

# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

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**Date:** July 11, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Veterans Memorial Museum, 100 SW Veterans Way, Chehalis, WA 98532

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Consent July 11, 2019 Agenda; Approval of June 6, 2019 Meeting Summary.	Decision: Agenda approved. June 6, 2019 meeting summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Discussion/Direction	WDFW/OCB staff will continue to keep Board members updated on the targeted outreach occurring before the public release of the ASRP in fall 2019. Staff will connect with individual Board members expressing an interest in attending specific outreach meetings when scheduling the meetings.
3. Climate Change Projections	Discussion	No follow-up action.
4. Director's Report	Discussion	OCB Director McNamara Doyle will bring the Board specific recommendations to address potential cost increases for implementing ASRP early action reach restoration projects and/or additional technical assistance required for the proposed flood retention facility and airport levee improvements.
5. Partner Updates	Discussion	Board members requested Michael Garrity express their appreciation to WDFW Director Susewind for his letter.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
6. Flood Control Zone District Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Long-Term Strategy Assessment	Discussion/Direction	<p>OCB staff will provide a synthesis of the Board breakout group discussions on the long-term strategy assessment at the September Board meeting.</p> <p>OCB staff will also develop a list of individuals that have been involved in similar watershed-scale efforts that could be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide their perspectives.</p>
8. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2019. There will not be a Board meeting in August 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
- Vickie Raines, Chair, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

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

- Bart Gernhart, Department of Transportation
- Gordon White, Department of Ecology
- Michael Garrity, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Stephen Bernath, Department of Natural Resources
- Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission

## **Welcome, Introductions**

Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

## **Consent Agenda**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [July 11, 2019 agenda](#).

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

## **Approval of June 6, 2019 Meeting Summary**

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the [June 6, 2019 Meeting Summary](#).

**BOARD DECISION:** June 6, 2019 meeting summary approved by consensus with all voting member's thumbs up.

## **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)**

Emelie McKain (Department of Fish and Wildlife) summarized the major themes from the June 6 Board meeting small group discussions regarding the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) key messages and vision statement. Staff will work with the Steering Committee to refine ASRP key messages and the vision statement per this feedback prior to the release of the phase 1 ASRP in October. Emelie also provided an overview of upcoming ASRP outreach efforts that will be completed before the public release of the Phase 1 ASRP document. The objectives of the outreach are to build awareness of the ASRP and get targeted feedback on the strategies within the plan, implementation, and opportunities for partnership in the future. Target audiences for outreach are those groups and individuals that will interact with the plan and/or be affected through plan implementation.

Below is a link to the ASRP presentation:

- [ASRP Presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Emelie (WDFW) clarified that the goal of targeted outreach for different groups (e.g., local governments; restoration and conservation focused groups; landowners and agriculture community) is to better understand how the ASRP may affect the interests and plans of the targeted groups, seek their reaction in advance of pre-publication of the draft, and potentially make adjustments to the draft as possible in the timeframe. For example, outreach with local governments is meant to identify any conflicts as well as consistencies between the ASRP and different land use plans across the Basin.
- Board members were supportive of the proposed outreach strategy and several expressed their desire to participate in upcoming briefings for their respective constituencies.

- Board members discussed how this pre-publication outreach is an opportunity to communicate general messages and common themes on the ASRP that have been and will be refined through input and conversations with the Board.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** WDFW/OCB staff will continue to keep Board members updated on the targeted outreach occurring before the public release of the ASRP in fall 2019. Staff will connect with individual Board members expressing an interest in attending specific outreach meetings when scheduling the meetings. Staff will also work with the Steering Committee to refine ASRP key messages and the vision statement per Board feedback from the June 6, 2019 meeting.

### **Climate Change Projections**

Staff showed the Board an animation developed by the Center for Western Water Extremes of the 2007 Atmospheric River that was the driver of the catastrophic flood event in the Chehalis Basin. Larry Karpach (Watershed Science and Engineering) summarized the process to determine the latest climate change projections being used in the Chehalis Basin Strategy, and how these projections differ from previous projections. To summarize, the current modeling and analysis of the Chehalis Basin predicts that climate change will result in an increase in peak flows for a 100-year event of 12% by the middle of the century (2050) and by 12 to 26% by the late century (2080). Similar results for the middle of the century are predicted for either a low greenhouse gas scenario (RCP 4.5) or high greenhouse gas scenario (RCP 8.5). Results for the late century vary depending on greenhouse gas assumptions. The 12-26% estimated increases in the 100-year event are on top of the 30% increase experienced during the five major floods over the past 35 years.

Below are links with more detail on the information presented regarding climate change projections:

- [2007 Atmospheric River Animation](#)
- [Chehalis River Basin Climate Change Predictions Presentation](#)

Chrissy Bailey (Office of Chehalis Basin) and Emelie McKain (WDFW) provided a brief update on how the climate change projections are being used in different elements of Chehalis Basin Strategy. Chrissy noted that Ecology's SEPA EIS project manager shared with the Board earlier this year that the SEPA EIS for the Flood Control Zone District's proposed flood retention facility and airport levee improvements will include climate change projections for each resource area. The Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR) program, while still in its infancy, will likely evaluate how increases in flows could exacerbate erosion and impact future structure retrofits. Emelie McKain (WDFW) noted that the ASRP is incorporating climate change projections regarding both peak flows and low flows.

Key comments included:

- Board members noted that while climate change models could potentially continue to be run and refined, the major policy takeaway is that peak flows in the Chehalis Basin are anticipated to be higher in the future.
- Some Board members suggested these climate change projections should inform how the Board thinks about ways the overall Chehalis Basin ecosystem could be changing, including issues like water supply.

## **Director's Report**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle provided a number of updates, including:

- Lewis County Flood Control District will be developing additional mitigation measures, which is a typical responsibility of a permit applicant.
- Steve Malloch has officially been reappointed to the Board, serving as one of two Governor's Office appointed representatives.
- Richelle Geiger has been assigned to OCB/Chehalis Basin Strategy issues by the House Capital Budget Committee, taking over duties for Melissa Palmer.
- Chris Davis has been assigned to OCB/Chehalis Basin Strategy issues by the Governor's Office, taking over duties Rob Duff.
- Adam Sant has been hired by the OCB to support work related to the ASRP and cultural resources.
- Shelby Thomas, who was part of the Evans School Consulting Lab team, has begun providing OCB project support for Ross Strategic, including development of updated content for the Chehalis Basin Strategy website .
- Celina Abercrombie will be joining WDFW as the Chehalis Basin Strategy Manager. She is filling the position formerly held by Tim Kramer.
- Based on Board feedback, OCB staff has begun working directly with local government staff and the Flood Authority to develop CFAR recommendations and identify early opportunities.
- At a future Board meeting, OCB staff may request Board input on updated cost estimates for implementing ASRP early action reach restoration projects and/or additional work proposed by the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District related to the SEPA and NEPA EISs.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB Director McNamara Doyle will bring the Board specific recommendations to address potential cost increases for implementing ASRP early action reach restoration projects and/or additional technical assistance required for the proposed flood retention facility and airport levee improvements.

## **Partner Updates**

Michael Garrity (WDFW) summarized the June 6, 2019 letter from WDFW Director Kelly Susewind regarding development of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and the work of the Board. Board members

expressed their appreciation for the letter and the attention that WDFW Director Susewind is paying to the Strategy.

Kirsten Harma (Chehalis Basin Partnership) provided an update on the Chehalis Basin Partnership's Watershed Plan Update process. The update is required to be completed by February 2021 as part of the Streamflow Restoration Act, which was passed in response to the "Hirst" decision. The Hirst decision is a 2016 Washington State Supreme Court decision that clarifies how counties issue building permits for rural homes that use a well (a permit-exempt well) for a domestic water source.

Scott Boettcher (Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority staff) provided an update on the Lower Satsop project, including recent work to address bank erosion, channel migration, and potential flooding of nearby infrastructure and properties. He noted that the Board's funding assistance earlier this spring was a game changer in terms of allowing the project to move ahead expeditiously in light of the urgency caused by last fall's significant avulsion and erosion event. Board members acknowledged the multi-benefit nature of the project and the successful collaboration among many different stakeholders.

Below are links with more detail on the information presented during the partner updates:

- [WDFW Director Letter on Chehalis Basin Strategy](#)
- [Lower Satsop River Update Presentation](#)

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** Board members requested Michael Garrity express their appreciation to WDFW Director Susewind for his letter.

### **Flood Control Zone District Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan**

Betsy Dillin (Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District) provided an overview of the FCZD's effort to update its Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP). The Lewis County CFHMP was originally developed in 1994 and last updated in 2001, but the current update will address only the areas of Lewis County within the Chehalis Basin. The objectives of the plan update are to provide a program for flood alleviation activities and provide guidance to evaluate possible actions to remain consistent with FCZD goals, as well as guidance to ensure Lewis County is eligible for flood hazard reduction funding. The first phase of the plan update is expected to be complete by August 31, 2019. Depending on additional funding availability, the second phase of the update should be complete no later than mid-2022.

Below is a link to the Flood Control Zone District Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan presentation:

- [Flood Control Zone District Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan Presentation](#)

## **Long-term Strategy Assessment**

OCB Director McNamara Doyle presented information related to the long-term strategy assessment, including the “Top 10” issues that the Board, OCB staff, and other stakeholders will need to collaborate on to enable the Board to reach informed, consensus-based decisions for the long-term strategy. She also summarized the findings of the June Board meeting exercise where Board members and participants were asked to identify what they considered the top strengths and challenges related to the Chehalis Basin Strategy collaborative process.

Board members were then split into two breakout groups to discuss three questions related to the long-term strategy assessment:

- What does success look like for you?
- What are some of the most important things that need to happen over the next 18 months to achieve your hopes for success?
- What type of assurances do you want to see to ensure success as the Strategy is implemented over the next couple of decades?

Below is a link to the Long-term Strategy Assessment presentation:

- [Long Term Strategy Assessment presentation](#)

Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged the value of the small group discussions and agree it is a good format to use for future Board meetings.
- Board members agreed that generally their visions of success are similar at a high level, including:
  - Implementing durable and effective near-term on-the-ground projects
  - Finding a long-term solution to catastrophic flooding and declining aquatic species habitat in the face of climate change
  - Identifying a long-term and stable funding source
  - Finding consensus on a decision for the proposed flood retention facility and airport levee improvements
  - Creating community-wide awareness and support for the broader strategy
  - Creating a functional and durable organizational structure that is resilient in the face of turnover and conflict
- Board members suggested the September Board meeting include further discussion on the types of assurances they want to see to ensure success as the Strategy is implemented over the next couple of decades.

- Board members suggested inviting individuals to future Board meetings that have been involved in similar watershed-scale efforts to share their perspectives.

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION:** OCB staff will provide a synthesis of the Board breakout group discussions on the long-term strategy assessment at the September Board meeting. OCB staff will also develop a list of individuals that have been involved in similar watershed-scale efforts that could be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide their perspectives.

### **Next Steps and Closing**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2019 in Aberdeen, WA. There will not be a Board meeting in August 2019.