

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Date: Aug 1, 2024
Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 pm
Location: Hybrid Meeting – Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Grand Mound Centralia:
6223 197th Way SW, Rochester, Washington 9579.
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601006111?pwd=eVlnSkZyN1lvSXB1S094bTBPbFRUdz09>

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
1. Approval of current Agenda and July 11 Meeting Summary	Decision: Current agenda and July 11 summary approved.	No follow-up action.
2. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan	Discussion	No follow-up action.
3. All-H and Predation	Discussion / Direction	OCB will provide Board Member Scott Brummer with a roster of the ASRP Steering Committee members. WDFW will convene the ASRP subgroup and work with the group on a workplan.
4. RCO-Ecology Contract Management Transition Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
5. Community Flood Assistance & Resilience (CFAR) Program	Discussion	No follow-up action.
6. Federal Funding Strategy	Discussion	No follow-up action.
7. Flood Control Zone District Mitigation Plan	Discussion	FCZD staff will address questions about the ecological benefits of the FCZD forest conversion mitigation measures at a future presentation.
8. 2025-27 Budget Development	Decision / Direction: Board members approved the 2025-27 Budget Proviso Language.	No follow-up action.

ITEM	FORMAL ACTION	FOLLOW-UP ACTION
	Board members approved the Flood Damage Reduction spending proposal.	
9. Long-Term Strategy Development Updates	Discussion	No follow-up action.
10. Director's Report	Discussion	No follow-up action.
11. Next Steps and Closing	Discussion	No follow-up action.

Attendees

Chehalis Basin Board Members

NAME	APPOINTING AUTHORITY	ATTENDANCE
Vickie Raines	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Scott Brummer	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Jay Gordon	Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Present
Tyson Johnston	Quinault Indian Nation	Absent
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
Michael Garrity	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Present
Katie Allen	Department of Natural Resources	Present
Mark Gaines	Department of Transportation	Present
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission	Present
Jennifer Hennessey	Department of Ecology	Present

Board Staff/Board Guests Present:

- See Attachment A

Welcome, Introductions

Board Chair Vickie Raines called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the Chehalis Basin Board (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 any additions or revisions to the August 1, 2024 [meeting agenda](#).

BOARD DECISION: Agenda approved by consensus.

Ken Ghalambor asked for approval of the [July 11 Meeting Summary](#).

BOARD DECISION: July 11 Meeting Summary approved by consensus.

Below are the links to the meeting materials:

- [August 1 Meeting Agenda](#)
- [July 11 Meeting Summary](#)

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP): Budget Update -Quarter 2, 2024

Drew Mealor (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) provided an update on ASRP implementation budget status. He noted that \$12.4 million in ASRP funding has been obligated or identified for funding through July, and \$12.3 million that needs obligating in the remaining 12 months of the biennium. ASRP has identified near-term priority projects totaling about \$24 million, and expects to end the calendar year with \$16M obligated. He also presented a potential timeline to report back to the Board by April on final 2023-25 funding obligations. Comments and discussion points included:

- ASRP can provide a list of projects planned for the subsequent biennium. This would help people recognize that ASRP is intentionally structured to have a rolling grant structure that provides more frequent opportunities to invest in sponsors and projects, rather than only providing funding every other year.
- It is important to demonstrate to the Legislature the specific needs for ASRP funding and sharing planned projects and the review process would help with that.
- There has been some decrease in culvert projects since the initial focus on culverts in the early years of ASRP work. The ASRP Steering Committee is currently reviewing one culvert removal project, and additional culvert projects could be included in the next biennium.
- Several of the “backup” projects have gone through the ASRP approval process but are applying for federal funding. These projects may request Board funding depending on

the outcomes of the federal funding applications. Other backup projects are outside the near-term priority areas and/or have not yet applied for ASRP funding.

- It is important to look at water use in the Chehalis Basin more strategically, identify a process to look at areas with low-flow augmentation in key tributaries, and determine how to create better flow regimes (e.g., storage areas or wetlands). Many near-term projects address low-flow issues, mostly through process-based restoration techniques. This work should be funded more during the 2025-27 biennium. Two ASRP projects in the Newaukum watershed address low flows, and there are some projects in development that address water rights and water use. Washington Water Trust provided a presentation to the Board on their grant-funded work on water rights. Ecology's Water Resource Program will also discuss off-channel storage in the Dungeness River basin at the next Board meeting.

Below are the links to meeting materials:

- [ASRP Quarter 2 Budget Update Presentation](#)

All-H and Predation: Integrating ASRP and All-H Approach

Michael Garrity (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) presented how to better institutionalize an all-H approach, how to integrate it with the ASRP, and how to work with spring Chinook recovery needs if they become listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). He discussed: the ASRP and its connection to the Office of Chehalis Basin/Chehalis Basin Board, the ASRP Steering Committee structure, additional actions for Spring Chinook, proposed steps for integrating additional Spring Chinook work (including a potential ASRP Technical Advisory Group subgroup to evaluate actions and studies), and a potential addition of an "other aquatic species" funding category. Discussion comments and clarifications included:

- Board members thought the proposed subgroup of the ASRP Technical Advisory Group process was a good idea.
- The ASRP subgroup would benefit from professional facilitation. This may have budget implications.
- It would be useful for co-managers to provide the Board with a presentation to frame questions and issues around a potential hatchery.
- Consider any possibilities to collaborate with places, people, or groups in Washington who have experience with all-H work and comanager experience.
- Consider whether to include a representative from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the potential ASRP Technical Advisory Group subgroup, whether to focus

more on comanager participation, and/or whether to identify beneficial additional (e.g. water resource) expertise.

- Board members requested that the subgroup develop a written workplan and timeline for presenting recommended actions to the Board. This would provide more clarity and support the Board's ongoing progress.

FOLLOW-UP: OCB will provide Board Member Scott Brummer with a roster of the ASRP Steering Committee members. WDFW will convene the ASRP subgroup and work with the group on a workplan.

Below are the links to meeting materials:

- [Integrating ASRP All-H Approach Presentation](#)

RCO-Ecology Transition

Nat Kale and Pat Brommer (OCB) provided an update that OCB, RCO, and Ecology have continued to discuss ongoing transition plans. They have focused on transitioning Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) management smoothly from RCO to Ecology with minimal disruption to project sponsors. This has involved working with staff to set up and begin testing new EAGL software that will be used to issue grants and determine what is needed for EAGL set up within Ecology, such as grant and RCO manual transition guidance. OCB staff are recruiting a few more grant managers to help with the transition.

Community Flood Assistance and Resilience (CFAR)

Kat Dickey (OCB) provided an update on the CFAR program, including on four pilot elevation projects, two of which have nearly completed construction. Ms. Dickey also provided an update on the CFAR Workgroup that is advising on the development of a CFAR programmatic framework. In relation to the framework, she reviewed CFAR's goals and a financial prioritization process that the workgroup helped develop. CFAR priorities could change over time as the program scales up and proactively addresses needs identified by the long-term Strategy. Comments and discussion points included:

- Hundreds of homes have been raised previously in the basin; it is not accurate to describe the current state as "pilot stage."
- Ms. Dickey acknowledged the other work done in the basin and clarified that CFAR is a "pilot" in terms of being a state-funded (not FEMA) program providing financial assistance for elevations and voluntary acquisitions of structures at risk of flooding.

- Ensure that financial assistance is limited to properties affected by flooding from the Chehalis River and/or its tributaries, rather than by any unconnected, non-riverine localized flooding.
 - Ms. Dickey responded that this can be added to eligibility criteria. Currently the CFAR program requires projects to be in the Chehalis River watershed.
- The CFAR program is reaching a point where demand exceeds capacity. Prioritize protecting properties with “residual risk” that will not be protected from flooding by a future potential flood retention facility (FRE) or a potential levee, diversion, conveyance system (Local Action Non-Dam) alternative. Near the Chehalis Confluence, lower Bucoda, and Cosmopolis are examples of potential areas to prioritize with this criteria.

Below is a link to the meeting material:

- [CFAR Presentation](#)

Federal Funding Strategy

Cindy Malay (OCB) provided an update that the federal funding strategy aims to build state sponsorship capacity by hiring new OCB staff, support grant writing to lower partner administrative burdens, and increase partnerships and collaboration. Ms. Malay reviewed recent outreach and engagement efforts, noted grant and OCB support for the Grays Harbor Lower Satsop National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) resubmittal, and highlighted four upcoming grant opportunities. Kristen Harma (Chehalis Basin Lead Entity) reviewed how \$61 million in federal funding has been secured and carried out as projects in the Chehalis Basin. Some take-home messages include:

- Increasing the diversity of funding sources provides benefits, but even if applications are successful, sponsors often don't have local capacity to administer projects
- More funding programs bring administrative challenges
- Sponsors are working to mix and match project ideas to fund sources
- Participating in federal grant applications is voluntary and partner interest varies

Comments and discussion included:

- OCB staff need to ensure that sponsors have the experience and capacity to meet federal standards to manage federal grants as well as implement identified projects. OCB can increase project sponsor capacity by reducing administrative burdens for grant writing, management, and reporting, and by writing administrative assistance into grants.

- Board members encourage continued collaboration and coordination with other state programs to be strategic in grant applications and not hinder partners that may have projects that are more likely to be successful in receiving federal funding based on grant criteria.
- OCB is meeting with the Coastal Hazards Organizational Resilience Team (COHORT) that includes various partners to discuss how to strategically pursue opportunities. OCB also coordinates through the ASRP process, which includes state and Tribal representation.

Below are the links to meeting materials:

- [Federal Funding Strategy Presentation](#)

Flood Control Zone District Mitigation Plan

Matt Dillin (FCZD) shared updates on the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. He noted that the FCZD submitted a revised project description in April and submitted a revised mitigation plan in July. Mary Louise Keefe (FCZD) provided a high-level review of the mitigation plan refinements and their impacts and benefits. Mitigation refinements include sediment transport modeling, a new spawning gravel survey, a scour study, a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), a detailed shade model, a forest conversion tool, a habitat evaluation protocol, and refined basis for design concepts and site specific concepts. The FCZD will provide three more detailed presentations at future Board meetings. Discussion comments and clarifications included:

- The Flood Retention Facility (FRE) is designed for gravel to naturally pass through the facility during normal operations, including during normal winter flood events that do not trigger the facility to be in retention mode.
- The forest management ideas presented are both conceptual and practicable. Outreach to and receptivity of landowners, Weyerhaeuser, or other forest managers will be discussed further in future presentations.
- A request was made to clarify how restoration benefits described in the forest conversion concepts would actually be realized given existing riparian buffers and age of the existing forest stands.
- Per the 2022 FRE mitigation plan, there is ample opportunity in the basin for salmon habitat gains (375 miles) that would fulfill the habitat mitigation needs for the FRE (42.5 miles).
- The Board should pay attention to the possibility for upper Chehalis Basin FRE mitigation projects to compete with opportunities to provide uplift through the ASRP.

FOLLOW-UP: FCZD staff will address questions about the ecological benefits of the FCZD forest conversion mitigation measures at a future presentation.

Below is a link to meeting material:

- [FCZD Revised Mitigation Plan – Revisions Overview Presentation](#)

2025-27 Budget Development

Budget Proviso Language

Ken Ghalambor reviewed that OCB proposes to use the same proviso language for the 2025-27 biennium as previous proviso language, with a few updates. Due to the transition to Ecology as the new fiscal manager of the Strategy, the 2025-27 proviso will remove the language regarding using up to 1.5% for RCO appropriation and increase the OCB staff core funding request from \$3.9 million to \$5.25 million. The proviso will also note that \$74.75 million is available for Board-approved projects (\$80 million total budget request minus the \$5.25 million for OCB administration).

BOARD DECISION: Board members approved the 2025-27 Budget Proviso Language.

2019-25 Budget Re-appropriation Estimates

Ken Ghalambor provided a status summary of 2019-25 reappropriations, including:

- 2019-2021 funds will be fully obligated and spent in the next 2-3 months.
- 2021-23 funds will be fully obligated in the next 2-3 months.
- OCB is fairly confident that 2023-25 funds can be fully obligated before the end of the current biennium.

Mr. Ghalambor clarified that staff spend down oldest funding first and reviewed several specific reappropriation estimates based on current unobligated funding:

- Integrated Projects: \$1.4 million is currently unobligated but is anticipated to be spent by \$975K pending/forthcoming projects (Multi-benefit Acquisition Program and Skookumchuck studies) and \$390,000 of prospective projects (Erosion Management Program).
- Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP): \$17 million is currently unobligated, which is also anticipated to be spent down. See the ASRP Budget Update portion of the meeting for details on prospective obligations.

- Flood Damage Reduction: ~\$9.9 million is currently unobligated, however ~\$5.7 million is expected to be spent by pending/forthcoming projects (for FCZD amendments and comparative analysis/modeling) and the rest as prospective projects, including LAND-related work (Coal Creek, revisions to the Safe Structures database), Queen Street pump, lower basin gages, and K Street pump.
- A Board member noted that the pumps and gages are currently in the 2025-27 budget request but are shovel-ready, and it would be beneficial to utilize unobligated funding as soon as possible to present to the Legislature that money is being spent. The Board member proposed a request that the Board should consider obligating the current unobligated funding as follows:
 - Obligate \$1.2 million for the Queen Street Pump Station. (Construction could begin in the fall and provide immediate flood relief.)
 - Obligate \$363,000 for the lower Chehalis Basin gage work. (This is a part of the Flood Warning System.)
 - If other unobligated funds are not going to be spent, the Board could revisit obligating \$3.1 million for the K Street Pump Station later this fall. (Construction could finish before the end of the biennium, providing immediate flood relief.)
 - As a result of the above proposal, \$4.65 million would be opened up from the \$80 million 2025-27 request.

BOARD DECISION: Board members approved the Flood Damage Reduction spending proposal.

