

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: March 15, 2018

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Borst Park Kitchen #1 - 2020 Borst Avenue Centralia, Washington 98531

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent March 15, 2018 Agenda Approval of February 8, 2018 Meeting Summary	Decision: Agenda approved. February 8, 2018 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Old Business	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board will consider a vote on revisions to the Board Handbook at the April 19, 2018 Board meeting.• At the April 19, 2018 Board meeting, OCB staff will summarize key takeaways from the land use presentation in February and provide a staff recommendation on how future land use conditions could be evaluated in the different major work elements.
3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Community Engagement and Outreach	Board members concurred with the overall public engagement and outreach approach associated with each of the major Chehalis Basin Strategy work elements.	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
5. Restorative Flood Protection	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) Director	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Discussion	At the May or June 2018 Board meeting, Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) will provide a draft of the local project solicitation instrument for Board approval.
8. Next Steps and Closing	Decision: The April 5, 2018 Board meeting is rescheduled for April 19, 2018, likely in Montesano.	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- David Burnett, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- Tyson Johnston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Vickie Raines, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Bart Gernhardt (alternate for Kris Strickler), Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology, Interim Director for Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB)
- Justin Allegro, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office
- Andrea Petzel, Broadview Planning
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin

- Cynthia Carlstad, Carlstad Consulting
- Dale Lewis, Office of Congresswoman Herrera-Butler
- Danielle Dan, Quinault Indian Nation
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation (ASRP Steering Committee)
- Diane Vasarkovy, Thurston County Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board
- Erik Martin, Lewis County Flood Control Zone District
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Jim Waldo, Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell (Consultant to Lewis County Flood Control Zone District)
- Jonathon Loos, American Rivers
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Pierre Augare, Quinault Indian Nation
- Ron Averill, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Staff
- Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Conservation District

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the special meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Attendees provided brief introductions.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the March 15, 2018 agenda.

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

Approval of February 8, 2018 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the February 8, 2018 Meeting Summary. Stephen Bernath (DNR) requested future meeting summaries attribute comments to Board members if they are each asked to provide perspectives on a particular topic.

BOARD DECISION: February 8, 2018 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

Old Business

Updates to Board Handbook

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) reviewed revisions to the Chehalis Basin Board Handbook regarding (1) language related to Board members' contact with federal officials and agencies, and (2) how correspondence from the Board will be drafted, reviewed, and approved between Board meetings. The Board Handbook was revised to clarify that requirements regarding Board members' contact with federal officials and agencies apply only when contact is done on behalf of Ecology and in a role as a Chehalis Basin Board member. The Handbook was also revised to include a procedure for Board correspondence to be drafted, reviewed, and approved during interim periods between Board meetings that ensures consistency and adheres to the consensus decision making process.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: Board members will review the new language, and consider a vote on the Board Handbook at the April 19 Board meeting.

Follow up on February Board meeting land use presentation

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) noted that OCB staff will be summarizing the February 8, 2018 Board meeting presentation on future land use in the Chehalis Basin to make the information more digestible and to highlight key takeaways. Chrissy also noted that OCB staff is developing a recommendation for the Board to consider on how future land use conditions could be evaluated in the different major work elements, e.g., Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) and development of the Long-Term Strategy.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: At the April 19, 2018 Board meeting, OCB staff will summarize key takeaways from the land use presentation in February and provide a Board recommendation on how future land use conditions could be evaluated in the different major work elements.

Updates on creation of sub-group to discuss federal funding options for Chehalis habitat projects

Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center) noted that a sub-group of interested Board members and tribal and agency staff and lobbyists has been formed to help advance identification of federal funding opportunities that could be applicable to aquatic species restoration. Their first meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2018.

Update on submission of NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program pre-application

Chrissy Bailey (OCB) noted that Ecology recently submitted a NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant Program pre-application for the ASRP early action reach restoration projects. The proposal was for \$2 million; the program allocates \$9 million total nationally, which makes the program highly competitive. Ecology will be notified in the next month whether we are invited to submit a full proposal.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Proposed barrier removal projects to be implemented this biennium

Kirsten Harma (Chehalis Basin Lead Entity) summarized the barrier correction projects to be implemented this biennium with ASRP funds in the Chehalis Basin. Of the thirteen barrier correction project proposals received, eight projects were approved for funding totaling approximately \$4.12 million, excluding match funds provided by sponsors. The projects include eleven barrier correction construction projects, three barrier correction design projects, and will provide access to 32.5 miles of high quality habitat. Project locations include Sand Creek near McCleary, Frase Creek on the Newaukum River, Bush Creek near Elma, Prairie Creek, Geissler Creek near Montesano, Berwick Creek near Chehalis, and Garrard Creek. The projects are mostly on private lands and county roads.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Kirsten Harma clarified that the project ranking and prioritization criteria included cost. On-the-ground review of project proposals evaluated habitat quality.
- Kirsten Harma clarified that this work effort included coordination with other barrier correction programs, including WDFW programs and the DNR Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP).
- Justin Allegro (WDFW) noted that WDFW has a tool that is being used this biennium for those who want to account for climate change in the design of barrier correction projects.
- Board members and participants discussed the need to develop the operational infrastructure to implement barrier correction and reach scale restoration projects quickly and successfully, especially if stable, long-term funding for the ASRP is secured.
- Board members and participants discussed how funding levels for restoration projects in the Basin are categorically larger than before the Chehalis Basin Strategy effort began.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Justin Allegro (WDFW) summarized the ASRP Steering Committee's approach to addressing comments on the Initial ASRP document in the full ASRP document. Justin reviewed the plan to address comments related to ASRP outcomes, cost/magnitude of actions, and recommendations to increase the likelihood of ASRP implementation. The ASRP Steering Committee will develop the full draft ASRP for anticipated public release in summer 2019. The full draft ASRP will include:

- Detailed actions and priorities for restoration and protection for aquatic species
- Detailed actions for community planning, institutional capacity, and public involvement
- New data and modeling from ongoing studies
- More input from landowners and the community
- Implementation plan and phasing
- Monitoring and adaptive management framework

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Justin Allegro (WDFW) noted that the Ecosystem Diagnostic and Treatment (EDT) model used in the ASRP is useful for assessing habitat conditions, but the ASRP Steering Committee is supplementing the ASRP technical analysis with other models, e.g., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) watershed model and life-cycle model.
- Board members suggested the full draft ASRP include a more nuanced view of how the timing of investment will impact anticipated benefits, and for what species. For example, does investment need to be heavily frontloaded to achieve optimal benefits.
- Board members and participants discussed the negative impacts on the fishery and broader Chehalis Basin community that could occur if there is an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing.
- Board members suggested the ASRP Steering Committee research and document other basins in the country where successful, basin-wide restoration efforts have been implemented.
- Board members stressed the need for effective outreach and engagement of landowners.
- Board members agreed it would be important for the co-managers in the Basin to weigh in on how the ASRP might impact hatcheries and harvest.
- Board members and participants discussed the need for more effective communication, including development of a more engaging, compelling, and easier to digest companion document separate from the ASRP document.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Recent briefings between key legislators and Board members and OCB staff

Gordon White (Ecology) and J Vander Stoep summarized recent briefings provided to key legislators by Board members and Gordon. The briefings were short but productive, and the key message conveyed was that the capital budget delay impacted the original 2017-2019 work plan, and there will be a need to request additional funds for the 2019-2021 biennium to complete work required for the Board to develop its recommendations on a long-term strategy. Legislators were appreciative for the briefings and had a reasonably high level of awareness about the overall Chehalis Basin Strategy work effort. Some legislators expressed interest in doing an informational tour of the Basin this summer.

ASRP landowner outreach strategy

Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center) summarized a strategy for landowner outreach on the ASRP document and early action reach restoration projects. Jim and contractor staff researched other areas that conducted successful landowner outreach on restoration projects and initiatives like the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). Based on this research, they developed the following outreach approach/schedule:

Spring/Summer 2018

- ASRP Science Review Team will conduct field work to identify priority restoration actions within different ecological diversity regions throughout the Basin.
- Outreach teams made up of OCB, Conservation District (CD), and contractor staff will schedule 1-2 meetings with small groups (8-12) of landowners in the ecological diversity regions. The meetings will be an opportunity to learn about:
 - What is most important to landowners
 - Views of their land, the river/streams, and considerations about aquatic species
 - Feelings about key elements of ASRP actions, e.g., log jams
 - Views on what would add/reduce their willingness to implement projects on their land
 - Views on the viability of agriculture in Basin.

Fall 2018

- Outreach team will reconnect with landowners and share restoration project concepts developed by the Science Review Team that are informed by the first set of landowner meetings.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members were supportive of the overall approach for landowner outreach on the ASRP.
- Conservation District (CD) staff expressed support for the process and will be directly involved in the landowner outreach effort. CD and Science Review Team staff will meet regularly to refine the approach over the next few months.
- Board members discussed the sensitive nature of some topics (e.g., log jams, buffers) with landowners and the need for finesse on behalf of CD and contractor staff during discussions.

