

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** October 3, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 2:45 pm  
**Location:** Train Depot Multi-Purpose Room: 210 Railroad Ave, Centralia WA, 98531

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent October 3, 2019 Agenda; Approval of September 5, 2019 Meeting Summary.	Decision	Quorum of Board members not present to approve September meeting summary. Board will review/approve September 5, 2019 meeting summary at December 5, 2019 Board meeting.
2. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	WDFW/OCB staff will keep Board members updated on the targeted outreach occurring after the public release of the Phase 1 ASRP in mid- November 2019. Staff will connect with individual Board members who express interest in informational briefings after the Phase 1 release.
4. Basin Perspectives: Forest Landowners	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Partner Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Flood Control Zone District Project Proposal	Discussion	Flood District staff will revise their presentation based on feedback from the Board.
7. 2020 Board Meeting Schedule	Decision	Quorum of board members not present to approve proposed 2020 meeting dates. Board will review/approve 2020 meeting dates at December 5, 2019 meeting. OCB

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		Staff will send out calendar holds for all proposed additional meeting dates.
8. Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects Assessment	Discussion/Direction	OCB staff will work with Flood Authority staff to develop specific questions on local flood damage reduction projects for discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.
9. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2019. There will not be a Board meeting in November 2019.

## Attendees

### **Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:**

- 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

### **Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Nicole Czarnomski, Department of Fish and Wildlife (alternate for Michael Garrity)

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

- See Attachment A

## **Welcome, Introductions**

Chair Vickie Raines was unable to attend the meeting. Board member Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 9:08 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 [October 3, 2019 agenda](#). However, a quorum of Board members was not present at the meeting to formally approve the agenda.

## **Approval of September 5, 2019 Meeting Summary**

Review and approval of the September 5, 2019 meeting summary was deferred until the December 5, 2019 Board meeting due to lack of a quorum.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** Board members will review/approve the September 5, 2019 meeting summary at the December 5, 2019 Board meeting.

## **Director's Report**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates, including:

- OCB's 2018 FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance competitive grant program application has advanced to the final stages. OCB anticipates finding out in October or November 2019 if the Chehalis Basin will receive an award.
- OCB will consider submitting a grant application for the 2019 Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which provides funding for eligible restoration projects like riparian easements.
- OCB Director will accompany select Board members on an October 14-16, 2019 trip to Washington DC to raise awareness of the Strategy with congressional leaders and federal agencies and to enlist support for federal funding for implementation of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP).
- OCB has secured a panel of individuals engaged in the Yakima Integrated Plan for the January 9, 2020 Board meeting. The panel members will share their perspectives about working on a similar watershed-scale effort and what it took to develop long-term assurances. The panel will include Phil Rigdon, Assistant Dep. Director of the Yakima Nation's Department of Natural Resources, Scott Revel, Roza Irrigation District, and Tom Tebb, Director of the Office of Columbia River.
- OCB Director reminded the Board that the 2019-2021 work plan includes an update/expansion of the economic analysis completed in tandem with the Programmatic EIS (including a benefit/cost analysis), and an additional environmental justice and socioeconomic analysis. The findings of these studies will inform the Board's deliberations on recommendations for a long-term strategy.

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

Emelie McKain (Department of Fish and Wildlife) provided an overview of the content in the ASRP Phase 1 document, which will be released for public review and comment in mid-November 2019. The Phase 1 document will be divided into the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. History, Current Conditions, and Future for the Chehalis Basin
3. Aquatic Species and their Habitats
4. Restoration Plan Approach
5. Ecological Regions

6. Expected Outcomes
7. Cost Estimate
8. Implementation Plan

ASRP Phase 1 post-publication outreach will occur in late fall 2019 through winter 2020. WDFW will also host a Science Symposium currently scheduled for November 13-14, 2019. Day 1 of the Symposium will focus on summarizing the findings of recent aquatic species research in the Chehalis Basin and day 2 will focus on sharing the Phase 1 ASRP content and approach.

Anthony Waldrop (Grays Harbor Conservation District) provided an update on the Wynoochee and Satsop early action reach projects and landowner outreach. Anthony noted that landowners within these reaches have had varied responses and degrees of interest to implement projects on their property. He also noted the importance of effective messaging when communicating with landowners.

Below is a link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP Presentation](#)

Board members provided feedback on what drew their attention most in the ASRP presentation. Key comments included:

- There may be a gap in the ASRP regarding acknowledgement of work that is already occurring on state and private forestlands. State and private forestlands in the Chehalis Basin are managed under WA's timber management agreement, so the ASRP needs to be clear about any expectations and needs on state and private forestlands beyond what is already covered under the existing timber management agreement.
- The ASRP is unprecedented in the nature of its assessment and scope of restoration, including a plan to restore salmon in the face of climate change.
- There is still a question of how to communicate about the ASRP and its relationship to the flood damage reduction component of the Chehalis Basin Strategy.
- More work is needed to develop the optimal schedule and timing of ASRP investments so that the ASRP can be realistically implemented.
- More work is needed to determine how to measure outcomes and decide if any policy changes are needed to achieve ASRP goals.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** WDFW/OCB staff will keep Board members updated on the targeted outreach occurring after the public release of the Phase 1 ASRP in mid-November 2019. Staff will connect with individual Board members who express interest in informational briefings after the Phase 1 release.

## **Basin Perspectives: Forest Landowners**

Stephen Bernath (Department of Natural Resources) provided a brief overview of where small forest landowners are located in the Chehalis Basin and the important role they play, and then introduced John Henriksen, a small forest landowner in the Basin.

John Henricksen described his experience as a small forest landowner and some of the major challenges he has seen over the past 30 years. John is currently the Chair of the Washington Tree Farm Program and Chair of the Small Forest Owner Advisory Committee. The current focus on his personal property is developing a multi-species, multi-aged forestry operation as well as a riparian restoration project funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). John volunteers a lot of his time to advocate on behalf of small family forest landowners and forest practices in general. Some of the major challenges John has seen with small forest land ownership is the lack of an intergenerational model to pass on the legacy to the next generation, as well as some conflicts between state and federal regulations for managing forested land.

## **Partner Updates**

Kim Ashmore (City of Centralia) provided an update on Phases 1 and 2 of the Centralia China Creek Project. This project is funded by the Office of Chehalis Basin through the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority. The project calls for approximately 45,000 cubic yards of material in China Creek to be excavated, forming storage ponds that will hold back water in the upper watershed during times of high flow in the creek. Phase 1 of the project is complete, and the City of Centralia is moving into the final design stages of Phase 2, with a scheduled start time early in 2020.

Below is a link to the China Creek presentation:

- [China Creek Project](#)

## **Flood Control Zone District Project Proposal**

Erik Martin (Lewis County Manager) presented a draft animation developed by HDR that was meant to depict how the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District's (FCZD) proposed flood retention facility would operate during a major flood event. Erik then introduced Ed Zaple (HDR) to provide a summary of the FCZD's project proposal.

Ed Zaple noted that the design configuration, construction, and operation procedures for the project proposal (flood retention facility and Centralia/Chehalis Airport Levee improvements) were developed with the objective of reducing the flood stage on the mainstem Chehalis River during major flood events. The flood retention facility would not regulate or detain water during typical annual high flow events.

Goals of the flood retention facility include:

- Temporary flood flow detention
- Riverine process throughput
- Maintain slope stability in the temporary inundation areas behind the dam reservoir
- Ramping rates commensurate with habitat needs
- Debris management in inundation area
- Minimize construction and operation impacts

Ed reviewed details regarding fish passage design, which include the following characteristics:

- 5 large flow passages open to maintain river flows
- Fish passage upstream and downstream passage would be unimpeded during high flood events.
- River flow velocity and depth through large passages similar to existing river channel over range of typical flows

The FCZD developed a more detailed construction schedule for the proposed project incorporating major phasing and submitted to Ecology and the USACE to support the SEPA and NEPA Environmental Impact Statements. The revised overall construction period would be approximately five years, with the actual schedule depending on the seasonal timing of a notice to proceed which would occur after permitting is completed.

