

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: January 7, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom online meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent January 7 meeting agenda; Approval of December 3 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; December 3 meeting summary approved	No follow-up action.
2. Local Actions Program	Discussion	OCB will work with the Implementation Advisory Committees to identify elements that are present in the Basin that would drive success in a buyout/relocation program.
3. Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District plan for continued analysis of potential for FRE avoidance, minimization, mitigation	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Legislative Session Preparation	Discussion	OCB Staff will develop budget options for Board considerations that would be structured consistent with the Governor's proposed budget.
5. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	<p>Ron Warren (Director of Fish Policy) will return at a future Board meeting to collaborate on efforts that could be achieved to integrate Hatchery Operations and Harvest Management in the Chehalis Basin Strategy.</p> <p>OCB will work with Eric Netherlands to develop a one-pager summary document describing salmon recovery funding and related implications of ESA listings in the Chehalis Basin.</p>
6. Board Handbook Updates	Decision: Board Handbook updated were approved by consensus.	No follow-up action.
7. 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
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation (QIN)
- Glen Connelly (alternate to Harry Pickernell), Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Rich Doenges, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, 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

Co-chair Edna Fund 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 [January 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of December 3, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [December 3, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: December 3, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus.

Local Actions Program

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) provided an update on the Local Actions Program, including summarizing work completed to-date by the Technical and Implementation Advisory Groups. The Technical Advisory Group has met to discuss modeling, climate change, floodplain storage, structural options, and bank protection. The Implementation Advisory Group has met to discuss land use recommendations, buyout/relocation programs, structural options, and bank protection.

Floodplain Storage

Merri Martz (Anchor QEA) summarized the presentations given at the Technical Advisory committee regarding floodplain storage. Previous flood storage studies the committee evaluated included the

General Reevaluation Report for the Centralia Flood Damage Reduction Study (USACE 2003), the Restorative Flood Protection Alternative for Upper Chehalis Basin and Newaukum River (Abbe et.al. 2016 and 2020), and the City of Chehalis Wastewater Treatment Plant Restoration and Flood Storage Master Plan (City of Chehalis, 2020). The committee also evaluated the new study provided by Watershed Sciences, which identified areas for new or augmented flood storage and found a total potential storage in 19 most viable locations is about 1,550 acre-feet (locations in tributaries outside of model not evaluated). The Technical Advisory committee provided the Board with the conclusion that adding floodplain storage should continue to be considered in addressing flood damage in tributaries as one of the several potential solutions for reducing localized flooding problems, however the opportunity for additional floodplain storage along the mainstem Chehalis River in a 100-year flood events is limited.

Local Flood Protection Facilities

Merri Martz (Anchor QEA) summarized the presentations given at the Technical Advisory committee regarding structural options. There has been six studies done previously looking at structural alternatives to address flooding. The committee did additional analysis, used the most recent aerial photography, modeled 2080 floodplain extent to identify areas with a relatively high number of structures and density of development, and then overlaid economic damage mapping. They identified 12 potential priority areas; added two additional areas per TAG input.

Buyout/Relocation Research Plan

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an overview of the work done with the implementation advisory group on buyouts and relocations as a potential option included in the local actions program. There have been more than eight buyouts and relocation programs considered. The initial guiding research topics for a program in the Chehalis Basin include the magnitude of the flood problems the program timeline, and the estimated costs. Some of the challenges and limitations for the program include a landowner's willingness to participate, communication and outreach strategies, policy or legislative changes necessary, and having an approach for funding strategies.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Local Actions Overview Board Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in receiving more detailed information on:
 - How much additional flood storage could be found above Centralia of the 1550 acre-feet identified in the viable locations?
 - From the model results, is there a measurable impact to the amount of water stored above Centralia without the FRE?
 - At Mellon Street, what would the reduction be if the floodplain connectivity and floodplain "roughening" to enhance floodplain storage alternatives were in place?
 - What does "full" implementation mean in this alternative? After full growth of a restorative flood floor, what is the surface level reduction at Mellon Street in a 100-year flood?
 - Would it provide a 3-inch reduction at Mellon Street?
- Board members discussed how the Chehalis River is an unconfined meandering river system and that at a 50% increase in the 100-year flood event, the flooding is valley wall to valley wall and there is very little storage to be gained.

