# CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

**Date:** January 11, 2024 **Time:** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Location:** Hybrid meeting – Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Grand Mound

Centralia: 6223 197th Way SW, Rochester, Washington 98579

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of current Agenda and December 7 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current Agenda approved; December 7 summary approved	No follow-up actions.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)	Decision: \$3 million of ASRP funding approved for the Lower Satsop River Mile 0-2 Phase 2 Construction project.	Staff will investigate the nuances of how state and federal funds can be spent on projects that are meant to count as mitigation for projects that require an EIS and are not formally approved yet, and report back at a future Board meeting.  Staff will return to the Board in April with a menu of actionable tasks to address other
		"other Hs" and predation issues, which can be used to support their deliberations on an integrated long-term Strategy
3. Cultural Resources Consultation Support	Decision: Board members approved reclassifying \$178,000 of Habitat funding to Integrated to support Strategy cultural resources work.	No follow-up actions.
4. Erosion Management Program	Discussion	No follow-up actions.
5. Quarterly Budget Status Update	Discussion	Staff will develop more detail on the contracts that comprised the total obligations across the Integrated, Flood Damage Reduction, and Aquatic Species Restoration funding categories, and future quarterly budget updates will include similar updates.
6. Request for Approval of Annual Board Handbook Updates	Decision: Five of seven Board members approved the Annual Board Handbook updates.	Staff will follow up with Jay Gordon and Vickie Raines (absent at time of voting) for approval.

ITEM		FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
7. Chehalis Basin Strategy		Discussion/Direction	Staff will distribute a revised track-change
Dev	velopment		version of the comparative analysis scope of
			work to the Board for review.
8. Spring Chinook Conservation Hatchery		Discussion	Staff will engage with the co-managers and
			Chehalis Tribe to identify next steps
	-		regarding spring Chinook conservation
			hatchery discussions.
9. Cor	nmunications and Outreach:	Discussion	No follow-up actions.
2023 Year in Review			
10.	Federal Funding Strategy	Discussion	OCB will continue providing quarterly
			Federal Funding Strategy updates.
11.	Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up actions.
12.	Public Comment, Next	Discussion	No follow-up actions.
Steps, and Closing			
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# **Attendees**

#### Chehalis Basin Board Members

NAME	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	ATTENDANCE
Vickie Raines	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Absent
Edna Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Tyson Johnston	Quinault Indian Nation	Present
Glen Connelly	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Present
J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Governor	Present
Steve Malloch	Office of the Governor	Present

## Chehalis Basin Board Ex-Officio Members

NAME	AGENCY	ATTENDANCE
Celina Abercrombie	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Present
(filling in for Michael		
Garrity)		
Katie Allen	Department of Natural Resources	Present
Mark Gaines	Department of Transportation	Present
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Present
Rich Doenges	Department of Ecology	Present

#### Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

• See Attachment A

#### Welcome, Introductions

Board Chair Vickie Raines was unable to attend the January Board meeting. Board member Edna Fund called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience.

## **Agenda and Meeting Summary Review**

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an overview of the meeting agenda. The Board did not have additions or revisions to the January 11, 2023 meeting agenda.

**BOARD DECISION:** Agenda approved by consensus.

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the December 7, meeting summary.

**BOARD DECISION:** December 7 Board meeting summary approved by consensus.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• December 7, 2023, meeting summary

# Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP)

# Lower Satsop River Mile 0-2 Phase 2 Construction

Drew Mealor (WDFW) reminded the Board of the Lower Satsop RM 0-2 Phase 2 Restoration project presentation from the December Board meeting and updated the Board that Grays Harbor Conservation District (GHCD) revised their \$3 million request for ASRP funding to be allocated for the first phase of project construction. The project did not receive the ~\$6 million National Coastal Resilience Fund grant, but the project will continue to pursue additional funding sources or come back to the Board at a later time to request funding needed for future project construction and planting phases.

**BOARD DECISION:** \$3 million in ASRP funding approved for the Lower Satsop River Mile 0-2 Phase 2 Construction project.

# South Fork Chehalis Project River Mile 0-2

Drew Mealor (WDFW) provided an update that the South Fork Chehalis River Mile 0-2 project proposal is being revised by Lewis Conservation District and will be brought back to the Board after further implementation and technical team review and discussions. The project team recently learned that one of the landowners will not proceed with the project unless it is counted as mitigation for the proposed Flood Retention Facility (FRE). Board members acknowledged that this is an issue that may reoccur in future project proposals and highlighted the need to understand the nuances of how state or federal money can be spent on projects that may be meant to count as mitigation for projects that require an EIS and are not formally approved yet.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will investigate the nuances of how state and federal funds can be spent on projects that are meant to count as mitigation for projects that require an EIS and are not formally approved yet, and report back at a future Board meeting.

