

**Chehalis Basin Flood Authority**  
**Draft Goals/Action Items/Sub Committees**

Originally circulated for June 16, 2011 Flood Authority meeting  
Updated for July 21, 2011 Flood Authority meeting

GOALS:

1. Develop good information that allows timely decisions to be made on potential measures and make recommendations to address flooding in the Chehalis Basin.
2. Ensure a public process that is open and transparent, and addresses critical concerns over flooding in a time-sensitive and efficient manner.
3. Work with all affected entities to ensure public education and input on any potential flood mitigation measure.

KEY DATES:

- June 30, 2011: end of current state biennium budget, existing contracts
- September 30, 2011: end of federal fiscal year
- November 1, 2011: beginning of flood season according to FEMA
- December 25, 2011: due date for completion of Fisheries Study
- July 2012: OFM report on Flood Hazard Mitigation Projects due

ACTION ITEMS:

- Develop additional substantive information:
  - Extend, expand, and/or implement efforts already underway
    - Extension of Fisheries Study
    - Examination of potential fisheries enhancements
    - Implementation and testing of early warning system
  - Develop work plans for other priority topics (see ESHB 2020, Section 3030)
    - Hydraulic modeling for lower river
    - Other projects (next 2-3 years; longer)
- Ensure open, transparent, and efficient public process
  - Provide notice of all meetings on website, listserv
  - Work in committees to accomplish work between general meetings
  - Utilize existing staff as much as possible
- Outreach, education, and coordination
  - Integrate early warning system into website
  - Organize existing information into user friendly formats
  - Develop system for regularly communicating progress to broader community

ACTION ITEMS REQUIRED BY ESHB 2020, SECTION 3030 (2011):

- For Flood Authority or Flood Control District
  1. To study, develop, construct, maintain, operate, and fund flood control measures throughout the basin,
  2. to complete by December 25 2011 the ongoing study of the effect of possible retention structures on fish in the basin, and
  3. to complete the hydraulic model for the Chehalis river to calculate flood levels, flood damages, and benefits of proposed flood mitigation projects for the lower portions of the river; and
  
- For OFM, in collaboration with others, to provide a report by July 2012 to the governor and legislature that identifies recommended priority flood hazard mitigation projects in the Chehalis river basin for continued feasibility and design work. The report must:
  - (a) Address the potential for flood mitigation through upstream water retention facilities, including benefits and impacts to fish and potential mitigation of impacts;
  - (b) Describe the current alignment and design of the federal flood levees proposed at Centralia and Chehalis, including extent of protection provided to these communities, and any upstream or downstream effects of the levees;
  - (c) Evaluate alternative projects that could protect the interstate highway and the municipal airport at Centralia and Chehalis, and ensure access to medical and other critical community facilities during flood events;
  - (d) Discuss other alternatives that could provide flood relief and protection in the basin, such as replacement of highway bridges that constrain flood waters, flood easements on agricultural lands, livestock evacuation facilities and routes, small-scale water diversion and retention, use of riparian habitat and environmental restoration projects to mitigate damages from flood waters, and other projects or programs;
  - (e) Summarize the benefits and costs of recommended projects, using available information and accepted benefit/cost methods; and
  - (f) Identify the responsible parties and procedures for making final decisions on funding, construction and governance of recommended flood projects, any related and necessary government agreements, and a schedule for these decisions.

## **SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Purpose:
  1. Set meeting agendas, action items
  2. Coordinate efforts with staff, consultants
  3. Coordinate with state, federal teams
  
- Members:
  1. City of Montesano, Chair
  2. Thurston County, Vice-Chair
  3. City of Chehalis
  4. City of Oakville

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

- Purpose:
  1. Figure out effective ways of communicating information to general public, legislature, congressional delegation
  2. Coordinate electronic, paper records
  3. Evaluate and modify website, including integration of early warning system
  4. Other
  
- Members:
  1. Chair
  2. Vice Chair
  3. City of Centralia
  4. Chehalis Tribe (*should they decide to participate*)

### **PROJECT COMMITTEES**

- Purpose:
  1. Review potential projects, determine priorities for analyzing, implementing
  
- Members:
  1. Upper Basin Projects
    1. City of Pe Ell
    2. City of Bucoda
    3. Thurston County
    4. Lewis County
  
  2. Lower Basin Projects
    1. City of Aberdeen
    2. Grays Harbor County
    3. City of Oakville