- Board members are interested in seeing if there were a combination of this modeling with the reduction of current structures in the floodplain, would it make a difference for available storage.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB will work with the Implementation Advisory Committees to identify elements that are present in the Basin that would drive success in a buyout/relocation program.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District plan for continued analysis of potential for FRE avoidance, minimization, and mitigation

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) introduced Michael Garrity (WDFW Ex-Officio Board member), who provided the Board with an update on the WDFW comments submitted on the FCZD mitigations opportunities report, which include:

- The FCZD's mitigation analysis is a good start and a good faith, credible effort.
- WDFW is optimistic that the FCZD is willing to work with us to provide additional detail.
- WDFW provided feedback on their need for more detail.
- The additional info needed generally falls into three categories:
 - Mitigation policy/certainty of mitigation success
 - Assumptions around efficacy and "implementability" of various actions
 - More info is needed on salmon population impacts both in terms of dam impacts, mitigation benefits, and effect on Viable Salmonid Population criteria
- A better understanding of NOAA's Viable Salmonid Population will be helpful to forming the Chehalis Strategy overall.
- There are timeline implications of the additional info WDFW is requesting
 - WDFW can provide Governor information on the potential for mitigation as the Board promised, with an emphasis that we believe there is "potential" (but more info is needed)
 - To provide definitive info will require additional time, but that doesn't need to be disruptive since the DEIS probably needs to be finalized anyway
 - WDFW isn't the only agency with a relevant perspective on mitigation – tribes, federal agencies, other state agencies, stakeholders will also have perspectives and contributions. That outreach is the FCZD's responsibility, but WDFW is willing to help as it makes sense.

Eric Martin (FCZD) proved the Board with a summary of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation (AMM) efforts that they are currently doing between January and March 2021 in order to present those to the Board in March. Based on previous Board requests, the FCZD is building searchable database that that includes all AMM efforts.

Below are links to the presentation materials:

- [FCZD Drone Footage](#)
- [AMM FCZD Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board Members were reminded that during the timeframe between January-March 2021, the FCZD is in the planning stages, and by March, they will report to the Board what would be required to accomplish the AMM activities.
- Board members discussed the need to follow Forest Practices Survey requirement, specifically on the Marbled Murrelet studies.

- Board members discussed WDFW comments and highlighted that there is still information needed before they could confidently say there are specific mitigation efforts that are infeasible.

Legislative Session Preparation

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle introduced Jennifer Hennessey, Governor's policy advisor, who provided the Board with update from the Governor's office. Governor Inslee supports the work being accomplished in the basin and understands the importance of achieving a long-term strategy. He recognizes the efforts that the Board has taken to provide a status report on the Local Actions Program and the mitigation assessment related to the proposed FRE project. He has included \$70M in the '21-23 Capital budget for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, which reflects his ongoing support.

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle highlighted the specific language that was included in the proposed budget, including:

- (1) \$33,050,000 of the appropriation in this section is for board-approved projects to protect and restore aquatic species habitat...
- (2) \$33,050,000 of the appropriation in this section is for board-approved projects to reduce flood damage...
- (3) \$3,900,000 of the appropriation in this section is for the operations of the Office of Chehalis Basin and Chehalis Basin board...
- (4) The Chehalis Basin Board has the discretion to reallocate the funding between subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section if needed to meet the objectives of this appropriation and approved by at least six of seven voting members of the board. However, \$3,900,000 is the maximum amount the department may expend for the purposes in subsection (3) of this section.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [21-23 GOV budget presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were provided clarification that \$3.9M of the appropriation Office of Chehalis Basin and Chehalis Basin Board included cost for other state agency support, RCO Contract oversight, and other services that support Board processed through consulting services and meeting facilitation.
- Board members are interested in seeing specific allocation to local projects that have dual benefit to fish and flooding.
- Board Members are interested in understanding and seeing the mid and long-term road map to guide the Board in their decision-making structure and to develop a more concise process for making those decisions.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB Staff will develop budget options for Board considerations that would be structured consistent with the Governor's proposed budget.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Harvest and Hatcheries Management

Jim passed the floor to Michael Garrity (WDFW Ex-Officio Board member) who introduced Ron Warren (Director of Fish Policy) to provide a presentation and answers questions surrounding Chehalis Basin Hatchery Operations and Harvest Management. The Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) has led

the science behind hatchery operations since 2000, identifying stock designation, including how that designation drives how WDFW collect at brood stock facilities. This science provided specific targets to follow, which led to formal Commission Policy that required reporting of operation implementation and success.

There is a level of complexity in management landscape including the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The treaty guides all fishery management (from Oregon through Alaska and to Canada), requiring a bi-lateral sessions that includes treaty implementation, post-season numbers, and pre-season development. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (From the US border, North, and Mexico Border, South) manages salmon in the 3-miles area offshore. Within that 3-mile area distance, WDFW following all species-specific regulations set by the Council.

Salmon Recovery Funding and Related Implications of ESA Listings

Jim Kramer introduced Erik Neatherlin (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office) who provided answers to two main questions; how is federal funding obtained and allocated for ESA-listed salmon, and what are possible implications if Spring Chinook were listed under ESA for the Washington Coast? Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) is the primary federal funding source for Salmon recovery with an Annual federal appropriation of \$65M (total for WA, OR, ID, AK, CA). In WA State, PCSRF and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocation totaling \$18M which only covers 15% of the need for Salmon Recovery in the state.

In Washington State, ESA Listed Salmon and Steelhead included 28 Species of Salmon and Steelhead on the West Coast, 15 Species listed in Washington (covers 45% of the populations and over 75% of the area in the state). The Implications of ESA listing for Spring Chinook, it would be the first ESA listing of any Chinook species on the Washington Coast that would require a NOAA-approved recovery plan, there would be increased in regulatory and permitting requirements, and there would be no anticipated additional funds.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Chehalis Basin Hatchery and Harvest presentation](#)
- [Salmon Recovery Funding and related implications of ESA listings Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion on harvest and hatcheries management included:

- Board Members discussion surrounding spring Chinook focused on fishy management and less on hatchery production, which include setting escapement goals to allow native population growth.
- Board members are interested understanding having a more detailed conversation on how to achieve integration of management to achieve viable Aquatic Species restoration.
- Board members discussed how it could support activities that would achieve their mission to aggressively pursue Aquatic Species restoration.
- Board members request more detailed information that could provide conclusion on what could be provided and what still needed to be provided to support ASRP activities.

Key comments and discussion on salmon recovery funding and related implications of ESA listings included:

- Board members are interested in understanding if the spring chinook were listed, could it serve as the funding driver of funding over the long term?
- Board members would like a list of funding sources for pre-listed species.

- Board members would like to explore the potential to re-evaluate the distribution funds. Currently Puget Sound gets 33% and the Coast gets 11%?
- Board Members discussed the repercussions of having an ESA listing and if that would increase restrictions in land use?

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Ron Warren (Director of Fish Policy) will return at a future Board meeting to collaborate on efforts that could be achieved to integrate Hatchery Operations and Harvest Management in the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

OCB will work with Eric Netherlands to develop a one-pager summary document describing salmon recovery funding and related implications of ESA listings in the Chehalis Basin.

Board Handbook Updates

OCB Director, Andrea McNamara Doyle provided a review of the CBB Member Handbook and identified amendments necessary to reflect legislative changes, Board-approved changes, and administrative/housekeeping changes that have occurred over the past year.

Below is a link to the presentation materials:

- [Chehalis Board Handbook](#)
- [CBB Handbook Updates Memo](#)

BOARD DECISION: Board Handbook updated were approved by consensus.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) reminded the Board of their next regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 4, 2021.

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Betsy Dillin, Lewis County
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Carson Coates, Congresswoman
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Charles Coddington
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Erik Kinne (WDFW)
- Erik Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Jarrod
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Jim Waldo, Consultant to Flood Control Zone District
- John Robinson, GTH for the district
- John Hendrickson
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Vince panesko
- Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis
- Lara McRea, Lewis County
- Larry Karpack, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian nation
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife, ASRP Steering Committee
- Ron Warren (WDFW)
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Steven Lyle, Bucoda Council
- Susan DeLaire, DuVal Publishing
- Trent Lougheed- City of Chehalis

- Vince Panesko