

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** October 7, 2021  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent October 7, 2021 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; August 16 and September 2 meeting summaries approved	No follow-up action.
2. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	<p>Board Decision: Board approved by consensus the nomination of Glen Connelly, Tyson Johnston, and Steve Malloch to serve on the LAND Steering Group.</p> <p>Board approved by consensus the updated revised planning assumptions and outcomes, including focusing the geographic scope per Option C.</p> <p>Board approved by consensus the development of an RFQ for the LAND Alternative that would be finalized by the current members of the Steering Group.</p>	<p>OCB staff will work with current members of the LAND Steering Group to publish an RFQ for a third-party consultant team.</p> <p>OCB staff will continue working with board members and current members of LAND Steering Group to identify additional individuals to recommend for Steering Group.</p>
4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	WDFW staff will provide individual Board members with more information on WDFW's Skookumchuck River hatchery and any plans to introduce spring Chinook salmon into the river.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
5. WDFW Director letter to Chehalis Basin Board	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Skookumchuck Dam Analysis	Board Decision: Board approved by consensus moving forward with the proposed analyses related to the Skookumchuck Dam at the 2021-23 funding allocation of \$450K.	OCB staff will work with the Skookumchuck Dam Analysis Project team to prepare detailed scopes of work and budgets for review by the Board at a future meeting. Staff will also look into inviting local community representatives to participate on the project team.
7. Draft 2022 Board Meeting Dates	Board Decision: Board approved by consensus adding holds on calendars that continue regular Chehalis Basin Board meetings on the first Thursday of every month through 2022.	OCB staff will update the remaining regularly scheduled 2021 meetings to virtual (zoom) only.  OCB staff will send new calendar holds to all Board members for regular meetings held on the first Thursday of each month through 2022.
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
- Jay Gordon, 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
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission
- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation

## Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

## Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

## Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [October 7, 2021](#) meeting agenda.

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

## Approval of August 16, 2021 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [August 16 Meeting Summary](#).

**BOARD DECISION:** August 16, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

## Approval of September 2, 2021 Meeting Summary

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

**BOARD DECISION:** September 2, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

## Public comment(s)

- See Attachment B

## Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided the Board an update on CFAR program development, including identifying and implementing early opportunity projects and some of the benefits and challenges OCB is dealing with. Early opportunity projects include piloting an approach to help residents and businesses use elevation data to protect buildings from flood damage and lower flood insurance premiums, work with Aberdeen staff to gather and prepare documentation necessary to enter the Community Rating System (CRS), home retrofits in Bucoda, and other technical assistance across the basin. Basin-wide, the program has received 27 requests for technical assistance from communities including Chehalis, Montesano, Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Grays Harbor County, Thurston County, and Lewis County.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [CFAR Update](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members voiced their appreciation of the program and the direct support it is providing to people in the floodplain.
- Board members are interested in the economic benefits community wide, from potential reductions in insurance rates (flood insurance savings on a per house/per year basis).

- Board members wanted to understand more about why estimated home elevation construction costs are 2x to 3x times more expensive than the costs identified in the SEPA Programmatic EIS.
- Board members discussed the challenge CFAR is facing in finding qualified contractors to do retrofit and elevation work because it requires specialists that are knowledgeable about the region and the type of work required.

## Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

### Steering Group Membership

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle noted that Glen Connelly (Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation) was nominated by Chairman Harry Pickernell to participate on the LAND Steering Group. The two other nominations include Board members Steve Malloch (Governor's Office Board appointee) and Tyson Johnston (Quinault Indian Nation). OCB staff are in conversation with other stakeholders and local groups to identify additional Steering Group participants for the Board's consideration. OCB will put forward the names of additional potential members at a future Board meeting.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus the nomination of Glen Connelly, Tyson Johnston, and Steve Malloch to serve on the LAND Steering Group.

### Planning Assumptions and Outcomes

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded Board members of their previous discussion at the September 2, 2021 Board meeting about the planning assumptions and outcomes for a local actions non-dam (LAND) alternative.

