

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 1, 2023
To: Chehalis Basin Board
Re: September 7 Board Meeting Presentation on Strategy Development Process

Section 1: Introduction

At the September 7, 2023 Board meeting, we will be working on the next series of exercises to develop and refine the Chehalis Basin Strategy process and schedule. The topics will include:

- Overview/reminder of the proposed 10-step process
- Review of the draft high-level process timeline
- Review of the draft near-term timeline for work between now and March 2023
- Discuss the evolving proposed approach to ensuring consultant impartiality and transparency, including the potential formation of a new Board subcommittee
- Review of draft definitions of a Baseline/No Strategy scenario and Work Elements/Options for the comparative analysis
- Conduct test Board exercises for the preliminary package development process during the retreat
- Next steps

The Board will not be asked to make any decisions today. The sole goal is to dry-run activities in preparation for an October Board retreat/workshop (i.e., the focus will be on process, not substance).

In addition to the accompanying PowerPoint presentation for the September meeting, this memo also includes:

- Draft high-level overall process timeline and detailed near-term process timeline
- Draft definitions of a Baseline/No Strategy scenario for the comparative analysis for purposes of the exercises only
- Draft definitions of Work Elements/Options for the comparative analysis for purposes of the exercises only

Section 2: Draft Process Timelines / Schedule

This section includes working drafts of a high-level overall process and a detailed near-term process timeline.

A. High-Level Overall Process Timeline

- Q4 2023 to Q1 2024 - Develop preliminary packages and evaluation criteria
- Q1 2024 to Q1 2025 - Gather data and finalize packages and evaluation criteria
- Q1 2025 to Q1 2026 - Evaluate and calculate results for packages (and re-evaluate as necessary)
- Q2 2026 to Q4 2026 - Deliberate and finalize integrated long-term strategy

B. Detailed Near-Term Process Timeline (October 2023 through March 2024)

- **October 2023 Board retreat/meeting**
 - o Board exercises to develop baseline/tentative packages and common elements and introduce evaluation factors and metrics
 - o Discuss the updated process timeline and public outreach/involvement
 - o Approve the high-level comparative analysis structure
- **November 2023 Board meeting**
 - o Confirm the updated process timeline and public outreach/involvement
 - o Staff and consultants to provide additional information and tee-up requests for preliminary Board direction on topics like climate change, potential spring Chinook ESA listing, mitigation considerations, and benefit-cost assumptions
- **December 2023 Board meeting**
 - o Board provides preliminary direction on topics like climate change, potential spring Chinook ESA listing, mitigation considerations, and benefit-cost assumptions
- **January 2024 Board meeting/retreat**
 - o Board refines baseline/tentative packages, evaluation factors, metrics, and common elements
 - o Board refines direction on topics like climate change, potential spring Chinook ESA listing, mitigation considerations, and benefit-cost assumptions
- **February 2023 Board meeting/retreat**
 - o Board further refines baseline/tentative packages, evaluation factors, metrics, and Common Elements
- **March Board meeting**
 - o Staff and consultants further refine the details given the Board's direction
 - o Board authorizes the formal gathering of data to start in Q1/2 of 2024, including "truing-up" data assumptions like cost because not all the elements are at the same development levels
 - o Approve the high-level comparative analysis structure

Section 3: Definitions of CBS Package Options: Baseline/No Strategy

This section includes a draft definition of the baseline/no strategy scenario for the comparative analysis.

Baseline/No Strategy Definitions

Short: For the purposes of the comparative analysis, the “Baseline/No Strategy” alternative only includes projects and programs funded through June 2025 and nothing after.

Full: Because the budget for the 2025-27 biennium is uncertain, the recommended Baseline/No Strategy for the comparative analysis should include designed and funded projects and programs to address flood damage and/or aquatic species, including those underway and those funded for implementation or scheduled for implementation through the 2023-25 biennium. For the purposes of the Baseline/No Strategy for the comparative analysis, there is no assumption of OCB-sponsored Strategy work after 6/30/2025 to allow enough time for consultants to complete a benefit-cost, socioeconomic/environmental justice, and ecosystem services analysis of Strategy packages to support Board decision-making before the target decision date of fall 2026. The only exception to this is assuming the Aberdeen-Hoquiam North Shore Levee project receives full funding, given the legislature’s expressed commitment to provide the remaining funding needs. This Baseline/No Strategy definition does not preclude the Board from developing their 2025-27 biennium budget recommendations. Finally, for purposes of the comparative analysis only, the analyses will not assume any locally-led projects, though that does not preclude the possibility of continued and future locally-led projects, such as the flood warning system, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity projects, etc.

