Flood Authority Work Session
January 15, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.
Veterans Memorial Museum

Chairman Averill called meeting to order at 9:20 pm. Merlin MacReynolds will sit in for the City of Chehalis and Emil Pierson for Centralia. The Tribe, Thurston, Grays Harbor and Lewis County were all represented.

Mr. Mike Sharar asked for introductions of others.

Mr. Sharar stated in today's workshop we would try to make up for lost time due to the missed meeting in December and asked for updates from jurisdictions regarding the last flood.

Commissioner Averill stated this flood had enough water to attract the Lt. Governor and Governor, both senators and Brian Baird. We are not getting reports of as extensive damage as we expected and we are asking people to report even if they are insured so we can qualify for a presidential declaration. One thing we need to do is to look at hydrologic studies to see what this particular flood tells us. When we were briefed at the previous workshop we were shown that we cannot predict where the rain cells are going to dump on us. They shift. In 2007 the cell was over the Willapas and there was a lot of damage in the upper basin. This time the rivers in the upper basin went over their banks, but except for closing Highway 6 for some time there was not much damage up there. The cell then hit the slopes of the Cascades and the eastern tributaries. There was extensive damage from the Newaukum. In the last two floods the Newaukum crested earlier than other rivers and as a result, the main force of that river evacuates before the Chehalis rises to trap that water. The Skookumchuck in 2007 did not go over its banks. This time it went over its historic high and there was a lot of flooding in the Edison district and on Harrison Avenue. China Creek had a little bit of flooding. The Dillenbaugh caused considerable damage and was the initial cause of I-5 closing. DOT kept the freeway closed as a precautionary measure, although there was never any water over the freeway. When we saw that the Chehalis started to recede, the highway was re-opened. Salzer Creek was a problem and that is an area that gives us concerns. There was also damage in the Cowlitz Basin and Nisqually Basin. A couple of things that were encouraging: this time the weather service and responders got ample early warning out to us. Citizens appreciated the early warning. We stuck to the possibility that there would be a 2007 disaster and they needed to get out of harms way. In Lewis County we had already done some gauge repairs and those gave us data that we needed. Our program to improve the river gauges is important. One area we need to do better in is in the area of sharing emergency operations center data that is collected in the three jurisdictions.

Mr. Bob Johnson stated during the last three flood disasters it has been his job to create a presidential declaration. It requires a considerable amount of data that he cannot get. We need to coordinate better on how that data is gathered and who receives it. The Feds want the report before the water goes down. It is easier to justify the federal declaration if we have the numbers. United Way and Salvation Army were the only organizations

that provided information. There was some information from cities, but there was not enough. Citizens responded to the alert because they only had one year's memory to go back to. Shop 'n Kart had $3.5 million damage last year; this year they only had $500,000 damage because of the evacuation response. They were back in operation on Monday when flood waters had barely receded.

Mr. Emil Pierson stated Centralia had 423 homes affected but most of them had already been raised. The Skookumchuk was at its second highest level which affected the northern part of the community and it did go over at Pearl Street. There was minor home damage on the north end and some damage on Harrison Avenue. China Creek peaked early and the water was down before the other rivers topped. A few businesses on Main Street were affected as well as a few homes off Military Rd. 405 of the 423 homes were green tagged. The High School area was hit but those houses had already been raised.

Commissioner Averill stated the town of Galvin typically gets flooded by the Chehalis and it did this year. It is past the chokepoints on the river but it is so typical there might be a need for a hydrological study there.

Mr. MacReynolds stated this was very different from 2007 with significantly less damage. It got close to topping the levee at Twin City Town Center but did not. We responded differently this time, faster and more cooperatively. Bob Nacht knows the most about this and asked for his input.

Mr. Nacht stated Commissioner Averill indicated the Newaukum crested earlier than the Chehalis. In this event the Newaukum crested at about the same time as the Chehalis and did not provide storage as it usually does. The freeway closure was caused by the elevation of the Newaukum; The Dillenbaugh goes along the freeway but the elevation of the Newaukum affects the park. If the Newaukum's crest is high and not synchronized it will back into the Dillenbagh. If we had had another gauging station near the wastewater treatment plant we would have had a better handle on what would happen at the airport. We had to guess as the flood crest was occurring. Another gauging station would have predicted the overtop earlier. We would like to see a meter north of SR 6.

Commissioner Averill asked Ms. Shirley Kook if there was something on the Newaukum

Ms. Kook stated there is one on the Newaukum and at the old Chehalis wastewater treatment plant. It is on theUSGS web.

Mr. Nacht stated if we could locate that gauge the real time observation would give us six hours to let Centralia what is coming down. The Chehalis River crests between 6 and12 hours after the reading. The early warning was very effective for the shopping areas. Shop 'n Kart did get water but they were prepared for it. The area at the juncture of National and Kresky had the ecology blocks across the roadway and they protected that area. That area did not get water because of that.

Ms. Susan Bogni stated Thurston County passed an emergency declaration on Monday and we are still getting information. Rochester and Bucoda got hit hard. Bucoda was isolated. A lot of people did not leave and safety measures had to be taken for them. There were folks in the Rochester area who would not raise their homes when there was money for them so education is very important. Kennedy Creek closed highway 8. The State did some culvert work upstream that did not get completed which may have been a factor. Thurston Co. has the recovery phase going. At most we had 20 road closures but they did not stay closed for very long. Information sharing is key in getting through these events.

Mr. Mark Swartout stated he flew in a helicopter on Friday. Independence Rd was totally under water. Bucoda was hit hard; Black River was down but some houses on Black Lake were being threatened. We tried to get photos this time before the flooding. Thursday afternoon there was cloud cover. We hope to orient the flooding to the maps. There was good reaction from people and his concern is how to keep that fresh in their minds. The Corps in Skagit County has sand bag competitions between high schools. Public memory is about seven years so we might want to consider a flood awareness for the entire basin.

Commissioner Averill stated we need an aggressive sandbagging effort. We have concentrated on public facilities in the past. The issue with sandbagging is the bags cannot be filled ahead of time for any length of time; we must be prepared to do the filling and placement in close proximity to the flood.

Mr. MacReynolds stated two sites were made available to the public and the City distributed 2500-3000 sandbags. There was a group of teenagers who spent an hour filling sandbags and taking them around to help people. There were a lot of volunteers.

Mr. Nacht stated the City of Chehalis gave out over 5000 all told. There was a staff person advising how to fill the bags.

Mr. Mark White stated the Reservation faired pretty well – 8" less than 2007. Estimates are expected in today. We did evacuate our members and we lost one. Great Wolf is our emergency shelter. We suffered more damage from the snow than from the flooding. One house flooded but was evacuated beforehand. We were cut off for about three days and there were no medical calls. We had three days of good planning so we did alright. Anderson Rd. flooded and Moon Rd. lost some asphalt as well as several hundred feet of river bank. Independence Rd lost some asphalt.

Ms. Terry Willis stated Grays Harbor County had more damage this year county wide. Grays Harbor gets hit with two areas, the Willapa and the Cascades. The gauges are very important. The County was better prepared and she thought NOAA was more on top of things. Their predictions were higher than what actually happened. The Wynoochee stayed under control and the dam had plenty of room for storage. The river raised quicker and moved faster and hung around longer. The crest stayed at 24 hours; it flat lined at the top and stayed there.

Commissioner Averill stated there could have been tidal impact.

Ms. Willis stated there was low tide this time. Ms. Willis was in contact with the mayors asking what they were doing. They complained that they needed another gauge. We predicted Oakville would be an island so we sent emergency services out there, sandbags and generators. Sandbagging was huge in our area. We exceeded Chehalis' and had sites at all fire halls. The Corps came down (conservation crew) and the jail crew helped with sandbags and that was very helpful. Creeks were nearly as bad as the major rivers. We have road damage in lots of areas and during the major flood we were cut off. We closed the County on Monday because so many side roads were covered with water. Bridges are not unstable but roads on both sides of bridges had damage. Overall the county did well; preparations were better and notification got out. There are some complaints that we are not getting information from the north end for making reports. The Red Cross did go out looking for damage. We evacuated an area on the Satsop and animals went to the fairgrounds.

Mr. Ron Schillinger stated Montesano appreciated the advance notice. The DOT website was pretty good in terms of transportation issues. Advance weather forecast were appreciated which showed clouds lining up over the ocean and heading our way. He is convinced that this is a pattern we will see every year or every other year. Montesano moved off the river to high ground years ago; the treatment plant and wells are on high ground. We still have some impacts but not like Chehalis and Centralia. It was strange for us because there were separate events. We had 8.5 inches of rain in 48 hours and we knew we were going to have local problems. We had a 12" accumulation of snow that collapsed the waste water treatment roof which caused a problem with keeping good water to citizens. When the river came up we had a zodiac ferrying the Water and WWTP people to work. The high tides and the cresting of the Wynoochee and Satsop were high before the Chehalis crest came down. That helped us that there was a different time schedule for those events. There was an exercize ball stuck in a culvert which caused problems. We saw water in places we've never seen water before. Every time you put in an undersized pipe you will have problems. Why do people believe they can fill in wetlands and not have a problem? The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for our area was very effective and the city participated fully. We got sandbags from the county and the inmates filled them and we got word out that they were available at the city shop. We ended up getting 2000 sandbags. This came about because of the early warning. The EOC is critical in getting information to the people. Mr. Schillinger's council says we need to use the website. There must be a source for information such as school and road closures, where people can get help, when the crest will happen and so forth.

Ms. Willis stated the EOC was on the website; EWS (emergency warning system) calls people. Cell phones are used so much that the calling was not as effective as it could have been. We are getting there but are not quite there. There was a phenomenon: the Satsop had two crests. The snow melt affected the Satsop this time; there is not normally snow accumulation.

Mr. Pierson stated the Skookumchuck did the same thing.

Mr. Schillinger stated the water from the Wynootchee and Satsop came a day before the crest of the Chehalis. We were already flooded and one inch higher would have put it over the chlorinators in the WWTP and six inches would have obliterated the WWTP. When the Chehalis crest comes down we don't know what that is going to do to us. We had to consider the tides. Originally reports said there would be 15 feet over the freeway; last year it was 10 feet. It ended up being much less. We marked on the wall (in the treatment plant) how high the water was.

Ms. Julie Powe stated no one said what the record used to be. It would be helpful for the public to know what the record was and what is predicted this time. The radio was great until it went off the air.

Mr. Sharar suggested the group take a short break and then go through the work phase. We will conclude a workshop on goals.

Mr. Sharar reconvened the meeting at 10:36. He stated the December meeting was to include a work plan for the second phase by ESA Adolfson for the Flood Authority. He introduced Ann Root, Dave Carlton and Spencer Easton.

The first phase is to determine where we are going; the second phase is to produce something. We need to prepare a comprehensive flood hazard management plan (CFHMP) for the entire area. We will take the information we have and make it into a useable document. We need a list of goals. Later we will talk about how to keep the list vibrant for the next six months. When the Legislature calls we can tell them we have the list and are working on the hazard plan for the projects on the list. Our obligation today is to present a plan for Phase Two. You need to tell us what is good or bad and what to change.

