

Process and Timeline for Responding to Governor's Letter on Long-Term Strategy

Chehalis Basin Board Meeting
September 15, 2020

Presentation Objectives

To aid the Board in:

- Responding to Governor's letter by end of September
- Reviewing a work plan/schedule for September 2020 – March 2021, for approval by end of September

Governor's letter to Board

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

July 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Chehalis Basin Board:

I value the important work that you do to advance consensus-based, win-win solutions for flooding and fish in the Chehalis Basin. The complex challenges facing our communities require science, collaboration, and innovative thinking to forge lasting solutions.

Recent work evaluating a proposed large-scale flood retention project in the upper Chehalis River has brought additional and significant questions and concerns about impacts and alternatives. In light of these concerns, I am requesting that the board work together to:

- Define a process and timeline for developing and evaluating a basin-wide non-dam alternative to reducing flood damage.
- Continue evaluating the issues raised regarding the retention project and other flood risk reduction projects and the potential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the identified impacts.
- Deliver a consensus recommendation on the process back to me no later than the end of **September 2020** that will lead to a long-term strategy for consideration by me and the legislature in the first quarter of 2021.

Outline of Board Response to Governor

- Context
- Objectives
- Issues to be addressed
- Structure
- Work Plan/Schedule

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Board Objectives (Sep 2020 – Mar 2021)

Determine:

1. Potential for flood damage reduction through Local Actions Program, CFAR, local projects, etc., with and without dam (including estimated costs)
2. Potential to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate aquatic habitat and species impacts of FRE (including est. costs)
3. Magnitude, priority and sequence of ASRP actions necessary to protect and restore freshwater habitat and the abundance and resilience of aquatic species (including est. costs)

Board Objectives (Sep 2020 - Mar 2021) *continued*

Recommend:

1. Which actions are ready to be implemented as part of long-term strategy
2. Which need more evaluation before determining whether they should be implemented
3. Which should not move forward
4. Next steps & resources needed to advance long-term Strategy over next 4-6 years
5. 2021-2023 biennial capital budget request

Increase awareness & support for strategy across basin and with key interest groups & decision-makers statewide.

Key Board Decisions Needed

Sep 30, 2020

- Approve process/work plan/schedule for evaluating potential of local actions and feasibility of mitigation
- Approve written response to Governor

Dec 2020

- Approve draft 2021-23 capital budget recommendations, with project lists

Mar 30, 2021

- Approve recommendations for long-term strategy

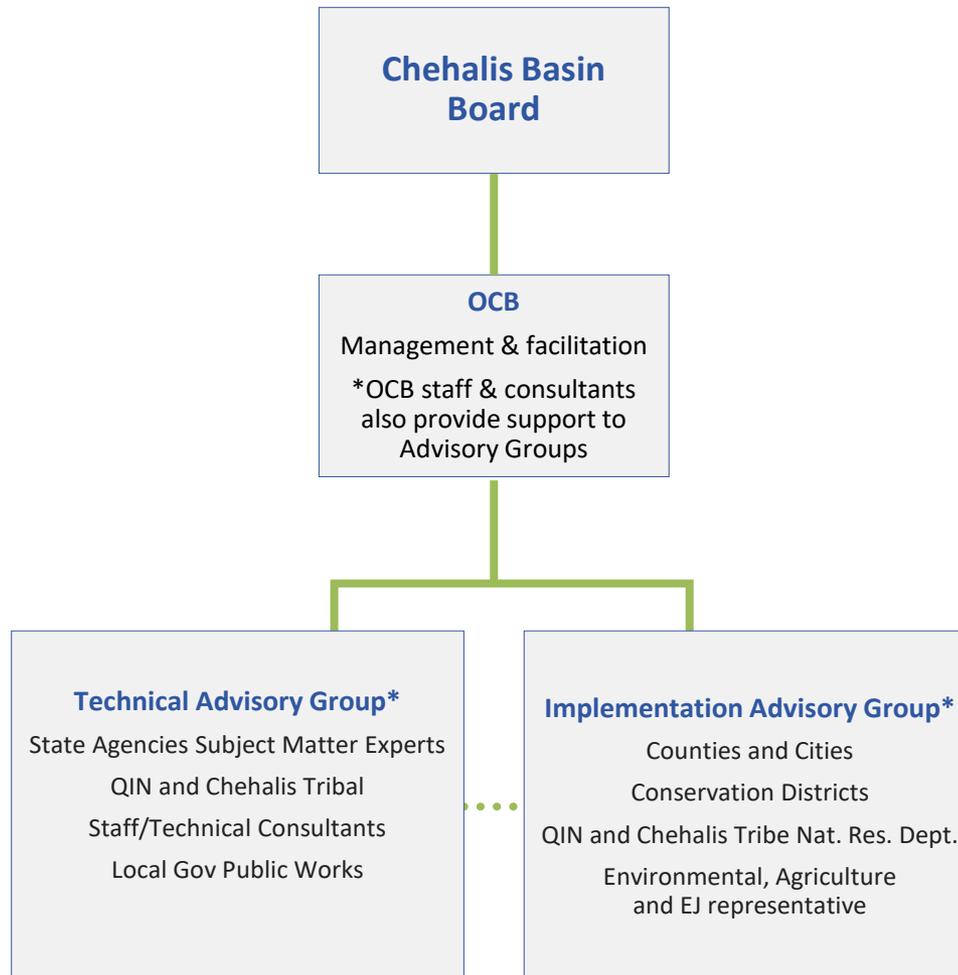
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Proposed Org Structure to Implement Work Plan (Sep 2020 – Mar 2021)



Org. Structure, *continued*

- Workshops for stakeholders & public
- Targeted outreach to affected communities/groups
 - Tribes
 - Environmental community
 - Ag community
 - Communities with environmental justice concerns
 - Economic development community groups

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- **Work Plan/Schedule**
 - **Oct – Nov**
 - **Nov – Feb**
 - **Feb - Mar**

Local Actions Program

Work Plan for Oct - Nov

Technical Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate and determine improvements to climate change assumptions and future flood predictions
2. Research effectiveness of past and current programs to reduce flood damage through local actions
3. Refine understanding of causes and extent of flood damage at basin and sub-basin scales
4. Identify and evaluate technical effectiveness of potential actions for addressing flood damage at basin and sub-basin scales

Implementation Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate feasibility of implementing potential local actions
2. Determine how potential local actions would impact communities & populations with EJ concerns
3. Assess effectiveness of current local government approaches to preventing new at-risk development and identify gaps

Continue Other Flood Damage Reduction Work Plans

- Continue development of CFAR program and identify overlap/synergy with Local Actions Program
- Continue evaluation of Flood Authority local project list for 2021-23 and beyond
- Continue design and preliminary implementation of North Shore Levee & West Segment
- Continue to identify potential improvements to land use and floodplain management

Dam-Related Work Plan Oct - Nov 2020

- Continue review of FCZD results to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts
- Understand impacts identified in draft NEPA EIS, including similarities and differences with draft SEPA EIS

ASRP

Work Plan Oct - Nov 2020

Board briefings and feedback to Steering Committee on:

- Options for ASRP project implementation structure
- Changes to the magnitude of protection and restoration needed
- Potential priority and sequencing of implementation actions

Local Actions Program

Work Plan for Nov '20 – Feb '21

Advisory groups assist Board to:

- Evaluate magnitude of different actions necessary to significantly reduce flood damage
- Determine likelihood of success of individual and combinations of actions
- Determine additional information needed (short-term and long-term) for Board deliberations on next steps

Dam-related Work Plan Nov '20 – Feb '21

- Reviewing available comments on draft NEPA EIS
- Determine additional information needed (short-term and long-term) for Board deliberations on next steps

ASRP

Work Plan Nov '20 – Feb '21

Board review of Steering Committee recommendations for:

- Options for ASRP implementation structure
- Changes to the magnitude of protection and restoration needed
- Priority and sequencing of implementation actions

Proposed Workshops

In addition to targeted outreach to affected communities, staff proposes the following public workshops:

- **Oct – Nov 2020** – give input on the actions and analyses that will be considered for development of a Local Actions Program and feasibility of FRE mitigation
- **Nov 2020 – mid-Feb 2021** – review initial conclusions of technical analyses and perspectives on implementation feasibility for Local Actions Program, FRE mitigation, and ASRP
- **Mid-Feb – Mar 2021** – consider conclusions of technical analyses and implementation feasibility, and potential options for the long-term strategy for Board consideration

Board's Work Plan for Mid-Feb – Mar 2021

- Board considers options for Local Actions Program, FRE, other flood damage reduction, and ASRP
- Determine what fish and flood elements and projects are ready to be implemented, which actions need additional analysis, and what should not move forward
- Approve recommendations for long-term strategy, including final 2021-23 capital budget request & project lists, and work plan for future phases

Next Steps (Sep. 2020)

OCB staff will:

1. Circulate draft response to Governor, for Board approval at Sep. 30 Board meeting
2. Reach out to potential Technical and Implementation Advisory Group members to gauge capacity and availability, and schedule first meeting(s)
3. Work with state consultants to continue compiling existing data/analyses and identifying potential additional information needs (short-term and long-term)
4. Schedule & publicize public workshops

Breakout Session Questions

- Do you have additional feedback on the revised structure staff is recommending to develop & evaluate the local actions program? *For example:*
 - Ok with no board subcomm or steering comm?
 - Ok with using advisory groups?
 - Other suggestions for composition of groups?
 - Other suggestions for public workshop or targeted outreach?
- What feedback do you have on the work plans for the Oct – Nov and Nov – Feb timeframes?