The Baseline/No Strategy condition is summarized across work elements below with draft definitions on pages 4 through 7.

FRE & AIRPORT LEVEE	LEVEES, DIVERSION/ CONVEYANCE WITH ASSOCIATED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS	FLOODPROOFING, ELEVATION, AND ACQUISITION	SKOOKUMCHUCK DAM	ASRP: HABITAT	OTHER AQUATIC SPECIES ACTIONS: OTHER HS AND PREDATION	COMMON ELEMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No FRE constructed• No airport levee improvements constructed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No levees constructed• No diversion/conveyance constructed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No OCB-led basin-wide coordinated/funded effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No action on Skookumchuck dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No OCB-led basin-wide coordinated/funded effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No OCB-led basin-wide coordinated/funded effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No OCB-led basin-wide coordinated/funded effort

Section 4: Work Element Descriptions and Options

This section includes high-level descriptions of the major Chehalis Basin Strategy work elements and preliminary options for potential packages for the comparative analysis. [Note that these working definitions are intentionally broad because you will add consensus-based detail as the comparative process evolves.

WORK ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION/OPTIONS
Common Elements	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work elements the Board will continue to support that are consistent across any packages that comprise a long-term Chehalis Basin Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Erosion Management Program</i>: Construct projects that manage erosion and improve aquatic habitat conditions by promoting the use of bioengineering techniques and reducing the use of hard bank stabilization practices. – <i>Flood Authority Projects</i>: Construct local-scale flood projects to protect people, property, and infrastructure and improve communities' readiness and resiliency. – <i>Flood Warning System</i>: Maintain and/or improve an early flood warning system that provides real-time information to track and monitor flood conditions and sends email alerts to subscribers to afford them more time to respond to rising water. – <i>Resiliency Program</i>: Support actions that increase the ability of basin communities to withstand, respond, adapt, and recover from adversity due to flood events. – <i>Transportation System and Accessibility Improvements</i>: Support local actions to protect transportation corridors from flood damage and ensure future transportation projects incorporate flood protection measures, e.g., emergency access routes. – <i>Agricultural Viability</i>: Support projects designed to promote the continued viability of agriculture in the Basin, e.g., farm pads, flood fencing, existing WSCC programs, SW Growers Co-Op, Initiative for Working Riparian Lands). – <i>Additional Analyses for Strategy Development</i>: Other yet-to-be-identified analyses that support the advancement of the Chehalis Basin Strategy goals. <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High</i>: Support a "high level" of investment for common elements • <i>Medium</i>: Support a "medium level" of investment for common elements • <i>Low</i>: Support a "low level" of investment for common elements • <i>None</i>: Do nothing
Flood Retention Facility (FRE) & Airport Levee Improvements	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a flood retention facility (dam) near Pe Ell. • Raise the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee. • Implement associated mitigation actions.

WORK ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION/OPTIONS
	<p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes</i>: Construct FRE, raise airport levee, and associated mitigation actions • <i>Moderate Modified</i>: Changes in operation (frequency or timing); same purpose and need for SEPA and NEPA EISs • <i>Substantial Modified</i>: Changes in operation (frequency or timing) or physical structure; different purpose and need than SEPA and NEPA EISs • <i>None</i>: Do nothing
<p>Levees, Diversion/ Conveyance</p>	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a set of new and/or expanded levees in the upper Chehalis basin, including near the Chehalis, Skookumchuck, and Newaukum Rivers, including raising Chehalis/Centralia airport levee, a new ring levee in Adna, and other new and/or expanded levees in the Chehalis/Centralia area. • Construct a diversion and increase conveyance near the Mellen Street Bridge in Centralia and relocate the Mellen Street Bridge and approaches. • Construct additional measures associated with the levees and diversion/conveyance to minimize impacts to transportation corridors, e.g., I-5, Mellen Street, state highways 6 and 12, etc. • Implement associated mitigation actions. <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High</i>: "High investment" in the construction of levees, diversion/conveyance, associated transportation improvements, and associated mitigation • <i>Medium</i>: "Medium investment" in the construction of levees, diversion/conveyance, associated transportation improvements, and associated mitigation • <i>Low</i>: "Low investment" in the construction of levees, diversion/conveyance, associated transportation improvements, and associated mitigation • <i>None</i>: Do nothing
<p>Floodproofing, Elevation, and Acquisition</p>	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntarily floodproof, elevate, acquire, and/or relocate potentially flood-prone structures out of harm's way and acquire properties that can serve dual purposes for the Strategy. <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High</i>: "High investment" for floodproofing, elevations, and acquisitions • <i>Medium</i>: "Medium investment" for floodproofing, elevation, and acquisitions • <i>Low</i>: "Low investment" for floodproofing, elevation, and acquisitions • <i>None</i>: Do nothing

WORK ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION/OPTIONS
Skookumchuck Dam	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations under consideration by the Board for modifying the Skookumchuck Dam to support flood damage reduction and/or aquatic species restoration goals after the dam is no longer needed for power generation by TransAlta in 2025. <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dam removal / off-channel storage:</i> Remove the dam and construct an alternative, off-channel reservoir <i>Dam removal only:</i> Remove the dam <i>Combo fish/flood:</i> Construct modifications to augment fish passage and increase discharge capacity for flood management, including improving fish collection, improving fish sluice, installing new outlet, and direct pipe to customers <i>Fish passage only:</i> Construct modifications to augment fish passage, including improving fish collection and improving fish sluice <i>Flood reduction only:</i> Construct modifications to increase discharge capacity for flood management <i>None:</i> Do nothing
ASRP: Habitat	<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct projects across the basin to restore and protect aquatic habitats to support populations of native aquatic species into the future. <p>Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>High:</i> (i.e., ASRP Scenario 3+) Protects/restores 555 miles of river/stream/estuary habitat, corrects 450 fish passage barriers, improving access to 400 miles of river/tributary habitat, and restores 16,700 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat. Builds on ASRP Scenario 3 below, with the addition of estuarine habitats, and focus on benefits to Chinook salmon (both fall and spring runs). <i>Medium-High:</i> (i.e., ASRP Scenario 3) Protects/restores 450 miles of river/stream habitat, corrects 450 fish passage barriers, improving access to 400 miles of river/tributary habitat, and restores 15,300 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat. Builds on ASRP Scenario 2 below, with added focus on increasing spatial and life history diversity and distribution of species throughout more of the basin. <i>Medium:</i> (i.e., ASRP Scenario 2) Protects/ restores >300 miles of river/stream habitat, corrects 300 fish passage barriers, improving access to 300 miles of river/tributary habitat, and restores 10,200 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat. Builds on ASRP Scenario 1 below, with an added focus on restoring the best opportunities to benefit multiple species and increase spatial distribution. <i>Low:</i> (i.e., ASRP Scenario 1) Protects/restores >200 miles of river/stream habitat, corrects 200 fish passage barriers, improving access to 200 miles of river/tributary habitat, and restores 9,000 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat. Protects/enhances existing core habitats. <i>None:</i> Do nothing

WORK ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION/OPTIONS
Other Aquatic Species Actions: "Other Hs" and Predation	Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations under consideration by the Board on advancing "other H's" (harvest, hatcheries, hydropower) and predation for aquatic species restoration. [Note that the Board recognizes it does not have authority over many of these policies and will only recommend policies that work in coordination with responsible jurisdictions.] Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>High</i>: Recommend "high level" of "other H" and predation considerations <i>Medium</i>: Recommend "medium level" of "other H" and predation considerations <i>Low</i>: Recommend "low level" of "other H" and predation considerations <i>None</i>: Do nothing
Floodplain Management / Land Use Planning	Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance, resources, and recommended actions for local governments to improve their floodplain management and land use programs, including recommendations to improve land use and zoning based on reviews of local jurisdiction comprehensive plans and development codes. Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>High</i>: Recommend "high level" of floodplain management and land use planning improvements <i>Medium</i>: Recommend "medium level" of floodplain management and land use planning improvements <i>Low</i>: Recommend "low level" of floodplain management and land use planning improvements <i>None</i>: Do nothing
Unique Elements	Description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unique elements that are dependent on the specific Board package under consideration Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>TBD</i>: Unique elements identified that are dependent on the specific Board package under consideration <i>None</i>: Do nothing