

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: September 7, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Centralia Historic Train Depot: 210 Railroad Ave, Centralia WA 98531

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of August 3, 2017 Meeting Summary; Consent September 7, 2017 Agenda	Decision: Agenda approved. Quorum of board members were not present to approve August meeting summary.	Board will approve August meeting summary at October 5 Board meeting.
2. Board Field Tour	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. Debrief Field Tour	Discussion	Board members requested OCB staff: (1) send thank you notes to landowners who were visited and provided perspectives during the tour, (2) develop a clearer public engagement and outreach strategy, and (3) organize discussions to help Board members explore what is required to support the viability of agriculture in the Chehalis Basin.
4. Overview of Revised 2017-2019 Work Plan	Discussion	Road Map will be a living document; current version will be revised as necessary.
5. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	Next Board meeting is October 5, 2017. Location to be determined.

Chehalis Basin Board meeting summary

Date: September 7, 2017

Chehalis Basin Board Members Present:

Dave Burnett (departed at 1:00 pm)	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Vickie Raines, Chair	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Edna Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Governor
Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority		

Chehalis Basin Board Ex Officio Members Present:

Justin Allegro	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Stu Trefry	Washington State Conservation Commission
Stephen Bernath	Department of Natural Resources	Gordon White	Department of Ecology
Bart Gernhart	Washington State Department of Transportation		

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

Tim Abbe	Natural Systems Design	Maria Hunter	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (ASRP manager)
Chrissy Bailey	Department of Ecology	Kris Koski	City of Aberdeen
Cynthia Carlstad	Carlstad Consulting	Jim Kramer	Ruckelshaus Center (Facilitator)
Larry Dominguez	KPFF Consulting	Adam Lower	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Tracy Drury	Anchor QEA	Lianna Lu	Federal Highway Administration
Ken Ghalambor	Ruckelshaus Center	Heather Page	Anchor QEA
Jason Gillie	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (ASRP Steering Committee)	Dan Penn	Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Mark Gray	Chehalis River Basin Land Trust	Dave Price	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (ASRP Steering Committee)

Terry Harris	City of Chehalis; Chehalis Basin Partnership	Jeffree Stewart	Department of Ecology
Shawn Higgins	Natural Systems Design	Debbie Woods	Bellair Transportation
Tim Kramer	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Alan Vanell	Town of Bucoda

Welcome, Introductions

Chair Vickie Raines called the special meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed the Board, staff, and audience. Board members, staff, and participants provided brief introductions before departing on a field tour of the upper Basin. Jim Kramer (Ruckelshaus Center) encouraged board members and participants to reflect on the different perspectives of citizens in the basin and to note anything during the field tour that caused any reactions, both positive and negative.

Consent Agenda

The Board did not have additions or revisions to the September 7, 2017 agenda.

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

Approval of August 3, 2017 Meeting Summary

A quorum of Board members was not present at the end of the meeting, when the August meeting summary was to be considered. Review and approval of the August 3 Meeting Summary will occur at the October 5 Board meeting.

Follow-up Action: August 3, 2017 Meeting Summary will be reviewed/approved at the October 5 Board meeting.

Board Field Tour

Board members, staff, and participants went on a tour of the upper Chehalis Basin, primarily along the South Fork Chehalis, to hear landowner perspectives, observe habitat conditions, discuss restoration needs, discuss Restorative Flood Protection, and learn about areas affected by past floods. Below is a summary of the main discussion topics at each of the stops on the field tour.

Remund Homestead

Sue Remund shared her family's experience of the 2007 flood. The home they live in was built in 1879 and first experienced flooding in 1917, when there was roughly one inch of water in the house. In the 1990 and 1996 floods there was close to three feet of water in their home, which prompted them to raise their home three feet above the flood level. They were shocked at the magnitude of the 2007 event and the speed at which the event occurred, which brought upwards of six feet of water into the bottom story of their home, causing extensive damage. Her mother-in-law had to be rescued from the second story of the home. Sue was touched by the response of members of her community who came together to support each other in the aftermath of the flood. Sue expressed her desire to find a solution to reduce damages from extreme floods.

Fenn Farm

Katherine Humphrey, a farm owner on the Upper Chehalis River and daughter of the property owner (Dave Fenn), shared her experience of the 2007 and 2009 floods and how they impacted her family and the broader Chehalis Basin agricultural community. She discussed the tight-knit community of farmers that live in the Basin, and how they came together to address the devastation the 2007 flood caused to their farms, homes, and equipment. Katherine noted that while the Chehalis Basin is capable of producing a wide variety of crops and has a rich agricultural history, she is worried about the loss of infrastructure to support the long-term viability of agriculture in the basin. She also expressed her desire to find a solution to reduce damages from extreme floods while maintaining farms and families on the landscape.

Dave Price (WDFW), Tracy Drury (Anchor QEA), and Tim Abbe (NSD) then discussed restoration needs in the Chehalis Basin being developed as part of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP). The ASRP is intended to provide a comprehensive approach for addressing the needs of aquatic species in the Basin, now and into the future, and its success is dependent on the willingness of basin landowners. Tracy and Tim discussed restoring ecological processes in order to meet the long-term needs for reach-scale restoration. Restoring ecological processes is different from a more traditional, piecemeal approach to restoration, and can show where on the ground to implement projects to allow natural systems to build over time to improve and sustain the habitat.

Board members and participants discussed the need for a long-term strategy to balance the sometimes-competing interests of flood damage reduction, aquatic species habitat restoration, and agriculture in the basin. Participants also discussed who the ultimate decision maker or makers are with regard to consideration of these sometimes-competing interests for the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Jones Road Bridge

Cynthia Carlstad (Carlstad Consulting) and Tim Abbe discussed Restorative Flood Protection (RFP) at the Jones Road Bridge site. The RFP is based on the premise that over time significant areas of channel incision (down-cutting of the river) and loss of floodplain storage occurred and contributed to flooding in the Chehalis Basin. This can result in more rapid downstream conveyance of high flows, which directly affects the magnitude and timing of downstream flooding. The RFP works by using natural features such as vegetation, wood debris, and engineering structures (log jams) to store and slow the flow of water, thereby reducing downstream flood stage.

Work this biennium includes detailed modeling and pre-permit design in the Newaukum sub-basin to determine if there are willing landowners, establish proof of concept in a priority area, and understand if the approach is feasible in broader treatment areas. Cynthia noted that she is developing a structured interview guide that will be used to interview landowners in the Newaukum that may be affected by the RFP. Interview questions will be shared in advance with the board. Cynthia also asked the board and local landowners for their support in finding the right people to talk to when the interviews begin.

Centralia City Hall (cancelled)

Board members had planned to do a tour of flood-prone areas in Centralia area to gain a perspective on the need for floodproofing homes and businesses. However, board members Tyson Johnston and Steven Malloch were unable to attend the meeting, and David Burnett (Chehalis Tribe) had to leave early. The remaining board

members present had already completed a similar tour of Centralia's flooded areas in the past, so they decided to skip this portion of the field tour.

Sunbirds Shopping Center

Ron Sturza, owner of Sunbirds Shopping Center, provided a business owner perspective on flooding in the Chehalis Basin. Sunbirds had received flood damage in previous floods (e.g., 1990, 1996) but the 2007 event caused unprecedented damage, which he estimated to be upwards of \$3,000,000. Ron has made a number of investments to protect his property from flooding, but noted that he is reluctant to make further significant capital improvements because of uncertainty regarding flooding. Ron also noted that the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) caps out insurance payments to businesses at \$500,000 for property and \$500,000 for inventory, which pales in comparison to the actual damages incurred.

Debrief Field Tour

Board members, staff, and participants arrived back at the Centralia Historic Train Depot to debrief the field tour. Key comments, discussion topics, and next steps included:

- Board members requested OCB staff send thank you notes to landowners who allowed participants to visit their homes/businesses and who shared their perspectives. They also acknowledged the raw emotion that landowners still feel when discussing the 2007 flood, and their hope for a solution to damages from extreme floods.
- Board members requested OCB staff develop a clearer public outreach and communications strategy, and stressed the importance of maintaining consistent messaging across different elements of the strategy, and building trust among landowners and the broader Basin community.
- Board members requested OCB staff develop a clear description of the difference between the ASRP and RFP.
- Board members requested OCB staff explore perspectives and organize discussions for the Board regarding what is required to maintain the viability of agriculture in the Basin, not only in terms of individual farms but as a unit.
- Board members acknowledged the value of hearing the diversity of experiences and perspectives in the Basin.
- Dan Penn (Chehalis Tribe) expressed his appreciation for hearing different options for reducing flood damage and restoring aquatic species habitat, and listening to the perspectives of people in the basin. He urged the Board to focus on consensus building as solutions are developed. He also noted that the Chehalis Tribe has long understood the river flooded with some regularity and that they constructed structures away from the water, which is why the Chehalis Tribe are considered to be a migratory people.
- Jason Gillie (Chehalis Tribe) noted that it was interesting to hear farmer's perspectives on flooding and restoration in the Basin, and stated that the ASRP and RFP have many elements that go hand-in-hand.

Overview of Revised 2017-2019 Road Map

Chrissy Bailey highlighted revisions to the Chehalis Basin Board 2017-2019 Biennium Road Map (Draft 8/30/17) document: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/floods/ChehalisBasin/WorkPlanSept2017.pdf>. The Road

Map illustrates where and when the Board will need to provide input, recommendations, and decisions. The Board will receive informational briefings before being asked for input and/or decision. The document was revised to address the issues and feedback the Board provided at the August 3 meeting.

Due to the delay in passage of a 2017-2019 capital budget, many of the milestones in the Work Plan were moved out in time. For example, the Office of Chehalis Basin and Board Administration item “Review top candidates for OCB Director position and provide input to Director Bellon” was moved out to Quarter 3: January-March, 2017. At the request of the Board, additional milestones were also added to the Road Map for work on Restorative Flood Protection.

Chrissy Bailey and Jim Kramer reminded the board of their decision to sustain a critical path forward on most of the major elements of the 2017-2019 work program through November 2017 by repurposing carryover funds from the 2015-2017 biennium. If the legislature does not pass a budget by November 2017, work will effectively stop on the Chehalis Basin Strategy until a capital budget is passed, and lead to further delays on construction of on-the-ground projects and decisions identified as critical for the strategy to move forward.

Board members and staff agreed the draft Work Plan is a living document and will be updated accordingly. Changes to the document will be brought before the Board.

Terry Harris (City of Chehalis) provided a public comment encouraging the board to contact legislators and urge them to find compromise and move forward on the passage of a 2017-2019 capital budget.

Follow-up Action: The Work Plan is a living document, and will be updated accordingly.

Closing and Next Steps

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2017; the location is still to be determined.

Other topics:

- Vickie Raines invited participants to attend the October 19 Flood Authority meeting in Grays Harbor County, which will include a tour of the Mill Creek Dam and Wishkah Road Flood Wall projects.
- Edna Fund invited participants to attend a meeting of the Lewis County Flood Control Zone District on September 13 at 1:30pm.
- Edna Fund noted that the Town of Pe Ell has asked the Lewis County Flood Control Zone District to help plan an open house on the different elements of the Strategy on October 10 at 6pm.