Major changes and refinements since the September Board meeting now include the following:

- Notes that the LAND Steering Group may choose to revise the assumptions and/or outcomes for Board consideration.
- Adds references to both current and future 100-year flood conditions in 2080.
- Revises the implementation timeframe assumption to emphasize moving expeditiously with planning and the need for sustained investment over longer term for implementation.
- Three options for the geographic focus area assumption for the Board to consider.
- Explicitly acknowledges the Board's vision for a phased approach to developing the LAND Alternative and comprehensive Basin-wide roadmap for flood damage reduction.
- Notes in the assumption regarding focus on existing development that there are separate efforts to integrate information on the 2080 predicted 100-year floodplain into local floodplain management.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Updated Revised LAND Planning Assumptions and Outcomes](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Steve Malloch emphasized that the LAND effort this biennium should stay focused on a scope of work that is manageable and targeted in support of Board decision-making on the long-term strategy.
- Tyson Johnston noted the Quinault Indian Nation's support for the current planning assumptions and outcomes, while suggesting the LAND Steering Group needs to have some latitude to adjust the planning assumptions and outcomes moving forward.
- Steve Malloch, Tyson Johnston, and Glen Connelly all supported the geographic area Option C (primary and secondary focus areas).

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus the updated revised planning assumptions and outcomes, including focusing the geographic scope per Option C.

## **RFQ Development**

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reminded Board members of their previous discussions to issue an RFQ for a new, third-party consultant team to develop the LAND Alternative.

OCB staff have determined that a consulting team would need to:

- Work under the direction of OCB and the LAND Steering Group.
- Provide one or more approaches that do not include the proposed FRE dam.
- Address flood damage risk for existing property/structures/infrastructure.
- Work through policy issues, how they would use existing technical information, how they would fill key information gaps, in public infrastructure/engineering, in planning for things like relocation and elevations and floodproofing.
- Bring expertise in assessing impacts (economic and environmental)
- Ability to design & conduct effective community engagement (including with low-income populations, environmental justice & equity concerns).

OCB staff recommended that the RFQ be finalized by the current members of the Steering Group and posted as soon as possible and have new Steering Group members appointed in time to evaluate responses to the RFQ.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus the development of an RFQ for the LAND Alternative that would be finalized by the current members of the Steering Group.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** OCB staff will work with current members of the LAND Steering Group to publish an RFQ for third-party consultant team.

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

### **ASRP Project Sponsor RFQ**

Emelie McKain (WDFW Staff) provided the Board with an update on the ASRP implementation structure roll out. The [chehalisbasinstrategy.com](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com) website has been updated with new content, including priority areas and actions, information on how potential project sponsors and individuals can get involved, and webinar and mailing list information to stay informed of program updates. WDFW hosted a webinar for

potential project sponsors on September 24, 2021 to share information on program structure, near term project priorities, and expectations of sponsors to obtain project funding. An additional online event will be held on October 22, 2021. Recordings of both webinars will be available on the website.

WDFW's project sponsor RFQ is being administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to identify eligible sponsors for ASRP project funding. The result of this RFQ process will be a list of sponsors that are eligible to directly receive ASRP project funding through RCO. To be eligible for ASRP project funding, WDFW is asking that organizations submit qualifications based on their eligibility, their actual qualifications or experience as a project sponsor, and their ability to meet program expectations.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP Implementation Roll Out Update](#)

## **Habitat Restoration in Practice**

Nat Kale (OCB Staff) provided the Board with a presentation on habitat restoration principles on the Skookumchuck Early Action Reach, to convey in more depth how the ASRP does its work on the ground. Restoration perspectives can highlight different elements of the same project such as temperature, complexity, and access/connections.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP restoration in practice 101](#)

## **Early Action Reach (EAR) Update**

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) provided the Board with an update on the Early Action Reach (EAR) projects, highlighting the opportunity to learn from early implementation in order to adapt strategies based on feasibility and to inform future ASRP restoration in the basin.

Project Areas:

- The Skookumchuck River EAR project is complete. It required participation from three private landowners, as well as several local land and conservation partners. These efforts led to 4700 ft of river habitat restoration, 102 acres of permanently protected conservation land, 36 logjams installed, 65 refuge pools established, and 60 riparian plantings.
- The Satsop and Wynoochee EAR projects have currently placed temporary bridges to reach construction areas. These EAR projects use both log jams and flood fencing to provide complexity and protect aquatic habitat. Each of these EAR projects require installing 1000+ pieces of large woody debris.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [ASRP EAR Update Board Update](#)

Key comments and discussion on all ASRP topics included:

- WDFW staff highlighted that the Skookumchuck EAR project has completed 1.1 river miles of restoration, which is only the first part of the total 17 miles of river the ASRP plans to restore

over the longer-term. These restoration efforts are ongoing to support critical spring Chinook salmon habitat.

- Board members are interested in having more information on WDFW's Skookumchuck River hatchery and any plans for introducing spring Chinook salmon into the river.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** WDFW staff will provide individual Board members with more information on the WDFW Skookumchuck River hatchery and any plans to introduce spring Chinook into the river.

## WDFW Director Letter to Chehalis Basin Board

Michael Garrity (WDFW Ex-Officio Board Member) provided a summary of the letter sent to the Board by WDFW Director Kelly Susewind which provided detail on what the agency sees as prerequisites, in some form at least, for a successful long-term, multiple benefit Chehalis Basin Strategy. These prerequisites included significant improvements in Skookumchuck River spring Chinook and steelhead populations, implementation of the ASRP over the next 30 years, implementation of a LAND Alternative, land use commitments, development of a phased implementation plan, and more.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [WDFW letter to Chehalis Basin Board](#)

## Skookumchuck Dam Analysis

Nate Kale (OCB) and Merri Martz (Anchor QEA) provided an update on the initial compilation and analysis of existing data for Skookumchuck Dam, including upper watershed habitat conditions, potential flood storage and/or fish benefits, hydrologic analysis, current takeaways, downstream spawning flows, water rights information, potential dam modifications, and dam removal considerations.

Potential further analyses were provided to the Board in general order of priority to evaluate the feasibility of potential operational options to address flood storage, aquatic species benefits and the combination of both purposes.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Skookumchuck Dam Phase 1 Summary](#)
- [Skookumchuck Dam Analysis Memo](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Michael Garrity highlighted the WDFW Director's letter to the Chehalis Basin Board about the importance of finding possible passage for salmon on the Skookumchuck River through the dam.
- Staff noted that potential further analyses include options to incorporate various models that would reflect effects of dam removal.
- Board members acknowledged the efforts that have been made so far and supported the proposed continued analyses.

- Board members suggested having participants from local communities on the Skookumchuck Dam Analysis Project team.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus moving forward with the proposed analyses related to the Skookumchuck Dam at the current 2021-23 funding allocation of \$450K.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** OCB staff will work with the Skookumchuck Dam Analysis Project team to prepare detailed scopes of work and budgets for review by the Board at a future meeting. Staff will also look into inviting local community representatives to participate on the project team.

## 2022 Chehalis Basin Board meeting schedule

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle reviewed the Board's pre-pandemic, regular meeting schedule, which were scheduled for a full day (9am-4pm) and rotated between different locations in the basin. No call-in or virtual option was available for either Board members or the public. Due to the pandemic, it remains unclear when a return to full capacity, in-person meetings will be allowable under state and local health guidelines.

Based on prior feedback, OCB staff recommends continuing regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month during 2022. Staff's recommendation for the length of regular meetings depends on the frequency and format the Board prefers.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [2022 meeting schedule memo](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board Chair Vickie Raines supported moving remaining 2021 meetings to a virtual platform to support state and local health safety guidelines.
- Board members discussed maintaining a virtual platform through January 2022 to provide additional time to evaluate approaches for 2022 Chehalis Basin Board regular meetings.
- Board members supported adding a hold on calendars for Board meetings the first Thursday of every month through 2022, recognizing that future decisions on the length, frequency, and format of regular meetings will be made after January 2022.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board approved by consensus adding holds on calendars that continue regular Chehalis Basin Board meetings on the first Thursday of every month through 2022.

**FOLLOW UP ACTION:** OCB staff will update the remaining regularly scheduled 2021 meetings to virtual (zoom) only. OCB staff will also send a new calendar hold to all Board members for regular meetings held on the first Thursday of each month through 2022.

## Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021, to be held virtually.



## Attachment A

### **Board Staff/Board Guests:**

- Arthur Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe
- Col (Ret) Ronald Averill, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David Linn
- Devin Reck, Department of Transportation
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Rosane, The Centralia Chronicle
- French Wetmore
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jennifer Young
- Jennifer Hennessey, Washington Governor's Office
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center
- Josh Elliott, Maul Foster & Alongi
- Julie T
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Paul Hoebing
- Rick Sangder, City of Aberdeen
- Ryan Crotty, Maul Foster & Alongi
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tammy Domike, Citizens for a Clean Harbor
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club

## Attachment B

### Public Comment(s):

- Teri Wright (Sierra Club): Concerned that the Board assumes that the outcome for preventing the development of new structures is assumed to be under the integrated activities of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. The Board should ensure that it is addressed, rather than assuming that it will be addressed.
- Lewis County Conservation District (LCD): OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle acknowledged a letter that was distributed to the Board regarding landowner incentives and their requests to talk to the Board about it at a future date.
  - [Letter to Chehalis Basin Board from Lewis Conservation District](#)