

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: February 6, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Location: Chehalis Tribe Gathering Center - 461 Secena Rd, Oakville, WA 98568

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent February 6, 2020 Agenda; Approval of January 9 meeting summary; Approval of January 23 meeting summary; Approval of January 29 meeting summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; January 9 meeting summary approved; January 23 meeting summary approved; January 29 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. SEPA EIS Status Update	Discussion	OCB staff will distribute an electronic version of the draft SEPA EIS Public Comment flyer to the Chehalis Basin Board. Ecology staff will provide a detailed review of the draft SEPA EIS key findings at the March 5 Board meeting
3. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will provide a more detailed briefing at the March 5 Board meeting with specific examples of how CFAR could benefit property owners, local jurisdictions, and tribes and where the program would focus action.
4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion/Direction	WDFW staff will brief the Board on the 2020 ASRP work plan at their March 5 meeting.
5. Early Action Reach Update	Discussion/Direction	WDFW staff will provide a more detailed update on EAR progress in late spring or early summer.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		WDFW staff will invite Conservation District staff and other involved parties to future Board meetings to discuss lessons learned.
6. Legislative Update/Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. OCB Budget Management	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will provide Board members with a written quarterly budget report.
8. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will provide updated information at the March 5 Board meeting to inform the Board's recommendation on an approach to analyze elements within the Long Term Strategy Assessment to inform their decision on the long-term strategy.
9. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Vickie Raines, Chair, 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, Chehalis Tribe

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present on Sign-In Sheet:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Harry Pickernell, Chehalis Tribe Chairman, welcomed the Board, staff, and audience to the Chehalis Tribe gathering center. Board members and attendees provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [February 6, 2020 meeting agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Approval of January 9, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [January 9, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: January 9, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Approval of January 23, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [January 23, 2020 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: January 23, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Approval of January 29, 2020 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [January 29, 2020 meeting summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: January 29, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

SEPA EIS Status Update

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided a status update on the draft SEPA EIS for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project and Ecology's public outreach strategy. The draft SEPA EIS will be released on February 27, 2020 and the public comment period will be open for 61 days, from February 27-April 27, 2020.

Below are the draft SEPA EIS public hearing and open house dates:

- Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at Centralia College from 5:00pm-8:30pm
- Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Montesano High School from 5:00pm-8:30pm

Below are the links to the SEPS EIS handouts:

- [SEPA EIS Outreach Chehalis Basin Board Presentation](#)
- [Chehalis SEPA EIS Public Comment Flyer](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Diane Butorac (Ecology) noted that final SEPA EISs are typically finished within one-year of the draft release but that can vary depending on the types and quantity of comments received on the draft SEPA EIS.
- Board members were encouraged to assist in outreach throughout the draft SEPA EIS comment period and to participate in the April 2, 2020 public comment hearing at Montesano High School, which occurs directly following the Board's April meeting.
- Board members requested that OCB staff distribute an electronic version of the draft SEPA EIS Public Comment flyer.
- Board members requested that Diane provide a detailed review of the draft SEPA EIS key findings at the March 5 Board meeting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will distribute an electronic version of the draft SEPA EIS Public Comment flyer to the Chehalis Basin Board. Ecology staff will provide a detailed review of the draft SEPA EIS key findings at the March 5 Board meeting.

Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided a status update on development of the CFAR program. Chrissy reminded the Board of the direction they provided in spring 2019 to work with the Flood Authority to refine the framework for the CFAR program. Since spring, OCB staff have met with several local governments and tribes within the basin to receive feedback on the draft program framework and learn more about local priorities.

Chrissy reminded the Board that CFAR projects would be voluntary (similar to Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) projects) and would address a subset of the local-scale flood damage reduction elements and actions that have previously been recommended. OCB currently envisions that CFAR and Flood Authority local flood damage reduction projects would use a parallel project solicitation process this spring.

Chrissy asked Board members for their feedback on three topics: (1) which parts of the CFAR framework are you most interested in?; (2) does a parallel CFAR and Flood Authority local projects solicitation make sense?; and (3) does the Board support funding projects that are currently ready to proceed?

