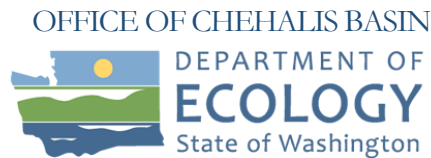


CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD



January 13, 2020

The Honorable Brian Blake
House of Representatives
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: House Bill 2109 - Concerning Membership of the Chehalis Basin Board

Dear Representative Blake:

The Chehalis Basin Board was created by the legislature in 2017 and charged with responsibility for oversight of a long-term strategy to reduce flood damages and restore aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis River Basin. With strong bipartisan support of the legislature, the Board has succeeded in constructing dozens of habitat and flood damage reduction projects, while simultaneously developing the scientific and technical information needed to fulfill our legislative directive to “aggressively pursue” an integrated strategy and funding to advance both fish and flood objectives.

The Board is comprised of seven voting members. Two of the voting members are designated by the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Quinault Indian Nation at the invitation of the Governor. We have been honored, and very fortunate, that both tribes have designated elected tribal council members to serve on the Board. Having elected tribal leaders engage directly in shaping the Board’s consensus-based approach to the Chehalis Basin Strategy has been critical to the success of our efforts to date.

On January 9, 2020, the Board considered and fully supported HB 2109, which would provide clarity on the tribes’ ability to designate a voting alternate member in the event their primary designee is unable to attend a meeting. This change will ensure the tribes’ voices, and votes, continue to be heard as the Board seeks consensus on its long-term integrated strategy and future funding recommendations.

Thank you for your continued support of the Board’s efforts to make the basin safer and more resilient from the increasing threats posed by future catastrophic flooding and the accelerating decline of salmon and other aquatic species.

Sincerely,



Vickie Raines
Chair, Chehalis Basin Board
Chair, Chehalis Flood Authority Chair
Grays Harbor County Commissioner

Voting Members

Edna Fund
Vice Chair, Chehalis Flood Authority
Chair, Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District
Lewis County Commissioner

Jay Gordon
Member, Chehalis Flood Authority,
Farmer in lower Chehalis Basin,
Policy Director, Washington Dairy Federation

Tyson Johnston
Vice President, Quinault Indian Nation

Harry Pickernell
Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the
Chehalis Reservation

Steve Malloch
Member, Office of the Governor
Western Water Futures LLC

J. Vander Stoep
Member, Office of the Governor
Private Attorney

Ex Officio Members

Michael Garrity, for Kelly Susewind, WDFW

Stephen Bernath, for Hilary Franz, DNR

Bart Gernhart, for Roger Millar, WSDOT

Stu Trefry, for Mark Clark, WSCC

Gordon White, for Laura Watson, Ecology

cc: Representative Sharon Shewmake
Representative Bruce Chandler
Representative Tom Dent
Representative Mike Chapman
Representative Mary Dye
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
Representative Joel Kretz
Representative Debra Lekanoff
Representative Ed Orcutt
Representative Eric Pettigrew
Representative Bill Ramos
Representative Joe Schmick
Representative Larry Springer
Representative Jim Walsh