending an alternative for flood damage reduction that achieves to the greatest extent feasible the LAND Alternative outcomes identified by the Board.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the importance of having an active role in the selection process for participants serving on the steering group.
- Board members supported the Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation each having a policy advisor on the steering group.
- Board members highlighted the importance of allowing the steering group to expand on or add to the draft LAND planning assumptions and outcomes presented to the Board.

BOARD DECISION: Consensus approval to hold a special Board meeting in September 2021, in the event that the Board is ready to consider approval of participants for the LAND Steering Group.

Third-Party Consultant Team

A new third-party consultant team would be selected via a competitive process. Under the direction of OCB and the new LAND Alternative Steering Group, the consultant team would develop one or more options for a LAND alternative that does not include the proposed flood retention facility/airport levee project.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members discussed the importance of allowing the LAND Steering Group to play a role in the interview and selection process for potential third-party consultant teams.
- Board members suggested that OCB staff should work with Tyson Johnston, Steve Malloch, and Harry Pickernell while developing a draft request for qualifications (RFQ) for a third-party consultant team.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will work with Tyson Johnston, Steve Malloch, and Harry Pickernell while developing a draft request for qualifications (RFQ) for a third-party consultant team to develop a LAND Alternative.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2021, to be held virtually.

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 US 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, Grays Harbor Audubon Society
- 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