#### 2023 ASRP Accomplishments and 2024 Look Ahead

Victoria Knorr (WDFW) reviewed 2023 ASRP program highlights and accomplishments, including refined Monitoring & Adaptive Management process work and examples, budget context, and a 2024 look ahead.

#### **ASRP Implementation Overview**

Drew Mealor (WDFW) reviewed summer 2023 construction projects, an ASRP project implementation budget overview, and 2024 planned construction projects. An ASRP Symposium and field trip will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> discussing the linkage of science and implementation.

Board members requested more information on how the Strategy plans to address "other Hs" and predation issues, especially in light of a potential future ESA listing for spring Chinook.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will return to the Board in April with a menu of actionable tasks to address "other Hs" and predation issues, which can be used to support their deliberations on an integrated long-term Strategy.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- Lower Satsop RM 0-2 Restoration Phase 2: Construction Factsheet
- Satsop RM 0-2 Phase 2 Restoration: Construction Presentation
- ASRP 2023/2024 Update Factsheet
- ASRP 2023/2024 Update

# **Cultural Resources Consultation Support**

Nat Kale (OCB) asked the Board to re-classify \$178,000 of Habitat funding to Integrated, to support cultural resources (CR) consultation for all Strategy projects. Ecology and WDFW are required to follow Governor's Executive Order 21-02 and conduct CR consultations on many of the projects funded through the Chehalis Basin Strategy. \$178,000 in Habitat funds were set aside in the current biennium for the ASRP to contract with a firm to support CR needs, such as desktop reviews, developing materials, and conducting trainings. OCB and WDFW staff determined that \$178,000 is sufficient to support CR work across the entire Strategy. Reclassifying the funding from Habitat to Integrated will simplify the process of soliciting a firm to support Strategy CR work.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board members approved reclassifying \$178,000 of Habitat funding to Integrated to support Strategy cultural resources work.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• Cultural Resources Consultation Support Budget Revision

#### **Erosion Management Program (EMP)**

Nat Kale (OCB) provided updates on the Erosion Management Program's development and framework. He reviewed the fully allocated \$895,000 in 2023-2025 funding, highlighting the EMP's demand and success. Mr. Kale highlighted the need for the Board to make future decisions in how big of a role the program should play in an integrated long-term Strategy. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members suggested staff should build regulatory requirements into the handbook to help project sponsors.
- Staff clarified any erosion management project must provide fish-flood benefits, and erosion protection methods such as riprap should only be used as temporary emergency solutions.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- Erosion Management Factsheet
- Erosion Management PowerPoint

# **Quarterly Budget Status Update**

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) provided an update on 2023-25 obligations through January 2024. The pace of contracting for 2023-25 funds has increased since the last budget update, and over the next quarter a number of additional contracts are anticipated to be executed.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will develop more detail on the contracts that comprised the total obligations across the Integrated, Flood Damage Reduction, and Aquatic Species Restoration funding categories, and future quarterly budget updates will include similar updates.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• Quarterly Budget Update

# Request for Approval of Annual Board Handbook

Stevie Colson (OCB) requested Board approval on updates to the Board handbook, including updates to Office details, e.g., phone numbers, meeting locations, appendices. OCB still has a request to the Ecology AG to provide a refresher on information for public records requirements.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will follow up with Jay Gordon and Vickie Raines (absent at time of voting) for approval.

**BOARD DECISION:** Board members approved the Annual Board Handbook updates.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• Chehalis Basin Board Handbook

#### **Chehalis Basin Strategy Development**

# Timeline, Comparative Analysis Scope, and Defining a Board Sub-Group

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) reviewed an updated and condensed timeline for Strategy development activities, with a target date of Q1 2026 for the Board to approve their integrated long-term Strategy. He also discussed a draft scope of work draft for a comparative analysis consultant. Board comments will be incorporated into the next draft. Mr. Ghalambor asked the Board to consider creating a Board sub-group to engage with the comparative analysis consultant once they are hired, recognizing that Board members could ask their partners to engage in the process too. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- It is important a benefit-cost analysis does not occur far behind the comparative analysis.
- Each step of the process will require active Board input. The current scope of work for the comparative analysis is quite general and will need refinement as the details of their work become clearer.
- Board members were generally supportive of the idea of forming a sub-group, especially if their representatives can also be involved in the process.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will distribute a revised track-change version of the comparative analysis scope of work to the Board for review.

## Interim Progress Report

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) proposed the Board develop an interim progress report to:

- Support the Board's 2025-27 budget recommendation process
- Highlight work completed to-date on the Strategy development process and major pending decisions
- Highlight areas where there is Board consensus on elements of a long-term Strategy and other guiding principles

Board members were generally supportive of the idea, and suggested the progress report will be helpful for outreach and engagement with the legislature and other key parties.

# Refining Work Elements Options & Definitions

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) discussed the need to refine work element options and definitions to support the Board's deliberations on an integrated long-term Strategy. OCB staff aim to bring back revised work element definitions over the next three Board meetings for Board consideration. Board members were supportive of this approach.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• Chehalis Basin Strategy Development Process

# **Spring Chinook Conservation Hatchery**

Nat Kale (OCB) engaged the Board in a discussion about the potential creation of a hatchery focused on conservation and preservation of spring Chinook in the Chehalis Basin. Key points included:

- A conservation-focused hatchery could be one important step for preserving the important spring Chinook run in the Chehalis Basin.
- Hatcheries usually balance production and conservation goals. There is at least one example of a spring Chinook conservation-focused hatchery in Washington.
- Co-manager conversations on this complex topic are starting and can inform whether
  next steps to evaluate a spring Chinook hatchery, informed by engagement with other
  stakeholders including the Board, are warranted.
- Hatcheries are part of the "All-H" work the Board has queued up in the long-term Strategy development process.

Mr. Kale reminded the Board of the ongoing approach to create a framework to evaluate potential actions to address "other Hs" and predation issues holistically across the Strategy. Exploring the creation of a conservation hatchery may potentially be one of those actions. Staff plan to bring more information back to the Board in April on the broader "other Hs" and predation issues and will continue conversations in the interim.

Dave Bingaman (Quinault Indian Nation) provided further context, noting that QIN is very concerned about preserving the Basin's spring Chinook population. He noted that a conservation hatchery's purpose is to preserve, not supplement existing genetics. QIN started a project in 2020 looking at emerging fry populations from spring Chinook Redds in the Skookumchuck and Newaukum. The co-managers, QIN and WDFW, need to have discussions internally about the extensive complications associated with a potential hatchery, its location, how to collect genetics, and hatchery operation. Key comments and discussion topics included:

- Board members acknowledged that the fate of spring Chinook in the Basin is an urgent issue.
- Conservation hatcheries should consider existing runs, their locations, and possible relocation. Hatchery conversations open up other conversations about spatial diversity, predator/prey, and adding more eggs for conservation of existing genetics.
- Consider how to reduce hybridization by augmenting and reducing flow.
- Consider regulatory requirements to fully understand operational needs. A Department
  of Ecology aquaculture hatcheries specialist can help build an understanding of
  regulatory process constraints on non-tribal land.
- Board member Glen Connelly noted that the Chehalis Tribe is very interested in this issue and wants to be involved in any future efforts.

- Board members encouraged the co-managers to let the Board know how they can help.
   Dave Bingaman (Quinault Indian Nation) noted that if anything moves forward it would be helpful for the Board to advocate to the legislature to support what the co-managers recommend.
- Board members requested that the co-managers have expeditious conversations and not hesitate to present the Board any requests before the February Board meeting.

<u>FOLLOW-UP:</u> Staff will engage with the co-managers and Chehalis Tribe to identify next steps regarding spring Chinook conservation hatchery discussions.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

Spring Chinook Conservation Hatchery

#### Communications and Outreach: 2023 Year in Review

Lizzy Jespersen (Pyramid Communications) presented a snapshot of Strategy communications in 2023, a year-end report, and a 2024 communications preview. Pyramid Communications is focusing on broadening and prioritizing outreach and engagement and continuing proven engagement methods. Board members noted that a news reporter for the Daily World seems very interested in the Strategy and may be a connection for Pyramid Communications. Pyramid Communications will continue to provide the Board quarterly communications and outreach updates.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

• Chehalis Basin Strategy – 2023 Year in Review

# **Federal Funding Strategy**

Cindy Malay (OCB) presented on how a long-term federal funding strategy should be structured and discuss considerations needing further refinement for the 2025-2027 budget development process. Ms. Malay touched on limitations and challenges with the current federal funding strategy approach (particularly regarding lack of partner and OCB capacity to support grant work), the need for a dual-track approach (both grant writing and seeking federal funding opportunities), the need to pivot towards funding sustainability, the success of the Aberdeen and Hoquiam projects, and guiding actions for the long-term strategy. Ms. Malay highlighted a Federal Funding Workshop will be held on January 30 and that a quarterly grant tracking spreadsheet goes out to a partner advisory group to distribute to local partners. Key comments and discussion topics included:

Board members were generally supportive of the suggestion to use a dual-track
approach for federal funding and recognized that this may influence the amount of
resources required to support a federal funding strategy as part of the 2025-27
budgeting process.

• Tribes have a track record of success securing federal funding, so it will be important to encourage partners to work with and learn from Tribes.

**FOLLOW UP:** OCB will continue to provide quarterly Federal Funding Strategy updates.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- Long-Term Federal Funding Strategy Factsheet
- Long-Term Federal Funding Strategy Memo
- Long-Term Federal Funding Strategy Presentation

#### **Director's Report**

Rich Donges (Department of Ecology) provided several updates:

- Ecology hired Seth Ballhorn as a replacement for SEPA EIS planner Diane Butorac. Mr.
  Ballhorn is coming from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife where he was the lead for
  Puget Sound Estuary and Restoration projects. He will likely attend the next Board
  meeting.
- Rich Donges will be leaving his role at Ecology beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Recruitment is beginning for his position. Board members thanked Rich for his service on the Board.

OCB Director Jeff Zenk provided the following updates:

- Board meetings are being restructured with the intent to keep most presentations to no more than seven-minutes and provide more detailed advance material for Board review, with an overarching goal to shorten Board meetings while not losing connection to the substance of agenda topics.
- OCB and Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) have mutually decided to move the
  monitoring of contracts and grants to Department of Ecology from RCO. OCB's contract
  scope has outgrown the scope of RCO. This change will increase efficiency over the longterm but will be a big transition. Nat Kale and Cindy Malay (OCB) will work with RCO to
  develop a transition plan. OCB is in the process of hiring a fiscal manager to lead the
  transition and oversee management of grants, contracts, and the budget. The goal is to
  have a transition plan in place by April to allow for specific requests to the Legislature as
  needed.
- Two of three new contracts for the Flood Control Zone District were recently executed.
   The Department of Enterprise Services provided OCB spending authority for a pending engineering contract for the FCZD that should be signed in the next few weeks.
- Eight Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR) Program pilot projects are out to bid on Centralia's small works roster. The bids close February 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Senator Braun reintroduced Senate Bill 5649 as a statewide fix based on a request from the Mayor of Bucoda to allow home elevation opportunities for some homes in the floodway.
- Trapping of Chinook fry started in two locations on the Newaukum and Skookumchuck River as a continuation of last year's effort to test spring, fall, or hybridized genetics.
- TransAlta agreed to installing a Skookumchuck gauge in the next few weeks.

Board members expressed support for the seven-minute presentation with supplemental memos and highlighted that policy-level details are best suited for Board discussions. Board members acknowledged there will need to be some flexibility for presentation times based on the subject.

#### **Public Comment**

Donna Albert (Montesano) commented regarding the Strategy development discussion: "In a report and budget request to the legislature, avoid assigning benefit cost numbers to individual parts of your whole written budget proposal. Benefit cost numbers are likely to be used (by uninformed people not on your committee) to cut the budget for non-economic goals (for example, such as protecting fish, which are not properly valued in a cost benefit analysis). Your budget request should achieve all of your economic and non-economic project goals and stand as a whole solution."

# **Next Steps and Closing**

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The Board will next meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Grand Mound Centralia.

#### Attachment A

# Board Staff/Board Guests:

Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.

- Alexandra Gustafson, Trout Unlimited\*
- Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor Conservation District
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic\*
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority\*
- Darrin Raines, City of Cosmopolis\*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- David Ortman\*

- Donna Albert, Montesano\*
- Drew Mealor, WDFW
- Erika Britney, ICF\*
- Gary Marston, Trout Unlimited\*
- Jacqui Brown, DOH/ODW\*
- Jeff Zenk, OCB
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic
- Jennie Lewis, OCB
- Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center\*
- Jim Weber, CELP\*
- Jonathan Stumpf, TU\*
- Heather Page, Anchor QEA\*
- Karen Allson, Quinault Indian Nation\*
- Kat Dickey, OCB
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kylin Brown, Pyramid Communications\*
- Larry Lestelle, Quinault Indian Nation\*
- Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper\*
- Lizzy Jesperson, Pyramid Communications
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation\*
- Merri Martz, Anchor QEA\*
- Nat Kale, OCB
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis Basin Flood Authority\*
- Stevie Colson, OCB
- Tara Livingood-Schott, Chehalis Tribe\*
- Teri Wright, Wild Orca\*
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW