

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: November 1, 2018

Time: 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Location: Aberdeen Rotary Log Pavilion: 1401 Sargent Blvd, Aberdeen, WA 98520

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent November 1, 2018 Agenda Approval of October 15, 2018 Meeting Summary	Decision: Agenda approved. October 15, 2018 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. OCB Director's Report	Discussion	OCB staff requested Board members review updates regarding Board member compensation and travel reimbursement for future Board approval and incorporation into the Board Handbook.
3. Old Business	Decision: 2019 Board meeting schedule approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.	OCB staff will research other potential Board meeting venues in Grays Harbor County.
4. Project-level SEPA/NEPA EIS	Discussion	OCB staff will distribute copies of scoping comments to Board members upon request.
5. Board Member Roundtable on Outreach	Direction	<p>OCB staff will update the draft 2019-2021 budget talking points document based on Board and audience feedback and develop additional handouts to support "thirty-second" and "two-minute" versions of the talking points.</p> <p>OCB staff will consider metrics that could be used to illustrate the</p>

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		positive results and outcomes (for example cost effectiveness) of restoration and flood damage reduction projects.
6. Southern Resident Orca Task Force Update	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Tribal Fishers' Perspectives	Discussion	No follow-up action.
9. Next Steps and Closing	Decision	The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2018 in Centralia.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

- Edna Fund, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- J. Vander Stoep, Office of the Governor
- Jay Gordon, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Steve Malloch, Office of the Governor
- Vickie Raines, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Justin Allegro, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director of Office of Chehalis Basin
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Arthur Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor

- Bill Secena, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Bob Thomas, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Director of Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Colleen Suter, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy
- Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Jason Gillie, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Joy Michaud, Hererra Consulting
- Ken Ghalambor, Ruckelshaus Center
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen
- Marc Hayes, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ron Figler Barnes
- Tim Kramer, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Tom Kollash, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the special 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 November 1, 2018 agenda.

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

Approval of October 15, 2018 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the October 15, 2018 Meeting Summary.

BOARD DECISION: October 15, 2018 Meeting Summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

OCB Director's Report

OCB Director McNamara Doyle reviewed a memo with proposed revisions to the Board Handbook regarding requirements and procedures for requesting compensation and travel reimbursement. OCB Director McNamara Doyle requested Board members review the proposed revisions for future Board approval and incorporation into the Board Handbook.

Other recent updates and highlights in the Director's Report included:

- *Website updates.* The chehalisbasinstrategy.com website now includes a new interactive GIS map highlighting completed, in-progress, and proposed local scale flood damage reduction, floodproofing, farm pad, and aquatic species restoration projects, as well as gage locations that inform the Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System; a new Environmental Review section for the SEPA/NEPA EIS for a flood retention facility and Airport Levee improvements; and scientific presentations and associated reports from the 2018 Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Science Symposium. Additional new content will be incorporated into the website over the next several months.
- *Events around the basin, including:*
 - Legislative Budget Writer's Tour
 - Science Symposium
 - Outreach Meetings & Agency Briefings
 - EIS Scoping Meetings
 - Conservation Tool Box Workshop
 - Budget Briefings
- *Topic ideas for future Board meetings.* OCB Director McNamara Doyle asked Board members if they had suggestions for topics that would be helpful in fulfilling Board responsibilities to discuss, direct, and decide on the major issues and actions related to the Chehalis Basin Strategy. Topics could include new or different perspectives, contextual issues, scientific or technical information, and practical knowledge.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members agreed that future Board meetings should include regular updates on the ASRP implementation process, including information on:
 - Development of the infrastructure and capacity to support project implementation at a higher level than ever experienced in the Basin.
 - How entities involved in implementation (landowners, Conservation Districts, state and federal agencies, design teams, NGOs, etc.) are working together.

- Design of incentive structures for landowners interested in restoration projects on their property.
- Efforts to secure federal funding for restoration projects.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff requested Board members review updates regarding compensation and travel reimbursement for future Board approval and incorporation into the Board Handbook.

Old Business

Consensus decision on 2019 schedule

Based on feedback from Board members, OCB Director McNamara Doyle proposed continuing to have Board meetings in 2019 on the first Thursday of each month, except for January and July, where the Board would meet on the second Thursday of the month. No meeting would occur in August 2018. OCB Director McNamara Doyle also reminded the Board of their support to alternate meeting locations in 2019 between the Aberdeen Rotary Log Pavilion and Centralia Train Depot Multi-Purpose Room, as this would allow the OCB to publish one list of all regular meetings without having to issue special meeting notices for each Board meeting. Some Board members and participants suggested looking into different venues in Grays Harbor County where the acoustics are better than the Rotary Log Pavilion.

BOARD DECISION: 2019 Board meeting schedule approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will research other potential Board meeting venues in Grays Harbor County.

Project-level SEPA/NEPA EIS

Diane Butorac (Ecology) provided a summary of the joint scoping process carried out by Ecology and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the SEPA and NEPA EIS for a flood retention facility and improvements to the Centralia-Chehalis Airport Levee. The joint scoping process ran from September 28 – October 29, 2018, and scoping meetings were held on October 16 and 17 in the lower and upper portion of the basin, respectively. Of the approximately 257 scoping comments received, comment topics included elements of the environment, scope of analysis, purpose and need, and miscellaneous. Separate SEPA and NEPA scoping summary reports will be available on the chehalisbasinstrategy.com website later in the year. Although there is no plan to post copies of all scoping comments on the project website, Diane noted that all scoping meeting transcripts and written scoping comments are public records and will be provided to Board members upon request through OCB staff.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will distribute copies of scoping comments to Board members upon request.

Board Member Roundtable on Outreach

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided background on the September 17 Legislative Tour and other community outreach meetings and agency briefings that Board members and OCB staff have participated in. Board members and OCB staff have attended over twenty events since September throughout the Basin, including meetings with cities, counties, state and federal agencies, Conservation Districts, Ports, Public Utility Districts, Economic Development Councils, and other non-governmental organizations. OCB Director McNamara Doyle highlighted several key themes from the meetings, including questions and concerns about: (1) timing to make decisions on flood-damage reduction and aquatic species habitat restoration projects, (2) coordination with local groups and state and federal agencies, (3) cost-benefit considerations for how actions would be paid for and who stands to receive the most benefit.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle also summarized the memo detailing the Board's final 2019-2021 Capital Budget Recommendation and a draft 2019-2021 budget talking points document. Board members were encouraged to share their observations and key takeaways from the outreach events they attended, as well as direction on the 2019-2021 budget recommendation talking points.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- OCB Director McNamara Doyle confirmed that she followed up with participants from the September 17 Legislator tour and is scheduling individual appointments with other capital budget negotiators who were unable to attend.
- Board members discussed a recent meeting with the Governor's Chief of Staff and Office of Financial Management (OFM) Budget Director to present the Board's Final 2019-2021 Budget recommendations. Board members and OCB Director McNamara Doyle used the draft budget talking points document for the meeting and the reaction was positive from OFM and the Governor's office. Board members stressed that the cost of not acting is much higher than their budget request.
- Board members discussed the value of simple messaging, e.g., not using too many acronyms, highlighting illustrative examples, and focusing on critical next steps.
- Board members discussed the value of emphasizing positive results and outcomes of the work and not just listing dollars spent or numbers of projects completed.
- Board members discussed the value of having a united coalition that represents diverse interests in the Basin and how this coalition has been integral to the success of securing capital budget funding in previous biennia.
- Board members were supportive of the overall message and content of the draft budget talking points and provided some specific comments to improve the document. Kirsten Harna (Chehalis Basin Lead Entity) suggested the budget talking points recognize that the commitment

from and relationships with local groups has contributed to the success of on-the-ground projects.

- Board members requested that OCB staff develop a “thirty-second” and “two-minute” version of the talking points.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will update the draft 2019-2021 budget talking points document based on Board and audience feedback and develop additional handouts to support “thirty-second” and “two-minute” versions of the talking points.

OCB staff will consider metrics that could be used to illustrate the positive results and outcomes (for example cost effectiveness) of restoration and flood damage reduction projects.

Southern Resident Orca Task Force Update

Justin Allegro (Fish and Wildlife) provided an update on the work of the Southern Resident Killer Whale (Orca) Task Force. In response to the continued Orca population decline, Governor Inslee promulgated an Executive Order in March 2018 which identified immediate actions for state agencies to take and established the Task Force to develop an action plan for Orca recovery. The Task Force’s Year 1 report is due in November 2018 to provide the Governor with recommendations in time to inform his 2019-2021 budget proposal and the 2019 legislative session. The Task Force meets on November 6 to finalize its recommendations.

Potential implications of the Task Force’s recommendations to the Chehalis Basin Strategy include:

- The Task Force is likely to support funding for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (WCCRI) 2019-2021 budget and continuing higher funding for projects that benefit Chinook for the next 10 years. The most recent version of the Task Force’s draft recommendations now also include support for additional Chinook habitat funding through the Office of Chehalis Basin.
- Salmon reintroduction and barrier removal analysis efforts could touch on the Chehalis Basin.
- The Task Force is likely to support funding for increased hatchery production where consistent with salmon recovery.
- Previous Task Force discussions associated with opposing any new potential Chinook barriers were not included in the most recent version of the draft recommendations.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

Emelie McKain (Fish and Wildlife) provided an update on development of the ASRP document, overview of current on-the-ground restoration actions, including barrier removal projects and early action reach design, and a summary of the September 19-20 Science Symposium. Day 1 of the Symposium included 15 scientific research presentations from WDFW scientists and ranged from species specific studies to habitat/species interactions. Day 2 of the Symposium included specifics on the ASRP and the process to

develop the plan, as well as an open house with boards summarizing the 10 ecological diversity regions (EDRs) in the Basin, which are areas that have distinct ecological characteristics and processes, which in turn affect the restoration and protection actions that are a priority within these regions.

Board members were given a virtual tour of the EDRs. Each EDR had a map board, which provided a visual for streams, and major public land ownership. There was also a board of content for each EDR, which was broken into three sections describing:

- What are some of the important/unique features and ecological functions within the region?
- What of those functions and processes are working, and which are broken?
- What are some of the protection and restoration strategies that could be important for application here in this specific region?

WDFW and ASRP Science Review Team representatives were available to answer Board members' and other participants' questions about each region during the virtual tour.

Tribal Fisher Perspectives

Board member Harry Pickernell introduced Bill Secena to provide Chehalis Tribal fisher perspectives. Board members thanked Bill for attending. Bill noted that there has been a low fish quota the past several years for Chehalis Tribal fishers, especially for coho. He expressed concern about the decline of native fish in the Basin and the inability to support hatchery production. Bill also noted that lamprey and shad populations appear to be declining in the Basin. He noted that any studies related to a potential dam should consider all potential impacts to the fishery and people.

Native salmon in the Basin were much more abundant when Bill was younger, and fishing seasons were longer. Bill noted there are approximately 50 active Chehalis tribal fishers allowed to fish within reservation boundaries. Many more young tribal people are interested in fishing but cannot due to limits on available space and opportunities, which makes it difficult to keep tribal fishing traditions as strong as the tribe would like.

Next Steps and Closing

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2018 in Centralia.