Below are the links to the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) program handouts:

- [CFAR Presentation](#)
- [Draft CFAR Program 1-Pager](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Chrissy noted that the level of interest and engagement from the local jurisdictions and tribes she met with varied. There are several communities that have already implemented projects but still have opportunities that need to be addressed. There are also communities that need help identifying projects and opportunities. She also noted that there will likely be a need to build contractor capacity in the region for these types of projects, to ensure the program can implement projects on a broader scale and at a faster pace.
- Board members discussed how flood events can create higher demand for projects and that the Board should consider how best to position the CFAR program so it can respond quickly and effectively after a flood event.
- Board members requested Chrissy come back to the March 5 Board meeting with specific examples of how CFAR could benefit property owners, local jurisdictions and tribes, and where the program would focus actions.
- Board members were supportive of the idea of a parallel CFAR and Flood Authority local projects solicitation this spring.
- Board members discussed the need to more clearly articulate CFAR's connection to land use.

FOLLOW UP ACTION: OCB staff will provide a more detailed briefing at the March 5 Board meeting with specific examples of how CFAR could benefit property owners, local jurisdictions and tribes and where the program would focus actions.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Emelie McKain (WDFW) was unable to attend the Board meeting, so Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided an update on public comments received on the Phase 1 ASRP, and the anticipated approach and next steps for responding to comments. The public comment period for the ASRP was open for 60 days (11/15/19 thru 01/14/20). WDFW received 41 separate comment submissions on the Phase 1 ASRP from a variety of stakeholders and tribes. During the comment period, the ASRP Symposium was held on January 7-8 at Centralia Community College, where additional comments relevant to the Phase 1 ASRP were collected during small group discussions. Staff are now focused on how to incorporate and address the Phase 1 comments in future phases of the ASRP, and will be drafting a memo that responds to the themes and questions raised in the comments.

Below is the link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP Public Comment presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members and staff discussed the need for the next draft of the ASRP to more clearly state what topics lie outside the scope of the ASRP, e.g., harvest and hatcheries and ocean conditions.
- Board members requested WDFW staff provide a briefing at the March 5 Board meeting with more detail on the 2020 ASRP work plan, monitoring and adaptive management priorities, anticipated work on forestlands, and invasive species management.

- Board members requested a copy of the comments received during the ASRP Phase 1 public comment period.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: WDFW staff will brief the Board at their March 5 meeting on the 2020 ASRP work plan.

Early Action Reach Update

Celina Abercrombie (WDFW) was unable to attend the Board meeting, so Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided an update on ASRP Early Action Reach (EAR) projects. The five reach-scale EAR pilot projects provide an opportunity to learn from early implementation, including how to adapt restoration strategies based on landowner willingness and feasibility, as well as to inform future ASRP restoration in the basin. EAR projects allow staff to gain a better understanding of the questions landowners have and what information is helpful in their decision making. Staff is working to streamline and define processes for engaging landowners, design teams, permitting, cultural resource consultations, and construction. Staff have confidence in restoration design elements that can pave the way for future similar projects, are initiating a cultural resources working group to improve coordination, and are pulling together information to inform sequencing of projects.

Below is the link to the EAR presentation:

- [Early Action Reach Update Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in highlighting restoration work that has been done on the ground, in addition to understanding what is on the horizon. The Board requested staff update the handout that highlights the on-the-ground habitat restoration and flood damage reduction projects that are already completed or are in-progress.
- Board members highlighted the importance of discussing lessons learned and having the Conservation Districts and other involved parties come to future Board meetings to discuss landowner feedback.
- Board members requested a more detailed update on EAR progress in late spring or early summer.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

- WDFW staff will provide a more detailed update on EAR progress in late spring or early summer.
- WDFW staff will invite Conservation District staff and other involved parties to future Board meetings to discuss lessons learned.

Legislative Update/Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates on the 2020 legislative session. Board Members were reminded of their letters of support for SHB1154 and HB2109 that were provided to the

legislature. SHB1154, concerning the financing of Chehalis basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects, was introduced to the House Capital Committee February 4, 2020. Board members J. Vander Stoep and Edna Fund, Jeff Warnke (Chehalis Tribe), and OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided testimony. HB2109, concerning membership of the Chehalis board, has moved through committee but has not yet moved for floor action.

The OCB and Board also received letters of support from the Federal Congressional Delegation, calling on Federal agencies to explore possible future federal funding avenues for habitat restoration actions. OCB staff will continue to work through the state funding process to request federal funding and look for funding opportunities through collaboration with federal agencies.

Below are the links to the legislative letters of support:

- [Letter of support for HB1154](#)
- [Letter of support for HB2109](#)
- [Congressional Delegation letter of support for Chehalis Basin](#)

OCB Budget Management

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their previous discussion on when and how changes are made within OCB's biennial budget after the Board's initial allocation decisions at the start of each biennium. The Board's current practice has been to approve the highest order allocations and to delegate decisions related to lower order expenditures to the OCB Director.

Board members were presented with options that would provide greater transparency and predictability in budget management decisions related to the Chehalis Basin Strategy. Options include a quarterly written report of encumbrances and expenditures by allocation, a semi-annual review at Board meetings of allocations, major allotment categories, new funding requests, and additional budget briefings more frequently if Board decisions are needed imminently. Additional recommendations were presented to the Board related to decision-making on additional budget requests that were not part of the original estimates the Board used in allocating the biennial budget.

Below is the link to the Chehalis Basin Board Budget Update:

- [Chehalis Basin Board Budget Update](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members supported OCB Director's recommendation for written quarterly reports for allocations, major allotment categories, and any significant funding requests.
- Board members are interested in briefing the Governor's office and Basin legislators in April on anticipated project timelines and budget spending.

FOLLOW UP ACTION: OCB staff will provide Board members with a written quarterly budget report.

Long-term Strategy Assessment

Barbra Cairns (Pyramid Communications) previewed draft Talking Points for the Board to use on the Chehalis Basin Strategy and forthcoming long-term strategy assessment. Barbara stressed the importance of highlighting what has been done, why it matters, and the work that is still needed to achieve the dual objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Below is the link to the Chehalis Basin Strategy Story Talking Points:

- [Chehalis Basin Strategy Story Talking Points](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in seeing updated messaging around climate change and its potential effects in the Basin in the future.
- Board members expressed interest in fine-tuning the talking points so they are reflective of the voices in the community.
- Board members were encouraged to share personal stories when doing their own outreach, but to also maintain a consistent framework that holds shared messages.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed a draft approach for bringing together the multiple types and sources of information available to inform the Board's deliberations on development of a long term strategy. The Board has a legislative mandate to prepare an integrated strategy for reducing flood damage and restoring aquatic species habitat. OCB Director McNamara Doyle summarized the main actions, analytical approaches, and key assumptions proposed for the long-term strategy assessment (Assessment) and highlighted issues where Board direction is most needed.

The Assessment is intended to provide the foundation for the Board's long-term strategy and budget recommendations in late 2020. OCB staff will host a webinar on February 11 from 11am – 1pm, between the February 6 and March 5 Board meetings, to allow Board members, agency staff, consultants, and other interested parties to ask questions, provide input, and learn more about the proposed approach for the Assessment. OCB staff will provide updated information, including input gathered through the webinar, at the March 5 Board meeting to inform the Board's recommendation on an approach to analyze elements within the Long Term Strategy Assessment, to inform their decision on the long term strategy.

Below is the link to the Chehalis Basin Strategy presentation:

- [Long Term Strategy Assessment PowerPoint](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members clarified they would consider options and possible recommendations for a long-term strategy and 2021-23 budget request in October 2020.

- Board members requested more clarity on what decisions need to be made between now and the end of 2020 related to the Assessment and future budget requests.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will provide updated information at the March 5 Board meeting to inform the Board's recommendation on an approach to analyze elements within the Long Term Strategy Assessment, to inform their decision on the long-term strategy.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 in Chehalis, WA.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests on Sign-In Sheet:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Chris Davis, Office of the Governor
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe
- Eric Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Kyle Gulbranson, Chehalis Tribe
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keepers
- Mara Zimmerman, Coastal Salmon Partnership
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Stephen Willis, Citizen
- Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis