

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** March 7, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Location:** Centralia Train Depot Multi-Purpose Room: 210 Railroad Ave, Centralia, WA 98531

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent March 7, 2019 Agenda Approval of February 7, 2019 Meeting Summary.	Decision: Agenda approved. February 7, 2019 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Office of Chehalis Basin (OCB) Director's Report	Discussion	The ASRP Team will be prepared to discuss the early action reach process, ASRP scenarios and key conclusions at the April Board meeting.
3. Previous Flood Damage Reduction Actions Considered	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Basin Perspectives: Chehalis Basin Fishing Guides	Discussion	OCB staff will identify speakers from the timber industry to provide their perspectives at a future Board meeting, including small forest landowners and larger industrial landowners.
5. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience	Discussion/Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>OCB staff will prepare case studies for the Board that illustrate and highlight the implications of specific policies and decisions related to CFAR program development.</li></ul>

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>OCB staff will continue coordinating with local governments and provide recommendations for the scope of additional CMZ or erosion hazard mapping and assessments.</li></ul>
6. Legislative Session Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2019

## 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

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

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Jeff Davis, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- 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
- Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
- Bob Thomas, Army Corps of Engineers
- Brandon Parsons, American Rivers
- Brian Stewart, Conservation Northwest

- Charlene Andrade, Department of Commerce
- Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Cindy Bradley, Department of Ecology, Office of Chehalis Basin
- Colleen Granberg, Department of Natural Resources
- Curt Hart, Department of Ecology
- Cynthia Carlstad, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Dale Lewis, Congresswoman Herrera Butler Staffer
- Emelie McKain, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Martin, Chehalis Flood Control Zone District
- Grant Parsons, American Rivers
- Jim Kramer, Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
- Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Mike Peroni, Northwest Agriculture Business Center
- Ray Vermillion, Lucky Strike Guide Service
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (staff)
- Tanya Eison, Quinault Indian Nation
- Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Conservation District

## **Welcome, Introductions**

Chair Vickie Raines was unable to attend the meeting. Board member Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Attendees provided brief introductions.

Edna invited Jeff Davis (Department of Fish and Wildlife) to introduce himself. Jeff shared WDFW Director Kelly Susewind's plan for continued engagement in the Chehalis Basin Strategy and the transitional effort to refill both Justin Allegro (former WDFW ex-officio Board member and ASRP Steering Committee voting representative) and Tim Kramer's (former WDFW Chehalis Basin Strategy Project Manager) positions. Jeff announced that Michael Garrity will be acting as WDFW's ex-officio Chehalis Basin Board member and Nicole Czarnomski will be temporarily acting as WDFW's voting representative on the ASRP Steering Committee.

## **Consent Agenda**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the March 7, 2019 agenda.

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

## **Approval of February 7, 2019 Meeting Summary**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the February 7, 2019 Meeting Summary.

**BOARD DECISION:** February 7, 2019 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

## **OCB Director's Report**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates on matters that have moved forward since the February Board meeting.

*Lower Satsop River Project update:* OCB Director McNamara Doyle reminded the Board of the Lower Satsop River Project presentation at the February Board meeting and their decision to approve moving forward on developing reach-scale design, engineering, and permitting for the Lower Satsop project. This would entail re-purposing up to \$160,000 in funds from farm pad contracts and utilizing unobligated local projects funds as needed.

Since the February Board meeting, Grays Harbor County has hired Natural Systems Design (NSD) to develop a conceptual level 3-mile reach scale design with project work occurring from March -through June 2019. NSD's estimates to complete the entirety of the work approved at the February Board meeting are higher than the \$160,000 the Board authorized at the February meeting. To address the difference in cost, Grays Harbor County is breaking this project into multiple phases. During the current phase, NSD will be able to provide permit ready preliminary plans for the 'priority segment' of the Lower Satsop reach, not the full 3-miles. Grays Harbor County Conservation District staff is supporting landowner outreach.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle noted that Representative Brian Blake has introduced and sponsored a \$1.4 million direct Capital Budget appropriation request for the additional funding needed to complete the full 3-mile reach project including final design, permitting, and construction. This work would happen in the summer and into the fall of 2019. This proposal also identified several other potential sources for funding.

The Lower Satsop long-term investment plan has been finalized. Scott Boettcher (Flood Authority) and other members of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (CRBFA) are working toward obtaining letters of support for endorsement of this investment plan. OCB Director McNamara Doyle, Scott Boettcher, RCO staff, the Conservation Commission, and others have come together to work on the longer-term effort.

Scott Boettcher (CRBFA) provided additional information on what the Flood Authority would like to see in the letters of support and endorsements for the Lower Satsop long-term investment plan. The Department of Natural Resources already completed a letter of support which highlights that DNR,

Ecology, Grays Harbor County, and landowners have all come together to find a solution in the Lower Satsop and there is validity in the work that is being done.

*Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) update:* OCB, WDFW, and RCO have issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) for assistance with negotiating landowner agreements and the completion of transactions involved in the ASRP early action reaches. The negotiation process will involve up to 2 dozen parcels and 20 landowners for the early action reach projects.

The RFQ was listed on the State's Procurement webpage the last week of February, with an expectation that a contractor would be selected and under contract by the end of March. Information was sent to all related RCO list servs, and RFQ eligible participants include certified land trusts, state governments, and tribal governments.

RFQ respondents are expected to have the capacity to undertake a large amount of work in a 12-month period using a two phased approach. The first phase includes preliminary land valuations and the pre-appraisal process. The second phase includes conducting landowner negotiations and managing the transaction of these agreements.

OCB Director McNamara Doyle also mentioned the combined meeting between the ASRP Steering Committee and Science Review Team related to the development of ASRP scenarios, and the level of restoration that is projected and anticipated as part of the ASRP. This information will be presented at the Board meeting in April.

*Regional Ag Partnership initiative update:* Mike Peroni, Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC), is evaluating the potential of developing a grain storage facility in the Chehalis Basin. Mike has expanded the Regional Ag Partnership and has succeeded in having several new partners sign on. He is now expanding his outreach into Grays Harbor, where there has been less outreach historically.

The Agriculture Business Park in Tenino and Grain Storage Facility proposals have been brought to the legislature through a Capital Budget request. The Grain Storage Facility request is for \$2.5 Million and the Tenino Agriculture Business Park is requesting \$1.9 Million. Additionally, the Dept. of Agriculture issued a \$250,000 request through the Operating Budget for the NABC's continued technical support in the Chehalis Basin.

*Evans School update:* OCB Director McNamara Doyle mentioned efforts that are being made by the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy graduate students. They are currently conducting interviews with key participants and stakeholders associated with development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, in order to provide OCB staff with themes and recommendations for modifications of the Chehalis Basin Board's process and overall development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy. This will result in a report that will be provided to the Board by July.

*Outreach update:* Since the February Board meeting, OCB Director McNamara Doyle met with Ty Menser, Thurston County Commissioner, and attended a Trout Unlimited regional chapter meeting in Chehalis.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:** The ASRP Team will be prepared to discuss the early action reach process, ASRP scenarios and key conclusions at the Board meeting in April.

## **Previous Flood Damage Reduction Actions Considered**

Chrissy Bailey (Office of Chehalis Basin) reminded the Board of their request from the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for a summary of how the current location for a proposed flood retention facility was determined and other large-scale flood damage reduction actions that have been analyzed but not pursued as part of Chehalis Basin Strategy development.

Many of the initial flood retention facility proposals were evaluated within the context of US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civil works projects. In 1931-1935, potential flood storage reservoirs and channel improvements at four sites were evaluated. In 1982, six sites were evaluated for a large-scale flood retention facility. In both evaluations, the USACE concluded that the new flood control improvements were not economically justified. This meant the proposals did not meet the USACE's requirements for a positive (>1) benefit-to-cost ratio for civil works projects.

In 1998, a local coalition hired a consultant to evaluate eight retention sites, including the sites evaluated by the USACE, two additional sites on the mainstem Chehalis River (including a site in the same vicinity as the current proposal), and a site on Elk Creek. This evaluation concluded that these proposals were not cost effective in comparison to other options for the same magnitude of flood stage reduction.

The current proposed location for a Flood Retention Facility is on the mainstem Chehalis River, upstream of Pe Ell. After the 2007 flood, this site continued to be evaluated due to its hydrologic impact, favorable geology, and location upstream of all communities (i.e., would not displace humans). A 2011 benefit-cost analysis completed using the USACE's benefit cost methodology indicated the flood retention facility upstream of Pe Ell may be cost-effective as a flood reduction project or multi-purpose project.

Other large-scale flood damage reduction actions considered, but not advanced:

- USACE Twin Cities project (2011)
- Floodwater bypass routes (2012)
- I-5 levees and walls (2014)
- Other I-5 protection projects (2014)
- Restorative flood protection (2018)

Links to more detail on flood retention facility proposals and other large-scale flood damage reductions considered, but not advanced, can be found on the references page of the following PowerPoint: [Flood Damage Reduction Actions Considered](#).

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- J. Vander Stoep (Board Member) explained that the cost of moving or buying out homes in potentially affected areas was one of main themes that prevented past flood retention facility proposals from moving forward.
- OCB staff clarified that updated hydrologic modeling completed after the 2007 flood event in the current location for the proposed flood retention facility indicated that 40%-60% of the water in major flood events on the mainstem Chehalis come from the Willapa Hills, feeding into the mainstem Chehalis River near the proposed flood retention facility site.

### **Basin Perspectives: Chehalis Basin Fishing Guides**

Ray Vermillion (Lucky Strike Guide Service) described his experience as a fishing guide and his clients. He described some of the changes he has seen in the river, the fish, and his hope for the future. In 2017, a Chehalis River Fishing Guide Association was developed and currently has 27 members. The mission of this group is to improve fishing opportunities in the Basin through stream and river preservation.

The Fishing Guide Association has several goals including:

- Identifying and being a leader in developing the best ways to interact with other guides that use the river.
- Determining how fishing guides can improve their process and change people's outlook of the river.
- Enhancing fisheries in the Chehalis Basin.
- Keeping open communication with the Conservation Districts.
- Encouraging Kids Programs: Bringing kids out on the river, and in nature.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Tom Kollasch (Grays Harbor Conservation District) noted that outreach conducted by the Fishing Guide Association has benefited both the Guides and the Conservation District.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will identify speakers from the timber industry to provide their perspectives at a future meeting, including small forest landowners and larger industrial forest landowners.

## **Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR)**

Chrissy Bailey (Office of Chehalis Basin) briefed the Board on recent activities related to development of the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience Program (CFAR). OCB staff has continued research on how other channel migration zone (CMZ) programs in Washington State determined geography covered through CMZ mapping, mapping approach, and determining level of hazards. There have been discussions and meetings with other local jurisdictions with CMZ programs, planners, and technical staff to discuss different approaches to mapping CMZ and implications for the CFAR program. OCB staff have also met with basin local governments and other jurisdictions to discuss structure retrofit criteria, processes to identify eligible actions and geographic focus, and potential draft program criteria.

Before next steps can be taken on developing the CFAR program, there are policy considerations that require Board feedback.

Themes identified at a February meeting focused on CMZs included:

- The need for a solid policy foundation with a strong initial vision and clear objectives is essential to an effective program.
- Having the opportunity to examine related policies that local governments or tribes may have already adopted, and consider the benefit of having consistent policies across political boundaries that apply to the same water body.
- Designation of hazard levels (e.g. low, moderate, severe) could influence both regulations and incentives. Hazards level are generally designated in a community by looking at the rate of erosion over a period of time.

Themes identified at a February meeting focused on structure retrofits included:

- The need for a solid policy foundation.
- Two funding models for consideration:
  - Local government/regional partnership lead, with state support and oversight.
  - State lead, supported by local governments for landowner outreach, permitting, etc.
- Effective and frequent public outreach
- More effective post-disaster mitigation programs (i.e., respond within weeks not years).
- Equity and accessibility of a program, specifically avoiding displacement of low-income, underserved communities.

Example policy considerations for CMZs include:

- Focus on severe hazard areas over areas of lesser hazard?
- Prioritize specific structures or land uses over others, considering risk to infrastructure?
- Should areas where significant habitat benefits can be achieved be prioritized?



- Is the purpose of the program to inform people where hazards exist (and the severity), to provide landowners and local governments this information for regulatory purposes, or for purposes of the State to fund priority solutions?