Below is a link to the presentation on the FCZD's project proposal:

- [Flood Control Zone District Project Proposal](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members noted that the FCZD's animation should be edited to not show the reservoir area as a forest full of trees. The FCZD agreed to consider the Board's comments before further sharing or if revising the animation.
- Although the source of precipitation in a flood event can come out of other sub-basins (for example the Newaukum or the Skookumchuck rivers), 13 – 28% of the water in major floods on the Chehalis River is contributed from the watershed upstream of the proposed flood retention facility site.
- During the construction phase, the regular river flow velocity should allow for juvenile fish to pass without trouble, but in high flow events both juvenile and adult fish may have difficulties passing through bypass tunnels and would need to be placed into a temporary trap and haul facility or have a collect and hold system in place.
- Board members expressed an interest in better understanding what land management practices are being proposed upstream of the flood retention facility and how large woody debris is expected to be managed.

## **2020 Board Meeting Schedule**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed a draft memo with a proposed 2020 Board meeting schedule and reviewed dates for additional meetings in the late summer/early fall 2020 timeframe. Because a quorum of Board members was not present to approve proposed meeting dates, the Board will review/approve the 2020 meeting schedule at its December 5, 2019 meeting.

Below is a link to the draft 2020 Board meeting schedule memo:

- [2020 Board Meeting Schedule Memo](#)

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:**

- Board will review/approve 2020 meeting schedule at December 5, 2019 meeting.
- OCB Staff will send out a calendar hold for all proposed additional meeting dates.

**Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects Assessment**

Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority staff) and Flood Authority Project Committee members provided a refresher on what local flood damage reduction projects are, historical funding allocations (2012-2021), and roles and responsibilities during the local flood damage reduction project development and project implementation processes.

Below are links to the materials presented on local flood damage reduction projects:

- [Local Projects “Process Flow”](#)
- [2012-21 Local Projects](#)
- [Satsop grant figure](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Scott clarified that local projects are meant to address local flood damage issues related to riverine flooding, distinct from interior drainage or stormwater projects.
- Board members agreed that local projects should aim to provide multiple benefits and more detail should be added to the project solicitation process to understand if a project provides multiple benefits.
- Board members suggested exploring how local projects can positively intersect/integrate with ASRP or Community Flood Assistance & Resilience Program (CFAR) projects.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will work with Flood Authority staff to develop specific questions on local flood damage reduction projects for discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.

**Next Steps and Closing**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2019 in Centralia, WA. There will not be a Board meeting in November 7, 2019.

## **Attachment A**

### **Board Staff/Board Guests on Sign-In Sheet:**

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department Of Ecology, Director Of Office Of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor CD
- Brad Murphy, Thurston County CPED
- Brandon Peterson, American Rivers
- 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
- Emelie McKain, Washington Department Of Fish And Wildlife
- Dale Lewis, Congresswoman Herrera Butler Staffer
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Ed Zapel, HRD, Luis County Flood Control Zone District
- Eric Marin, Chehalis River Flood Control Zone District
- Fran Corbin, Lewis County Budget Citizens Advisory
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Water Keepers
- Lee Napier, Lewis County
- Lizbeth Seebacher, Department Of Ecology
- Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership
- Nikki Atkins, Lewis Conservation District
- Shane Anderson, Pacific Rivers
- Tammy Domike, Citizens For A Clean Harbor
- Thom Woodurf, Capitol Land Trust
- Trent Loughead, City Of Chehalis
- Tye Menser, Thurston County