Attachment A: The BAC has worked on this. There are four main parts: facilitation; draft plan, public involvement; ripe and ready projects (improvement of gauges).

Facilitation: Spend about $75,000 on that effort between now and June. There will be a workshop in the mornings and a meeting in the afternoon every month. The BAC meets after the meeting and takes an active management role. The largest expense item is the CFHMP.

Draft Plan: This is the same thing you saw at the last meeting. The plan follows the outline. We added another task: general plan coordination. We are basing this on the existing plans and we will add information to those plans as directed. This is a draft plan and it cannot be totally adopted by June by all jurisdictions.

Public Involvement: 1- We are relying on your jurisdictions to assist in messaging (stuffers, handouts, whatever will work) and to get information out about the meetings

and getting people to attend. Hopefully the messaging will be simultaneous and similar in all jurisdictions.
2- Direct public contact. We anticipate three meetings in three different places to provide access to as many people as we can. The first meeting will be to introduce the authority, what the program is and how the public can be a part.

The second meeting will be to identify the goals for a plan and some introduction of possible solutions that are being considered.

The third meeting will be for the draft plan itself: explain where we are and ask for input. Each meeting will occur before the Authority takes any definitive action so it benefits from what the public has to say.

A survey of public values concerning flooding must determine what the values of the citizens are. We have advertised for a firm to help with the survey. We need a body of data about values and to cross tabulate these to include values for up stream or down stream, people, towns and cities, rural areas, etc. We need further inventory perceptions of problems such as where the problems are and what is important to the citizens. We did not include developing a website and other communication tools. This may be something you want to do. $37,000 will be spent on public involvement.

Ripe and Ready is in the existing work plan. It can have an immediate benefit and can be something we do quickly, such as gauges. For the next phase: work with precipitation and rain gauges and other projects as they are identified during the process. There is $38,000 for ripe and ready projects.

Commissioner Averill asked if we are putting aside the existing Corps project.

Mr. Sharar stated no, these would be small projects which would not impact or impede future decision making but enable things. It could help with repetitive loss structures; it would not affect other planning.

Mr. Sharar stated for project management feedback is needed from the Authority. During the next five months we need to hear from you. This will be done in a structured way and in open session. The total budget is $325,000; the previous total was $173,000, which comes to $500,000 overall consultant budget. These are estimates: some may be higher, some lower. We would like feedback.

Commissioner Averill stated the Corps project is proceeding apace. The technical and policy committees of that project are getting into full stride this month and working toward their end date. All of us are going to play roles. We may need guidance from your firm on that.

Mr. Sharar stated the Corps project is a regional project and must be kept in a regional perspective.

Mr. MacReynolds stated it will make it more challenging to finalize the report. It is not a static environment we are looking at. The Lewis County PUD is going to be here in the next week to recommend retention on the Chehalis. Those things we cannot ignore but they could significantly impact other recommendations on the larger basin. They all impact each other. Anything we recommend is going to impact those things and we must be cognizant. Looking at the outline we are hoping you are recommending actions that will give us a clear direction based on your experience that these are the things we should be doing now: supporting Corps project, retention on the Chehalis. We need some clear direction. If we can't get there we have wasted our time and the public's money.

Mr. Dave Carlton stated we are proposing a draft by the end of June. It can only be a draft because the Corps study will not be done by then. A lot of other studies won't be done, so the recommendations are to include consulting with the Corps for a project we can all work on, possibly working with the PUD. We need to finish the stream gauges and ensure the Reservation has power during an event. Other recommendations we don't know about yet, and we will keep looking. Policy decision: change regs so we are more in sync with each other.

Mr. MacReynolds asked how does it get from draft to final.

Mr. Sharar stated we see adding a project list at every meeting: impacts, costs, benefits, so the prioritization will change. We think working it every month is better than only once. Upstream hydro projects, better stream flow management, etc – this is the time to have those in the mix and look at a regional perspective and live with it as the plan gets developed.

Mr. Swartout stated when they look at CFMHP there will be apples and oranges: different timelines; the citizens need parameters on what the districts provide. What does it mean to bring damage to the table? A single road? Prevent damage? Decision making on what parameters will be. We need those decisions made by June.

The project list goes through the BAC who will get first shot at it and give their recommendations.

Ms. Willis stated #3 on the list of goals has to do with flooding. Are there other things that have impact on flooding?

Ms. Root stated yes, we are compiling a matrix that includes storm and shoreline management.

Ms. Willis asked about logging.

Mr. Carlton stated only if you have jurisdiction. If you propose a project, what hoops do you need to go through?

Ms. Willis asked if we could change regulations.

Mr. Carlton stated yes, this group could lobby to change logging practices.

Ms. Willis asked if we need discussion of regulatory overview – have you been directed as to what things you will look at or is there a broad spectrum.

Ms. Root said both. If you look at the outline on page 8 we will present a summary of all regulations. It is a very broad view of flood management.

Mr. Sharar stated so far the Authority has not defined its area of influence any narrower than WRIA 22 and 23.

Commissioner Averill stated that is correct but the three county engineers have been tasked to define what the boundary of a flood control district should be.

Mr. Sharar stated we have been talking about things we are going to do on your behalf but there may be some important things you want to do, too. The chart in the packet has blanks at the bottom. As an authority you may want to task yourselves with a schedule for a flood district formation. It is critical that you have staff of your own, perhaps one person. We will be acting as staff through our contract. Another item is legal representation. The three prosecuting attorneys are working on the flood district. At some point it will be difficult to continue because each of them has a primary client: their county. You may want to have an advocate for you as a group. We can talk about it if there are ideas today.

Mr. MacReynolds stated the jurisdictions that are in the Authority will need to be able to work out the details such as legal counsel, etc. If there is disagreement, it will be more challenging. The better job you and we do in working out details developing the plan, the easier other things will fall into place if we agree.

Mr. Johnson stated the process for getting state funding and passing it through the County, the bid process, resolutions, public participation and timing could be very cumbersome. A number of studies need to be done. Think about how, as a group, we can do that without having every expenditure taking months to get on the agenda for the board. It could take several months to spend money. We need to determine how we can do that with the least amount of time involved. The Request For Proposal took a month longer because we needed to go through a specific process since Lewis County is lead agency.

Mr. Swarthout asked Ms. Lee Napier how they do it in Grays Harbor.

Ms. Napier stated the steering technical committee will work on the scope and run it through the board. There is a trust issue.

Mr. Sharar stated Phase II is in a time crunch because of the storm. He asked if there is something we need to consider right now. As there were no comments, he stated he would proceed.

Mr. Sharar stated the Goals Chapter of the draft plan was worked on during the last work session. We will run through that again and then get the public input and run through it again before the draft plan is presented.

Mr. Sharar stated the goal handout would be discussed next.

Mr. Pierson suggested having the sheet right in front of us to distinguish goals and objectives.

Ms. Root distributed the Proposed Goals.

Mr. MacReynolds asked why she used "river system" rather than "river basin".

Ms. Root stated there was no logical choice. We could go with basin which is more consistent.

Mr. Carlton stated he would like to go with system because we are talking about the movement of water through the system. Primary focus is how the water flows through, the timing, etc.

Commissioner Averill asked what is a physical process definition?

Mr. Carlton stated it is hydrology and an erosion process, water moving through the system and how does it works. We are primarily looking at winter flood months with a sub focus on the rest of the year because we need to know impacts all year.

Commissioner Averill stated just looking at winter months is narrower than he would propose. Environmental conditions should be considered during the summer months.

Ms. Willis asked if the process includes where a rain event comes from and the rain itself.

Mr. Carlton stated that is part of the process.

Ms. Root reminded the group that these are goals and anything can be put on the list.

Mr. Carlton stated a decision needs to be made of how far the Authority should delve into this.

Commissioner Averill suggested another goal. One charter is to build a flood control district. If we develop projects that are going to provide flood mitigation, we must think about maintenance and operations in the long term.

Mr. MacReynolds stated that is an objective rather than a goal. That is something you can do and put a timeline on.

Ms. Root suggested a broader goal: a governmental body to accomplish these things.

Mr. MacReynolds stated the politics of forming a district are very important. If it is a goal it heightens the importance of how important to make the other things.

Mr. Sharar stated we need to assure there are mechanisms or systems that enable us to achieve these goals.

Commissioner Averill stated the formation of a district is set by law. We want to make sure that the counties are consistent with each other. We want the Tribe's participation and it is an interlocal agreement that provides that.

Ms. Root stated perhaps we need a broader goal: the authority working to come up with a mechanism to assure consistent efforts to achieve goals. We will work on that language.

Mr. White stated maintenance fits under life and property.

Mr. Willis asked if there is an obligation for a flood district to go along with this plan.

Mr. Carlton stated no, there is no obligation. There are projects that are recommended and determining who is responsible for implementation.

There was a discussion about whether to separate private property rights and allowing for future development?

Mr. White suggested these are in conflict with each other.

Ms. Root stated not necessarily: property rights will not allow developing;

Mr. Swartout suggested: recognize communities' interest in economic development.

Mr. Pierson stated some will say there should be one per 20, other will say using good techniques should allow for x, y, z. It will be people's different viewpoints. He would like to see it re-worded, similar to Mark's wording.

Ms. Willis stated from a public standpoint you will need that in there to let it be known that you recognize property rights. Perhaps not use "allow" but add "consider". From a public standpoint, it would be important that it is in there.

Mr. Pierson suggested taking out "allow for future development" and have "recognize private property rights".

Ms. Root stated we could have two goals. This matter will be discussed again.

The work session adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Lewis County Courthouse
351 NW North St.
Chehalis, WA

January 15, 2009 – 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Notes

Members Present: Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell; Kathy Martin, Town of Bucoda; Ron Schillinger, City of Montesano; Tim Browning, City of Centralia; Merlin MacReynolds, City of Chehalis; Mark White, Chehalis Tribe; Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County; Susan Bogni, Thurston County; Ron Averill, Lewis County
Others Present: Please see sign in sheet

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from the Flood Authority Meeting, November 20, 2008
- Meeting Notes from the Flood Authority Work Session, November 20, 2008
- Meeting Notes from Tri County Board of Commissioners Meeting, December 10, 2008
- Expenditure Review
- ESA Monthly Status Report No. 4
- NWS Flood Forecasting and Recommendations Draft
- Request for Proposals, January 6, 2009
- Resolution: Amending Professional Services Agreement with ESA Adolfson
- Phase 2 Work Plan and Task List and Budget Estimate
- Work Plan: January through June 2009
- Staff Report re: Recommending a Board Advisory Committee Basin Studies Budget
- Resolution: Establish a Board Advisory Committee Basin Studies Budget

1. Call to Order
Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M.

2. Introductions
Board members and audience introduced themselves.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes
Chairman Averill stated the packet included notes from the work session and the regular Flood Authority meetings on November 20. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the meeting notes. Motion made and seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment
No one wished to speak.

6. Reports
a) Chairman's Report
Chairman Averill stated in November a meeting was sponsored by the Corps of Engineers to discuss the project on the Centralia-Chehalis I-5 corridor. Laura Orr will recap that meeting later in the agenda.

The December meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

This morning a work session was held and the results of that work session will also be discussed later during this meeting.

On December 10 the Tri-County Commissioners met in Thurston County. Chairman Averill apologized for the mix up in communications which resulted in the Chehalis Tribe not attending.

b) Flood District Formation Update
At a previous meeting, the Tri-County Commissioners had charged the prosecuting attorneys along with the Tribe to develop some proposed legislation to consider changing RCW 86.09 and 85.38 which are the core for forming flood control districts. There were three issues before the group: how does one in a flood control district that contains parts of three separate counties determine when there is a simple majority to form the district. Would each county individually have to pass it, or could a cumulative vote across the district be taken and simple majorities in the cumulative vote serve to pass it if one of the counties did not meet the simple majority? The Commissioners opted for the cumulative vote and the Prosecutors have provided wording and legislation to accomplish that and that has been provided to the 20th District Legislators.

The second issue: The Flood Control District under current legislation provides that there are three commissioners that would make up the board for the Flood Control District but it is written for one county and does not make provisions for how to have equitable distribution across three or more counties. After discussion it was agreed that legislation would state that the commission for the Flood Control District would consist of one commissioner from each county in the district, plus two alternates, but no county would have more than two representatives. This was passed by the boards and final wording is being worked on.

The final issue is that the current legislation to the RCWs provides that in order to form a Flood Control District, the electorate for that district would be property owners. Any property owner that had more than ten acres would receive two votes for each ten acres up to a total of 40 votes maximum. This is a procedure which is legally upheld by the Supreme Court but it is predominately used for very small taxing districts. This could potentially become a taxing district in three counties with over 150,000 population. The challenge to auditors to run such an election is boggling and the cost would have to be

borne by the three counties. It was decided in this case it is preferred that the legislation allows for one man one vote which is the Supreme Court standard. It would not prevent a smaller district from using the property owner basis but it would allow the one man one vote procedure if it makes it through the Legislature. This has been sent to the Legislators to consider. There is an issue with the Tribe. The Legislators tell us we can not pass legislation that gives the Tribe a seat or obligates the Tribe to do something with the taxing district. They may choose to participate and the procedure that has been used in other flood districts that include Tribal participation is to have interlocal agreements. That is where we hope to go with our partner, the Chehalis Tribe.

Mr. Mark White asked how registered property owners would be defined for Tribal members. The County does not have the authority to look at registered property owners.

Chairman Averill stated he did not believe the Tribal members could be demanded to participate in the vote. If they live and are registered in one of the three counties, they would have the same opportunity to vote as any other registered voter without identification of affiliation.

Mr. White stated 650 members are registered to vote in the county.

Ms. Willis asked about defining the boundaries of the taxing district.

Chairman Averill stated that is not a legislative issue. When a Flood Control District is formed, one of the processes is to identify the boundaries. For the purpose of starting out we used the WRIA 22 and 23.

Ms. Willis asked if the RCWs actually states who is taxed within those districts.

Chairman Averill stated it allows the district to decide who is taxed, and it suggests the county engineers along with the board decide on the boundaries and allows for different levels of taxation depending on risk to flooding.

Mr. Glenn Carter stated the way in which the Flood Control District statute is structured, it provides for the county engineers to establish the boundaries of a feasible flood control district. Those boundaries must be structured so that they include those lands that are at risk of flooding or the effects of flooding. There are lands that are cut off and become islands and affected in other ways and the engineers could choose to include them because they suffer damage as a result of flooding. The engineers, based on the record of flooding, determine which potential lands should be considered for inclusion within the district. Those boundaries need to be set before it could ever go for a vote for approval of a district. There also need to be projects to consider before a vote is taken.

Chairman Averill stated the next step is to work with the Legislators on proposed legislation and to have the boundaries established.

Mayor Browning asked in regard to the relationship of the flooding district to the Chehalis Tribe if the Tribe will be on the board or not. Since the counties do not have authority over their properties, how would that work?

Chairman Averill stated the Tribe has been participating and has an interest in their Tribal lands being protected. There is a provision to have interlocal agreements with the Tribe so there is a method to cooperate with each other in the objectives and goals.

Mr. White stated the assumption is correct that the County has no jurisdiction over Tribal matters. The Tri-County meeting notes state that perhaps one commissioner could represent the Tribe. Mr. White suggested that the Tribe could represent the counties. The Tribe is a federal jurisdiction the same as the counties and it does not appear that that is being recognized. Grays Harbor does not have any land inside the reservation.

Mayor Browning stated urban and rural areas have different needs and concerns and asked if there is a consideration to have urban representatives and rural representatives. In Lewis County the predominate number of businesses and homes that get damaged all the time are in the urban areas not the rural areas. How do those folks get represented?

Chairman Averill stated they could put a candidate on the Flood Control District to represent their interests.

Mayor Browning asked if it would be one or the other; it does not seem like the right way to go.

Chairman Averill stated current law states there would be candidates the same as for County Commissioner who would represent the district. The voters would vote and the top three would become the Commissioners. By current legislation, they can all live in the same area. We would like to change it so that each county is guaranteed one commissioner.

Mayor Browning asked if other organizational structures could be looked at as well.

Chairman Averill stated they could. Two counties will have two representatives and one county will have one representative.

Mr. Mark Swartout stated a county representative is not necessarily representing the county. If Lewis County gets one seat on the district board, anyone in Lewis County can run. Perhaps that person may need to live in the district but anyone can run, whether they are from Chehalis or Centralia or a rural area.

c) Correspondence
An invitation was received from the Corps of Engineers for a workshop on the examination of levee vegetation policy. The workshop will be in Seattle at the Spirit of Washington Events Center on February 28, 2009 from 8:00 to 4:00.

