

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: March 5, 2020
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location: Chehalis Veteran's Memorial Museum - 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis, WA 98532

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent March 5, 2020 Agenda; Approval of February 6, 2020 meeting summary	Decision: Current agenda approved; February 6 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan	Discussion/Direction	OCB and WDFW staff will provide the Board an update on estimated spending and outcomes on the ASRP for the current biennium at a future Board meeting.
3. SEPA EIS	Discussion	OCB staff will provide a follow-up to the Board member discussion and Board questions at the April 2 meeting.
4. Director's Report/Legislative Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)	Discussion/Direction: Direction to proceed with CFAR timeline and approach by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.	OCB staff will present a draft CFAR project solicitation approach at the April 2 Board meeting. OCB staff will present CFAR related assumptions for the Long Term Strategy Assessment to the Board for confirmation in summer 2020.
6. Basin Perspectives	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Decision: Board approved by consensus the postponement of the September 9-10 public event. Board approved by consensus the cancelation of the September 17, 2020 additional meeting and adding the Draft NEPA EIS briefing to the all-day workshop held on either	OCB staff will send out tentative calendar requests for all-day workshops on September 30th and November 4th.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
	September 30th or November 4th.	
8. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

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
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault 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
- 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 9:11 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Board members and attendees provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [March 5, 2020 Meeting Agenda](#).

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

Approval of February 6, 2020 Meeting Summary

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

BOARD DECISION: February 6, 2020 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (WDFW) provided the Board a briefing in response to feedback from the February Board meeting on public comments received on the ASRP Phase 1 document. Emelie noted that the ASRP

Steering Committee and Science & Review Team are working on a 2020 work plan for ASRP development and implementation, and that the ASRP Steering Committee is preparing a memo addressing comments received on the Phase 1 document. Dialogue will continue with the Board, ASRP Steering Committee, the practitioner community, and the public to identify opportunities for engagement on priority topics.

Emelie briefed the Board on how the Steering Committee has integrated public comments on the Phase 1 document into the 2020 work plan, related to the topics below:

- Implementation
 - Sequencing planning
 - Capacity planning
- Monitoring and adaptive management
- Inclusion of the Grays Harbor estuary
- Refinement of recommended actions and areas for protection and restoration

The Steering Committee's goal for the 2020 work plan is to focus on reducing the uncertainty of ASRP recommendations and increasing feasibility for rapid, scaled-up ASRP implementation. Emelie also highlighted topics that the Steering Committee feels are outside the purview of the ASRP and 2020 work plan, including:

- Protection elements related to land use regulations and enforcement
- Desired goals, outcomes and level of investment in terms of the magnitude and pace of implementation
- Agricultural viability/impacts on farming
- Consideration of flood damage reduction benefits of ASRP projects
- Hatcheries, harvest and predators

The Steering Committee recommends that the Board discuss ways that the Strategy could engage on these topics and provide guidance for future work.

Below is the link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in seeing more information on ASRP projects that can be implemented before the end of the biennium and how this could inform the pace of project implementation in future biennia.
- Board members are interested in receiving guidance and input from the Steering Committee on how to address topics that are outside the scope of the ASRP.
- Board members encouraged the ASRP 2020 work plan effort to include more detail on priorities for early implementation in terms of both projects and budget needs.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB and WDFW staff will provide the Board an update on estimated spending and outcomes on the ASRP for the current biennium at a future Board meeting.

SEPA EIS

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided a summary of the key findings from the draft SEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project, and upcoming outreach. The Board will use the information in the draft SEPA EIS, along with other information, to inform its recommendations for the long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Diane noted there are three ways to provide public comments during the February 27 to April 27 public comment period.

Public Hearings

Verbal comments through the court reporters or written comment cards

Online comment form via the website

[chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form)

Mail

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
Anchor QEA
1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 2600
Seattle, Washington 98101

All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

Below are the links to the SEPS EIS handouts:

- [SEPA EIS Chehalis Basin Board Presentation](#)
- [DRAFT SEPA EIS Key Finding](#)
- [SEPA EIS Board Statement](#)

Diane reviewed key findings from the Draft SEPA EIS:

- Key Findings of the Water Analysis ([DEIS pg. 39](#))
- Key Findings of the Earth Analysis ([DEIS pg. 56](#))
- Key Findings of the Fish Species and Habitats Analysis ([DEIS pg. 70](#))
- Key Findings of the Wildlife Species and Habitats Analysis ([DEIS pg. 86](#))
- Key Findings of the Wetland Analysis ([DEIS pg. 97](#))
- Key Findings of the Tribal Resources Analysis ([DEIS pg. 106](#))
- Key Findings of the Cultural Analysis ([DEIS pg. 129](#))
- Key Findings of the Transportation Analysis ([DEIS pg. 163](#))

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in a better understanding of recurring floods and their impacts on fish and wildlife.
- Board members requested information to understand impacts of the project by understanding the delta or difference between the project with climate and no action.

- Board members are interested in understanding near-term water temperature impacts resulting from construction, and whether there are differences in those predicted water temperatures compared to late century conditions under climate change conditions.
- The Board and agency staff discussed methodologies for determining significant, moderate, and minor impacts; depending on the study area, the definition and methodologies differed. Where there were not clear regulatory thresholds or numerical criteria, the determinations were made by technical experts.

Jim Kramer (facilitator) posed two questions to the Board on the draft SEPA EIS findings:

1. What additional information do Board members need about the effects of the proposed project?
 - Board members are interested in receiving a more detailed briefing on impacts to air quality, water quality (turbidity) from the reservoir.
 - Board members are interested in understanding the number and location of structures that are currently at risk of being flooded during various storm events and how many of them would still be impacted (where and to what degree) if the project were constructed.
2. What does the Board think is important to convey to others about the EIS and its relationship to the Strategy?
 - Board members expressed the need to understand the potential net effects of the proposed project, combined with the ASRP, mitigation, and other elements of the Strategy.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will provide a follow-up to the Board member discussion and Q&A on draft SEPA EIS findings at the April 2 Board meeting.

Legislative Update/Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of their request for a Chehalis Basin Strategy Accomplishments Map that displays completed and in-progress on-the-ground projects to restore aquatic species habitat, remove fish barriers, and reduce local flood damage, and increase community flood assistance and resilience.

There has been an increase in Board related communication and outreach by expanding into different social media platforms, which will allow the Board the opportunity to share the story of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and increase dialogue with local stakeholders and community members.

The OCB was notified that they have been moved into the final review phase for a FEMA pre-disaster mitigation grant for flood mitigation. A request for information from FEMA was anticipated on March 6. OCB has also received information that the WA State Federal Delegation has put in a request for increased funding for aquatic habitat restoration through USFWS in the existing Chehalis Basin Fisheries Restoration Funds account. OCB staff will continue to have conversations with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to look for funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program competitive grant program for habitat restoration.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed several Legislative bills that affect OCB and CBB, including:

- SHB1154: Concerning the financing of Chehalis basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects
- HB2109: Concerning membership of the Chehalis board

- House Capital Budget provisos: The supplemental Capital Budget included a \$250,000 supplemental appropriation for an independent third-party valuation of the financial impacts on the two landowners where the proposed flood retention facility would be constructed.

Below are the links to the Legislative Update/Director's Report:

- [CBS Accomplishments Handout with map](#)
- [HB 1154 - 2019-20](#)
- [HB 2109 - 2019-20](#)

Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program (CFAR)

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) provided a status update on development of the CFAR program that addressed the additional information the Board requested at their February meeting, including:

- Magnitude and location of properties/structures protected by other flood damage reduction actions under consideration by the Chehalis Basin Strategy
- Types of projects or actions that are proposed to be eligible and not eligible for CFAR funding, over both the long term and in the near term (or interim, meaning the 2019-2021 biennium) timeframes
- Tangible examples of how the program could benefit basin communities, tribes and individual property owners

Chrissy provided a tentative 2020 schedule for development of the CFAR program and selection/implementation of near term projects. In a previous Board discussion, OCB proposed a parallel CFAR project solicitation with the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority's (FA) local project solicitation, but OCB staff are now proposing to decouple the solicitation while jointly promoting both programs in collaboration with the FA.

OCB Staff will work with the Board and other staff leads to understand and consider the relationship between CFAR and other elements of the Strategy; Chrissy will be looking to the Board and the OCB Director for guidance on whether the Long-Term Strategy Assessment will reflect varying levels of effort for CFAR under different combinations of actions.

Below is the link to the CFAR presentation:

- [CFAR Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board Members highlighted the importance of a project solicitation that identifies current and future needs of local communities.
- Board members expressed their support for the framework, schedule, and next steps for CFAR development.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will present a draft CFAR project solicitation approach at the April 2 Board meeting. OCB staff will present CFAR related assumptions for the Long Term Strategy Assessment to the Board for confirmation in summer 2020.

BOARD DECISION: Direction to proceed with CFAR timeline and approach by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Basin Perspectives

Patti Case (Public Affairs Manager, Green Diamond) provide her perspective as a large forest landowner in the Basin. As a large forest landowner, Green Diamond privately holds 1.8 million acres of timberland in WA, OR, CA, and six states in the Southern U.S. In Washington State, they hold 320,000 acres, and 210,000 acres are in the Chehalis Basin, mainly in Mason County. In 2000, the company signed a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to cover 51 species and address compliance with the Clean Water Act. Through this ongoing HCP, Green Diamond is provided the ability to tailor protection on its land while also following state forest practices rules. There is ongoing monitoring associated with the HCP and a 20-year monitoring report will be released in late 2020.

Steve Willis (Lower Satsop River landowner) discussed river erosion in the Lower Chehalis River Valley. His family purchased 500 acres of farmland 1925. He described some of the changes he has seen in the land and river and the loss of farmland and riverbanks due to gravel build up in the river. He described how gravel transportation, gravel harvesting, and channel-bed degradation are major issues that should be addressed in the Lower Satsop and other Western Washington rivers.

Below is the link to Steve Willis' Basin perspective handout:

- [River Erosion in Western WA Presentation](#)

Long-term Strategy Assessment

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a refresher on the 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. 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.

Based on outreach since the February Board meeting, OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed adjustments to the recommended approach and schedule related to the Assessment through December 2020.

Below are the links related to the Long-Term Strategy Assessment:

- [Long-Term Strategy Assessment Memo](#)
- [Long-Term Strategy Assessment Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were supportive of the approach to analyze the different elements that will inform the Board's recommendation on a long-term strategy and adjustments to the schedule.

- Board members discussed scheduling a daylong workshop in advance of either the October 1, 2020 or November 5, 2020 Board meeting to discuss the long-term strategy assessment, 2021-23 budget recommendation, and to receive a briefing on the Draft NEPA EIS findings.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will send out tentative calendar requests for all-day workshops on September 30th and November 4th.

BOARD DECISIONS:

- Board approved by consensus the postponement of the September 9-10 public event.
- Board approved by consensus the cancelation of the September 17, 2020 additional meeting and adding the Draft NEPA EIS briefing to the all-day workshop held on either September 30th or November 4th.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2020 in Aberdeen, WA.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests on Sign-In Sheet:

- Ann Costanza, Anchor QEA
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Alyssa Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Bobby Jackson, Citizen
- Bob Thomas, Army Corps of Engineers
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Celina Abercrombie, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Frank Corbin, Citizen
- Erik Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Gary Stamper, Lewis County Commissioner
- Glen Connelly, Chehalis Tribe
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Jenny Willis, Citizen
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Karin Streliaoff, Thurston County Conservation District
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Karmen Martina, ESA
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Lara McRea, Lewis County
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keepers
- Lindsey Pollock, Citizen
- Marie Winkowski, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Patti Case, Green Diamond
- Rachel Blomker, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Rob Averill, Lewis County Farm Bureau
- Rob Hill, City of Centralia
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic