

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: November 4, 2021
Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent November 4, 2021 meeting agenda	Decision: Current agenda approved; October 7 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. SEPA EIS	Discussion	OCB staff will extend an invitation to the USACE to participate at a future Board meeting to provide an update on the NEPA EIS.
3. Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)	Board approved by consensus the additional six members of the LAND Steering Group.	No follow-up action.
4. Timing and approach for 2022 Board budget check-ins	Discussion	OCB staff will provide the Board with an overview of projects and current spending of 2021-2023 biennium funds for all major work elements at a future meeting.
5. Erosion Management / 36 Lower Falls Creek Rd	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Director's report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Hot and dry summer impacts on Chehalis Basin Chinook	Discussion	No follow-up action.
8. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

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

Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Alex Smith, Department of Natural Resources
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Josh Giuntoli, Conservation Commission
- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [November 4, 2021](#) meeting agenda.

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of October 7, 2021 Meeting Summary

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [October 7 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: October 7, 2021 meeting summary approved by consensus.

SEPA EIS

Ecology Update

Rich Doenges (Ecology) provided the preface to the work that has been done in preparation to completing the final SEPA EIS (FEIS). Ecology is currently incorporating additional information provided by the applicant, as well as public comments made during the comment period. The completion of the SEPA FEIS does not act as a permit but will provide information that would be useful in a permitting process.

Diane Butorac provided the Board a reminder that the EIS is a decision-making tool and identifies probable impacts that should be planned for and addressed. The FEIS will not approve or deny the project; will not include a decision; and will not include a cost-benefit analysis. The FEIS would also not be the only document used by decision-makers to decide whether to go forward. The anticipated date to finish the FEIS is early 2023 and Ecology is meeting regularly with the Flood Control Zone District and US Army Corps of Engineers. Ecology has also offered government-to-government consultation to both the Quinault Indian Nation and the Chehalis Tribe.

Currently, Ecology is evaluating reasonable alternatives and mitigation will be identified at a high level in the SEPA FEIS, but more modeling will be required for mitigation if the application moves into permitting. The three alternatives will include; 1) proposed project, 2) no project, and 3) local actions. The FEIS will also include a range of climate change conditions modeled based on updated projections from the UW Climate Impacts Group.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [CBB Briefing on Chehalis SEPA FEIS](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in better understanding the differences between the NEPA and SEPA EISs, specifically on climate change modeling and the record of decision process.
- USACE has received an invitation to present to the Board on more information related to their process and timeline for the NEPA FEIS.
- Board members are interested in knowing what the probability or recurrence interval would be for a major flood happening three years in a row, and requested that probability information accompany any updated impacts analysis in the SEPA FEIS.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: OCB staff will extend an invitation to the USACE to participate at a future Board meeting to provide an update on the NEPA EIS.

Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) Update

Erik Martin (FCZD) provided the Board with an update on the work the FCZD has done with the USACE and Ecology to answer questions related to avoidance, minimization and mitigation (AMM) of impacts identified in the draft SEPA and NEPA EISs.

In addressing AMM, the FCZD has committed to:

- No net loss of aquatic habitat.
- Mitigation of potential water temperature impacts.
- Priority use of Large Woody Debris for habitat.
- Use of BMPs to prevent sedimentation from road construction and use.
- Long term monitoring of unstable slopes in reservoir.
- No disruption of Pe Ell water supply.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [Flood Damage Reduction Project: Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Progress Update](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged the work the FCZD is doing to address the areas of concern requested by both Ecology and the USACE.

Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative (LAND)

LAND Steering Group Members

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided the Board with a summary of proposed members put forth to participate on the LAND Steering Group. Proposed members on the LAND Steering Group have both professional and personal ties to the Chehalis Basin and have a wide variety of professional backgrounds and geographic representation.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [LAND Prospective Steering Group Members Bios](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members supported additional recommended members of the LAND Steering Group.

BOARD DECISION: Board approved by consensus the additional six members of the LAND Steering Group.

LAND Consultant Request for Qualification (RFQ)

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle provided an update on the RFQ for an independent third party consultant team that will help support the work of the LAND group. This RFQ will be a competitive process run through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). It requires the Department of Enterprise Services' approval, and OCB has a goal of posting the RFQ by late November and anticipate a consultant could be put under contract by December.