Overall community engagement and outreach approach

Ken Ghalambor (Ruckelshaus Center) summarized an approach for engaging governments, stakeholders and the public, organized by quarter, over the next two years based on the Chehalis Basin Board 2017-2019 Road Map. The goals for outreach and engagement include (1) understanding the key values and interests of the broader Chehalis Basin community, to inform the Chehalis Basin Board's development of a long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy, and (2) building awareness and increasing support among potentially affected community interests and individual landowners. Ken also summarized an approach for reaching out to and engaging the following target audiences during development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy:

- Basin Landowners
- Tribal Governments
- State and Federal Legislators

- Flood Authority / Local Basin Jurisdictions
- Conservation Community
- Local Media
- Local Civic Groups
- SEPA/NEPA EIS Advisors

BOARD DECISION: Board members concurred with the overall public engagement and outreach approach associated with each of the major Chehalis Basin Strategy work elements.

Restorative Flood Protection

Cynthia Carlstad (Carlstad Consulting) and Andrea Petzel (Broadview Planning) summarized preliminary themes from the structured interviews with landowners in the Newaukum sub-basin regarding the restorative flood protection (RFP) concept. The purpose of the interviews is to provide information to landowners about the RFP approach and gather community stakeholder perspectives. Fourteen interviews have been conducted thus far with 20 people. Interviewees were largely contacts provided from Bob Amrine (Lewis County CD). Interview themes included:

- People are willing to share their stories
- Strong legacy associated with people's land
- Understanding of potential impacts to land through the RFP
- Conflating of the RFP and ASRP
- Sense of inaction on behalf of state agencies and general mistrust of government
- Recognizing need for flexibility when living along the river, but also concerned about actions like installing large woody debris
- Interest in fish and aquatic species, and noticing declines in fish over time
- Focal point for community members seem to be the local store, school, and church
- Most landowners have problems on their land and want more information on potential solutions, especially for bank erosion
- Demographic information is not being formally collected, but interviewees have largely been retirees in their 70s or 80s.

Using information learned from this outreach and the results of technical analyses, the Board will make a decision in the fall 2018 timeframe on whether development of the RFP concept should proceed from a conceptual to preliminary level in the Newaukum sub-basin over the remainder of the biennium.

Key comments included:

- Edna Fund suggested Cynthia and Andrea reach out to the Onalaska Alliance to identify additional interviewees.

- Cynthia and Andrea noted the preliminary nature of the interview themes, and to not draw any definitive conclusions.
- Cynthia and Andrea noted that they may do a direct mailing to identify additional interviewees, or offer to meet with people at a local coffee shop or other public place.
- Jim Kramer suggested Cynthia and Andrea consider a way that landowners could document their stories and submit them for inclusion in the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) Director

Gordon White (Ecology) updated the Board on the hiring process for the OCB Director. Ecology received over 20 applications and the list has been narrowed down to 6 people. The hiring process schedule includes:

- March 28 - Ecology and other agency staff will conduct in-person interviews
- Week of April 9 - The top candidates will interview with Ecology Director Bellon
- April 19 – Presentation by finalists to the Chehalis Basin Board and discussion of qualifications
- Week of April 23 – Ecology will choose a successful candidate
- ~May 1 – OCB Director start date

Gordon noted that the OCB Director will be a direct report to Director Bellon and a member of Ecology's Executive Leadership Team.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Local Project Selection and Prioritization Process

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) summarized the proposed 2019-2021 Flood Authority local projects selection/prioritization process, which would include the following steps:

March/April 2018

- Flood Authority Projects Committee secures technical reviewers/contributors to assist with draft solicitation instrument, timeline, and selection criteria process.
- Work with hydraulic experts to understand/identify geographic areas of focus for local projects.

May/June 2018

- Flood Authority Projects Committee engages technical reviewers/contributors in development of DRAFT/FINAL Solicitation Instrument.
- Flood Authority staff bring draft solicitation instrument to Board with recommendation for approval.

July/August 2018

- Flood Authority Projects Committee engages technical reviewers/contributors in review, ranking, and prioritizing of local proposals.
- Flood Authority staff provides Board with status update.

September/October/November 2018

- Flood Authority Projects Committee engages technical reviewers/contributors in development of DRAFT/FINAL Recommended Funding Package
- Flood Authority staff provides Board with recommendation for approval.

Board members were supportive of the proposed local projects selection/prioritization process.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: At the May or June 2018 Board meeting, Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) will provide a draft of the local project solicitation instrument for Board approval.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting was scheduled for April 5, 2018, but Ecology requested the meeting be rescheduled to coincide with the presentations by finalists for the OCB Director position. Board members agreed to reschedule the April 5, 2018 Board meeting for April 19, 2018, tentatively in Montesano. Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

BOARD DECISION: The April 5, 2018 Board meeting is rescheduled for April 19, 2018.