A letter was received by the Chamber of Commerce from a citizen and the Chamber forwarded the letter to Chairman Averill. The letter suggests the Flood Authority consider consulting with experts in Holland where flooding has been an issue for centuries.

d) State Contingent Report
Mr. John Donahue, DOT, stated his office worked with DOE, made contacts with the counties and worked with the Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for photographic reconnaissance of the flood for purposes of hydrologic modeling and to quantify recovery efforts. Photos taken at the peak of the flood will be available soon.

Mr. Donahue understands DOE and the counties are also doing ground surveys to determine the extent of the most recent flood. During the course of the flood there was a website that provided current information: Chehalisbasin.org. It had news release type information and information related to a folio that DOT created. The folio has information about emergencies and the counties' activities and the Corps' activities. The folio will be available at the next meeting and is currently on DOT's website. There is currently no official distribution channel for this folio and Mr. Donahue will follow up on that.

Mr. Donahue sent out an e-mail about a planned coordination team meeting. This is a policy level group that was convened for keeping track of the Corps of Engineers project. That meeting has been postponed. Once an agenda has been drafted the meeting will be re-scheduled.

The DOT is continuing to work with the Corps of Engineers on finalizing an update to its scope, schedule and budget for its 2009 work related to evaluating the design.

Mr. Bart Gernhart, DOT, stated there was much better coordination between the cities and the counties this year for the flood relief efforts. There are a number of issues in east Lewis County and throughout the state that DOT is still working on. He briefly described some of the problems. Although there are still some road closures and detours in the east end, there is a route to White Pass.

e) Report on Corps Technical Meeting
Ms. Laura Orr stated a very successful technical workshop was held in December. The group looked at issues such as economics, cultural resources, hydaulics, civil engineering and environment for mitigation and came up with a lot of good questions. The Corps is still compiling the questions to come up with answers that the technical committee had concerns about.

Ms. Orr stated that any jurisdictions with levees need to check those levees to see if there are any damages and to let the Corps know as soon as possible. The Corps will be conducting a rapid assessment on 180 miles of levees around the state because of the flooding that just occurred.

Ms. Orr stated the workshop on levee vegetation would be beneficial for public works people to attend. There is considerable controversy regarding vegetation on levees. The Corps would like to see more wood on them while some agencies would not. Both sides of the issue will be represented.

7. Stream and Rain Gage Status

Ms. Ann Root, ESA Adolfson, stated there is a draft of the stream and precipitation gauge information in the packets. Ms. Root explained the map that shows all the gauges in the basin. There are 37 active stream gauges in the basin; only 19 are used by the weather service and are managed by USGS in real time telemetry. Ecology manages 14 and Thurston County has two gauges. These are listed in detail in the back of the report.

The National Weather Service uses 13 of the precipitation gauges; there are more than that in the basin. There are some gaps and those are being worked on. In the southern part of the basin there is not much in the way of precipitation or stream gauges.

This map does not show the two newest gauges: the Black River in Thurston County and the Satsop Creek in Grays Harbor County.

To discover how effective this is, we interviewed the National Weather Service. We talked about how they do flood forecasting. That explanation is also in the report. We did see how the system works last week during the flooding.

One of the recommendations the National Weather Service had for gauging in the basin was local real time staff gauges that can be added on small streams in the basin. Another recommendation was to install precipitation gauges in a broader area and to fill in some gaps, especially in southern Lewis County. They also suggested that the Chehalis Basin could develop a local gauge monitoring system such as the alert system used by Snohomish County. This is included in the report. We will investigate the Snohomish System in the near future to see if that will be appropriate in this basin.

Another recommendation is to install Snotel stations in the upper elevations which are monitored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. One thing missing from the predictions this time was snow pack. All the models stated snow pack was not considered. There is a map in the packet that shows recommendations for Snotel stations and where they might be located.

It was recommended to convert some of the existing Ecology gauges to telemetry stations; in particular Gauge 23GO60 on the upper Chehalis.

Mr. Gernhart stated DOT relies on the hydrographs to make a determination whether or not the airport dike is going to be overtopped. We are looking closely at a number of hydrographs in the area to make determinations. In 2007 the magnitude of the flood and the speed of the flood caught most of us off guard. That was a great concern as it takes a lot of time to get the volume of traffic off of the Interstate in a quick manner, especially along the dike.

The last hydrographs prediction models appeared to be a couple of feet higher than the actuals. It would be nice to know the reason for that, if there was not enough data or did snow melt and the freezing level contribute to it. The Chehalis River was predicted to be two feet higher than where it ended up and that was right at the crest of the dike. It is important for us to have good information. Should we shut down the Interstate and have all that impact? This last event was completely different from 2007. The Newaukum River and the Dillenbaugh overflowed their banks and that is why the Interstate was closed on Wednesday; it was not because of the Chehalis or Skookumchuck Rivers.

Ms. Root stated this question could be added to the list for the National Weather Service.

Mr. Gernhart stated they may or may not have included the usage of the Skookumchuck dam for flood retention. We don't know if that data was available or how much Trans Alta may have raised or lowered it. If we used that data that is great, if we didn't use it perhaps that is the difference in the hydrographs. If they are using it in that manner, it would be nice to have real time data and have a model represent how the Skookumchuck dam is being used.

Ms. Kathy Martin stated she communicated with the dam during the flooding situation and that is how she calculated when the water was going to come into Bucoda. There was also the Thompson Creek and another creek that doubled the volume coming out of the dam. When Ms. Martin started calling on the morning of the 7th, the dam was down ten feet from the spillway.

Mr. Tony Briggs, Trans Alta, stated for the last thirty years the Skookumchuck dam has been in place. It functions as a water supply for Trans Alta, with water coming out of the dam, down the river and to the pump station. The dam is not a flood control structure and was not designed for that, although it does serve in that capacity to a degree. When the heavy rains started the lake elevation was 20 feet below the spillway. Each additional inch of rain brings the lake elevation up approximately 6 feet. There was snow pack that is not normally there above the lake elevation that began to melt with the rain. The spillway elevation was reached quickly but there was over 20 feet of retention capacity. The inflow to the lake is the inflow to the lake and the lake reservoir capacity is all that is there. We don't close or open anything. There is a minimal amount of control for Fisheries.

The lake elevation is dependent on the weather of the previous six or eight months, not because of what we do. We flow for Fisheries and because we had a fairly dry summer we had actually built the lake level up and over the last couple months it dropped back down again and that is what created the 20 feet of room in there. If we had continued a steady escalation like some winters, we would not have had nearly that room and would probably have overflowed two days earlier.

Mr. Briggs stated there are always operators available with real time information and people can call just as Ms. Martin did.

Mr. Gernhart stated if there is a big difference in the hydrographs it would be helpful to know the cause.

Chairman Averill asked Ms. Root if there had been requests from other jurisdictions regarding additional gauges.

Ms. Root stated no there had been no requests.

Chairman Averill stated we have set a precedent that we can help with the funding from the State Legislature to improve the gauging system on the river. We have taken care of some of the requests and we are willing to entertain more.

Ms. Martin asked if something in writing is required for that.

Chairman Averill stated it would need to be in writing. He asked Ms. Shirley Kook how that is handled.

Ms. Kook stated Lewis County has an agreement with USGS to share in the maintenance and operation of river gauges and offered to send contact information to Ms. Martin.

Mr. Carlton stated USGS has a limited budget to cost share and it is pretty stretched and therefore we may need to pay for the entire insulation, maintenance and operation of new gauges. We can try to get those into the cost share program but there is no guarantee that that would happen. Before we start installing more gauges it would be helpful to get everyone's opinion on where they are, bring that back and have ongoing discussions on where they should be and what the purpose is.

Ms. Willis suggested taking the entire basin and gauging it appropriately up and down regardless of what the jurisdictions request or regardless of their ability to participate. What would it look like for the "full meal deal" on the best gauging possibilities within the basin? At that point, we can determine who can pick up what parts and how it is going to come together.

Mr. Carlton stated that was discussed to a degree at the morning's workshop: where do people want to see information so they can make decisions. Those kinds of questions are what we want to answer with the gauging system. Until we know what those questions are, we don't know what the full meal deal is. We are doing fairly well with what is out there but there are still holes.

Chairman Averill suggested the next step would be the most useful configuration and we can move on from there.

Ms. Root agreed that would be the next step and stated she would continue coordinating with the weather service and the Flood Authority.

8. Expenditure Review
Mr. Bob Johnson stated there are two reports; one covers November 13 through December 12, 2008 and the other covers December 12 through January 13, 2009. On the first report the Authority expended $34,207 and during the most recent time period it expended $21,472. We have in our budget a little over $2,378,000.

9. Public Values Survey
Mr. Mike Sharar stated the Public Values Survey is moving forward and with the cooperation of Lewis County ESA has advertised for a public opinion research firm to help us with the Survey. This survey is one part of our public involvement process. It will provide input with regard to the values concerning flooding, what issues are most important, what are secondary, etc. It will also give us an inventory of perceived problems from the public throughout the three counties. We are currently using WRIA 22 and 23 as the boundary. Sampling will be complex to be sure we get data we can cross tabulate and answer questions about what happens in any particular jurisdiction, what is up stream and what is downstream. We advertised just prior to the most flood incident and we have received questions from nine survey firms to date.

The action before you requests your authorization to allow the Board Advisory Committee to screen and select the survey firm and to manage the survey firm using the Lewis County processes for appropriate bidding procedures and selection in contracting. We would like to have a final result reported to you on March 19 to stay in keeping with our overall planning effort. If we are unable to do that, the delays because of meeting schedules will put us two months behind. We are requesting a motion to allow the BAC to manage this effort within a $37,500 budget and produce the results desired.

Mr. Ron Schillinger, City of Montesano, made the motion; Ms.Bogni seconded. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Averill stated the Lewis County Board of Commissioners has already published a request for bids because of the time limitation. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Location of Next Meeting
Mr. Sharar stated some individuals find this room not the best place to hold the meeting for different reasons. Other venues have been investigated: the new library in Chehalis, where parking could be a problem; the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis offered the Lucky Eagle Casino but the next two dates for which the Authority would need a location the Casino is booked. Another possible location is the Veterans Memorial Museum, which charges $250 per meeting.

A motion is needed to declare a different meeting place, which allows the process of finding a different meeting place and provides public notice consistent with the rules that the Authority will be moving.

Mr. Sharar stated that the Lewis County Courthouse provides recording equipment which is necessary for maintaining the record. Discussion followed.

Chairman Averill suggested since the next couple of months are not going to work for the Casino, perhaps we could look at a date when we can. He is also in favor of occasionally having a different location for those who travel a distance.

Mr. Sharar recommended tabling this action and having a schedule at the next meeting that may involve going to the Casino in April. In the meantime, we will work with Lewis County to reconfigure the table for the Board.

Chairman Averill stated if there was no objection, this item would be tabled. There was no objection.

11. Amend ESA Adolfson Contract

ESA Adolfson's contract has two phases. Phase one is now complete. The budget for that phase was a little under $175,000 and will come in slightly under that. The second phase is to provide a work plan that is Attachment A to the Resolution. That work plan details what we propose to do, primarily four tasks. The heart of the program is to produce a draft Regional Chehalis Basin Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan by the end of June using existing data. A caveat to that is Mr. Sharar anticipates there will be some additional work and other studies involved and that will be dealt with in another action later in the agenda. This action, if approved, will commit the $500,000 for consulting budgets that were anticipated in the original budget. It touches the $1.9 million budget for other studies in that the $37,500 for the public survey is being drawn from that budget and other small studies would also be part of that.

Chairman Averill entertained a motion to pass the resolution. Ms. Lee moved, Ms. Willis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Willis asked about the Louisiana Street project that was mentioned in the expense report.

Chairman Averill stated this did not get done. Louisiana Street goes through the Chehalis Town Center and was part of the discussions with DOT on the Mellen Street interchange which would eventually connect to Airport Road which parallels the freeway. Because Louisiana is not currently part of the Mellen St. project, we did not do anything on that project. The shareholders on the project have not made a decision on it yet.

Ms. Willis asked when projects like this surface, how do they get here.

Chairman Averill stated they come from the Advisory Committee and reported to this Authority.

Mr. Sharar stated it was anticipated that it might be an issue when the invoice was prepared, and it has subsequently been dropped.

12. Recommended BAC Basin Studies Budget

In putting together the work plan, it was anticipated there would be some studies. We cannot say what those would be because we do not know where gaps might be in the overall planning effort, which includes flood hazard management plans from all jurisdictions throughout the basin. There may be some instances where additional work is needed to get them all up to the same level or to tie them together. If we go through a normal process it will be somewhat protracted to get someone on board to help with those kinds of issues. Lewis County has a small works roster process and it is through Lewis County that we must expend money. The small works roster process is limited to jobs under $20,000. It involves the BOCC overseeing the project and in our case it would be the Director of Community Development, Bob Johnson, being the primary officer to authorize and initiate work. This resolution authorizes your Board Advisory Committee (BAC) to identify the needs to properly procure and to manage these studies. It sets a maximum amount of $80,000 for all of those.

Chairman Averill read the resolution title and entertained a motion. Ron Schillinger made the motion, seconded by Mark White. Chairman Averill stated since Lewis County is the lead agency and in order to meet State Auditor requirements Lewis County will need to draft subsequent resolutions and will make those available to the Authority.

Ms. Bogni asked if we have any idea what the studies will be, and she was concerned that we keep putting things on the BAC and is interested in hearing what the BAC has to say about that.

Mr. Johnson stated his Board has already directed him to be integral in the process. Part of the staff as part of the budget is directed toward meeting those staff salary obligations as they devote time, which was in the original budget that was adopted. There is money in the $2.5 million that can be reallocated as necessary. From Mr. Johnson's point of view, it will not add that much to what the BAC is already doing since the BAC is meeting twice a month. From his perspective the impact would be minimal.

Mr. Swartout stated if the Authority asks the BAC to do something and then goes through the contracting process it takes a long time to accomplish tasks. There are five months left to come back with the Flood Hazard Management Comp Plan; there may be questions that may require hiring a consultant and this speeds up the process but does not add any more work to the BAC.

Ms. Napier concurred.

Mr. White stated Glen Connolly has expressed the same thoughts.

The motion passed unanimously.

13. Flood Authority Symbol
Mr. Sharar stated the Authority would be publishing documents and needs to have an identity. Several font and layout designs were considered and he presented two to the Authority. It was moved and seconded to choose the first option; motion carried.

14. Project List
As part of the planning process, there is a list of potential projects over the next five months. We need to populate that list and a form was handed out that will be available electronically on SharePoint. The form will allow the projects to be standardized in terms of data to make it easier to identify project names, locations, etc. This form will be e-mailed to the Board within the next couple of days.

15. Set Date for Public Workshop
Three public workshops are anticipated over the next five months; the first to introduce the Authority and what it is doing and the process it intends to use. We would like that meeting to be held in one location and a second meeting will follow two months later at a different location. The third meeting will be to review the draft plan before closure at the end of June. A meeting time and place needs to be established for the first meeting. We are recommending it be accomplished by February 19 which is the next regularly scheduled meeting.

After discussion a motion was made by Tim Browning, seconded by Ron Schillinger that February 11, 6:00 P.M. at the Veterans Memorial Museum would be the first public workshop. Motion carried.

Mayor Browning asked if it was anticipated that different items would be discussed in the first and second meetings.

Mr. Sharar stated definitely.

Mayor Browning suggested holding another meeting in Montesano that has the same subject matter as the meeting at the Veterans' Museum so people from the outer regions would be aware of what is going on.

Mr. Schillinger offered the meeting room upstairs from Montesano City Hall to host this meeting.

To clarify, Mr. Sharar stated the initial meeting would be held in two places; the other two meetings would be single meetings for a total of four public hearings rather than three.

Thursday, February 12, 6:00 P.M. at Montesano City Hall will be the date and location of the second meeting. This was incorporated into the original motion and carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Flood Authority meeting will be February 19, 1:30 P.M. at the Lewis County Courthouse. That meeting will be preceded by a work session at the Veterans Memorial Museum from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Chairman Averill asked that anyone wanting to put topics on the agenda can do that at this time or through the BAC.

17. Adjourn
Motion made by Ms. Lee, seconded by Ms. Willis to adjourn. Adjournment was at 3:18 P.M.