LAND Steering Group Kick-Off Meeting

The first LAND Steering Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021 from 9:00am-12:00pm. The first meeting is virtual, but OCB aims to do in-person meetings in the future. Email notification with Zoom information will be sent out to the whole Office of Chehalis Basin mailing list and a separate distribution list will be created to send specific information out related to the process.

During the LAND Steering Group's first meeting, OCB will discuss a number of topics, including:

- The RFQ process
- A history of the Strategy
- The group's draft charter

Timing and Approach for 2022 Board Budget Check-ins

Jim Kramer reminded Board members of their decision to conduct check-in(s) during 2022 to assess spending and progress to date on all Chehalis Basin Strategy 2021-23 activities. This includes:

- To compare actual spending against projections
- To evaluate progress on near-term work plans and deliverables
- To authorize new work/specific projects not included in current budget spending plan

OCB Director Andrea McNamara Doyle outlined a proposed recommendation regarding the timing and approach for check-ins on biennial spending and progress during 2022 to ensure OCB's approach to managing the Board's spending plan aligns with Board member expectations. OCB staff recommends the Board check-in on the overall spending plan during the July and December 2022 meetings. In addition, OCB recommends the Board receive a more detailed update on major work elements periodically throughout 2022.

Assumptions that have been made for this outline include:

- Board approval should be obtained prior to any action that would change the overall allocation between Aquatic Species Habitat Restoration, Flood Damage Reduction, Integrated, and Administrative/Operations elements of the budget.
- OCB Director would have the delegated ability to adjust allocations within each of the four major categories, with notice to the Board, in the event material changes or new work elements are needed during the biennium to advance the Aquatic Species Habitat Restoration, Flood Damage Reduction, or integrated projects and programs.

Below are the links to the presentation materials:

- [2022 Board budget check-ins Presentation](#)
- [Timing and Approach for 2022 Board check-ins](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members highlighted that the approval needed to any overall reallocation of funds is already set forth through the current budget proviso.
- Board members supported the continued delegation of authority to the OCB Director to adjust allocations within each of the four major categories as needed.
- Board members proposed a sooner timeframe for 2022 check-ins on the overall spending plan, between April/June 2022 for the first check-in and September/October 2022 for the second check-in.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION: OCB staff will provide the Board with an overview of projects and current spending of 2021-2023 biennium funds for all major work elements at a future meeting.

Erosion Management Program Update

Nat Kale (OCB Staff) provide the board with background related to the erosion management program that was authorized as part of the Board's 21-23 budget. This program addresses unusually high rates of streambank erosion and currently has \$320K authorized to start 2-3 pilot programs, plus a technical program development workgroup.

The first pilot project up for consideration is located on Cloquallum Creek on 36-Lower Falls Creek Road. This project was brought forward by the Grays Harbor Conservation District and WDFW due to both habitat and infrastructure concerns caused by streambank erosion. For this project, the Flood Authority and OCB would coordinate funds for Grays Harbor CD to move forward with restoration construction. The total cost of the project will be \$184K.

Below is the link to the presentation materials:

- [36- Lower Falls Creek Road presentation](#)

Director's Report

CBB Legislative Report

[HB 1154 - 2019-20](#): Concerning the financing of Chehalis basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects. This bond authorization bill was modified to include a report that OCB was required to submit a report by January 1, 2021:

"The office of Chehalis basin shall submit a report by January 1, 2021, to the legislature that meets the requirement of a finalized strategic plan containing an implementation schedule and quantified measures for evaluating the success of implementation, and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature shall, within one hundred twenty days of the receipt, conduct a joint hearing for the purposes of: (1) Receiving a report from the office of Chehalis basin; and (2) considering potential funding strategies to achieve the implementation schedule."

To date, OCB has submitted a 2-page progress report to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and all interested legislators related to the status of the Board's strategic plan as well as the project list and 21-23 spending plan that has been approved. The due date for the final report is still in law and OFM has requested an updated date that OCB would provide a completed report. The current suggested approach will be to continue providing status reports to OFM and the legislature and present a final report by June 30, 2023.

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Update

There is work underway to prepare an updated report on the current state of the ASRP. This report should be available to the Board by December 2021 and will bring together refinements since the ASRP Phase 1 document was published in 2019. The next major report following that will be for the annual Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan, which is anticipated to be complete next fall. These reports will highlight implementation progress and knowledge gained from monitoring.

The ASRP Steering Committee has started filling in the 2021-23 project portfolio with new projects authorized through new biennium funding, and projects will be announced in January/February 2022. The first phase of funding for these projects will be allocated to sponsors, but future funding needs will be reserved to carry projects through completion.

OCB Updates:

- OCB has developed a [GIS story map](#), an interactive tool that integrates text, video, and maps to display work that has been completed around the Basin. OCB worked with several partners to develop the story map, including Ecology's communication team, WDFW staff, Pyramid Communications, the Quinault Indian Nation, and the Chehalis Tribe.

- After 3 years, OCB has been issued the grant funds awarded through a 2018 FEMA grant. The original grant proposal included a request for funding to acquire five homes, but due to the delay in timing it has now decreased to one.
- Emergency Alert: Folks can sign up for the [early warning system in the Chehalis](#) and there are a couple of one-hour, afternoon webinars coming up on 11/17 and 11/24 presented by Scott Boettcher with the Flood Authority.

Hot and Dry Summer Impacts on Chehalis Basin Chinook

Kirsten Karma (Chehalis Basin Lead Entity) introduced Lea Ronne (WDFW Fish Biologist) who provided the Board with an overview of the impacts of the extreme heat wave that hit the Basin June 2021, specifically in the Newaukum River. The impacts of heat on spring Chinook affect metabolic requirements, stress hormones, organ atrophy, reduced immune function, increased parasites and pathogens. At 16°C the water temperature is considered sub-optimal, and the mainstem remained above 20°C (lethal) throughout the summer.

WDFW conducted a survey June 30, 2021, on the mainstem during the heat wave, and did not find any spring Chinook, alive or dead, however there were other dead fish – sculpin, trout, shiner. However, on the North Fork Newaukum there were 23 dead spring Chinook confirmed. During the 2021 survey season, there were roughly 550 spring Chinook spawners recorded, which is less than last year, but higher than the low recorded in 2019 (a conservative estimate of ~4% loss).

Below are the links to the presentation materials:

- [Hot Temperatures and Salmon Handout 1](#)
- [Hot Temperatures and Salmon Handout 2](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members are interested in why minimum flows within the Newaukum River were not met and what practices/activities caused this?
- Bob Amrine shared that the Lewis County CD is conducting surveys of landowners in the Basin to identify restoration projects in the Newaukum as part of the portfolio in the next few months.

Next Steps and Closing

Jim Kramer (Facilitator) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021, to be held virtually.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests:

- Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited
- Alexei Calambokidis
- Ann Costanza, Anchor QEA
- Arthur Grunbaum, Friends of Grays Harbor
- Andrea McNamara Doyle, Department of Ecology, Director, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Becky Durr
- Betsy Dillin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest
- Celina Abercrombie, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Col (Ret) Ronald Averill, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colin Swanson
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC
- Darrin Raines, Cosmopolis
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation, ASRP Steering Committee
- David Linn
- Devin Reck, Department of Transportation
- Diane Butorac, Department of Ecology
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Rosane, The Centralia Chronicle
- Erik Martin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Frank Corbin, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee
- Greg Durr
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA
- Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- John Robinson, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting (Facilitator)
- Karen Allston, Quinault Indian Nation
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kim Marcotte, Anchor QEA
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

- Lara McRea, Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Larry Karpach, Watershed Science and Engineering
- Lea Ronne, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper
- Linda Orgel
- Lizzie Jespersen, Pyramid Communications
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation
- Nat Kale, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Pete Krabbe, Pinchot Partners
- Ryan Crotty, Maul Foster & Alongi
- Scott Boettcher, Staff to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
- Shane Cherry, HydroGeoLogic, Inc.
- Shelby Thomas, Ross Strategic
- Tammy Domike, Citizens for a Clean Harbor
- Teri Wright, Sierra Club
- Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Tye Menser, Thurston County Commissioner