Example policy considerations for structure retrofits include:

- What types of areas should be priority for actions like elevations or buyouts?
- Is priority given to structures that predate available hazard information like flood hazard maps?
- Loss of low-income housing with replacement outside of hazard areas.

OCB staff will be working on a number of next steps related to development of the CFAR program, including:

- Policy foundation & case studies
- Continued coordination with local governments
- Recommendations for scope of additional CMZ or erosion hazard mapping and assessments
- Develop draft program criteria using other programs and Board feedback (eligible actions, geographic focus, etc.)
- Draft recommended public outreach milestones and timelines

OCB Director McNamara Doyle asked the Board what information would be most valuable to them when considering the range of issues being evaluated in the CFAR program? Board members requested more information on a number of topics, including:

- How the ASRP and flood damage reduction projects under consideration would affect the actions and decisions needed for the CFAR program.
- Ecology's CMZ guidance and how local jurisdictions use the guidance to identify hazard areas.
- Habitat and community hazards
- Options for compensating landowners that fall within the CMZ area.
- Who declares a CMZ?
- Environmental Justice and displacement considerations.
- Options for addressing the structures that are already in the CMZ.
- Rural and urban differences

Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center) suggested that OCB staff prepare case studies for Board review that illustrate the different policy decisions needing to be made to contribute to the CFAR program. The Board can then have an interactive discussion about the implications of specific policies and how they would look in the Chehalis Basin. Through these discussions, the Board can begin to identify the goals and objectives needed to build the foundation for the CFAR program.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will prepare case studies for the Board that illustrate and highlight the implications of specific policies and decisions related to CFAR program development. OCB staff will continue coordinating with local governments and provide recommendations for the scope of additional CMZ or erosion hazard mapping and assessments.

## **Legislative Session Updates**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided an update on legislative matters the OCB is tracking that directly or indirectly relate to Board efforts. The Washington State Legislature has moved past the first policy and fiscal cutoff for bills to move through the system. OCB has been tracking two major financing bills that would directly affect the OCB. SB5136- water infrastructure bill has not moved out of the Senate but the companion bill HB1889 has been heard in the House Capital Budget Committee.

The state revenue forecast is being announced on March 20, 2019. Within the last week of March, the House Capital Budget Committee and Senate Ways and Means Committee will come out with their proposed 2019-2021 Capital Budgets. Any budget differences between the House and Senate should be resolved by April 20, 2019.

Other bills mentioned:

- SB5873 – *Concerning community forests*: Establishing a Communities Forest pilot program within RCO through the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. This would demonstrate the feasibility of establishing an ongoing competitive grant program that would provide funding for locally owned community forests.
- HB2022 - *Providing funding options to local governments for addressing fish passage barrier removals*: Creating a new grant funding opportunity to address culverts. Focused on proving options to local governments for addressing city and county culverts through a public/private partnership. It would create a local barrier partnership account and corresponding competitive grant program that would fund public portion of certain public/private fish passage barrier removal projects.
- SGA9075 and SGA9076 - *Gubernatorial appointments to Chehalis Basin Board*: Steve Malloch and J. Vander Stoep have both been placed on the confirmation-hearing calendar.

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Stephen Bernath (Department of Natural Resources) reminded the Board about a legislative work session on March 14, 2019. The discussion will be focused on culverts and will include members from DNR, DOT, and WDFW. The legislature wants to ensure that when culverts are fixed it is being done as a coordinated effort among state agencies.
- DNR is supporting a Small Forest Landowner Bill that will provide an updated analysis of what a small forest landowner looks like, how many are on the landscape, and how they manage that area.

This would also be a way to evaluate the incentive mechanisms that are used today and whether they will continue to work in the future.

- DNR is supporting a carbon bill to look at the inventory of carbon across the state, where carbon is stored across all landscapes, and how to enhance carbon sequestration.
- The Conservation Commission issued a \$120,000 capital budget request to fund the Conservation Districts to fund two Discovery Farms pilot programs, one on the east side of the state and one on the west side. The programs will look at ways to test the effectiveness of different treatments on the landscape.
- The Conservation Commission has put in a budget request for a science program that will start the discussion on how to evaluate impacts during projects.

### **Next Steps and Closing**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2019 in Aberdeen at the Rotary Log Pavilion.