Proposed Budget Requests for 2025-27 Biennium Work Elements

Ken Ghaleb previewed initial proposed budget requests for several major work elements in the 2025-27 biennium, following the first round of proposed budget request presentations in July. He shared a reminder on a budget development schedule through April 2025 and reviewed topics covered at the July Board Meeting. He noted the overall total budget request currently ranges from \$71 million - \$114 million. Estimates are touchpoints to help the Board decide how much to allocate. Staff presented work element topics to inform Board members on potential budgets and provide time for Board members to ask questions. Presentations included information on:

- Work element summary
- 2023-25 biennium progress and re-appropriation estimates
- Key proposed 2025-27 tasks, assumptions, and anticipated outcomes
- Preliminary cost estimates

Comments and clarifications were provided for each work element topic as follows. Budget request estimates are seen in parentheses:

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority / Local Projects (\$4,428,000 - \$14,586,000)

- The above cost estimates will be adjusted based on the Board's approval in the meeting to obligate \$4.65 million of unobligated funding to projects included in this proposal.
- Board members had no other questions or comments.

Flood Control Zone District Proposed Flood Retention Facility and Airport Levee (FRE) - (possible total of \$17,306,500; \$6,112,000 in Year 1 and provisionally \$11,194,000 in Year 2 if the Board includes the flow through dam for flood control as a part of the long-term Strategy after Q1 2026)

- There were no comments or questions.

FRE – FCZD and Consultant support plus State, Tribal, and federal participation (\$10,069,537 - \$24,549,037)

- Cost estimates incorporate estimates from Anchor QEA, Ecology, DNR, WDFW, the Quinault Indian Nation, the Chehalis Tribe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Some estimates are currently placeholders.

Skookumchuck Dam Analyses (\$940,000)

- Concepts will be refined to provide more accurate cost estimates.

Initiative for Working Riparian Lands (\$50,000 - \$140,000)

- A Board member recommended making connections Stephen Bramwell (Thurston County WSU Extension) in addition to continuing work with Patrick Shultz and Jake Fey (also with WSU Extension).

Strategy Outreach and Engagement (\$528,000 - \$637,000)

- There were no comments or questions.

Federal Funding Strategy (\$218,000 - \$651,000)

- OCB aims to focus on seeking state sponsorship grants rather than supporting local applications because they are more competitive and typically larger. OCB will still consider if there is a good case to support a sponsor who is looking for local application assistance.

Next Steps: Staff will fine-tune budget estimates and provide all details to the Board Budget Subgroup (Steve Malloch, Tyson Johnston, and J. Vander Stoep). The Board subgroup will convene in the Fall to draft budget scenarios and will later present to the full Board a recommended scenario for approval.

Below are the links to meeting materials:

- [Budget Proviso Language Memorandum](#)
- [2025-27 Draft Budget Work Elements Memorandum](#)
- [2025-27 Draft Budget Work Elements Presentation](#)

Long-Term Strategy Development Updates

Ken Ghaleb (Ross Strategic) shared that there is formal approval to do a competitive solicitation for the Long-Term Chehalis Basin Strategy Comparative Analysis consultant. Pat Brommer (OCB) is working on further details and will be initiating required diversity outreach to move into a full Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Board's Comparative Analysis Subgroup (Glen Connelly, Tyson Johnston, and J. Vander Stoep) will be given advance notice of the RFP and can bring in partners to be a part of a review panel. OCB Director Jeff Zenk has discussed with Ecology a potential approach for the Long-Term Strategy development schedule, which would involve potential Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) data sharing. Next steps are to confirm if this process has merit, and if so, layout the process mechanics.

Director's Report

OCB Director Jeff Zenk provided the following updates for the Director's report:

- Moffatt & Nichol provided OCB staff a tour of various Local Actions Non-Dam (LAND) Alternative proposed project sites. Staff expect a report from Moffatt & Nichol in the first quarter of 2025.
- OCB is interviewing candidates for two contract and grants manager positions.
- OCB will send formal invitations for a September 27th Legislative Tour next week. Staff are meeting with partners to prepare for the tour.
- Anchor QEA is collecting data on fish species, turbidity, and fish passage.
- OCB staff toured the Skookumchuck Dam.
- OCB is planning to solicit applications for another round of funding through the Erosion Management Program.

- OCB sent out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Board members regarding laptop use and encourage Board members to send the signed MOU back if they have not already done so and want to use a laptop.
- Cindy Malay will be on maternity leave from September through November 2024.

Public Comment

Terri Wright commented that she would like to make the Board aware of the proposed Pacific Northwest Renewable Energy (PNWRE) Pellet Plant in Hoquiam that is estimated to increase logging in the Chehalis Basin, which could increase flooding in the basin.

Next Steps and Closing

Ken Ghalambor (Ross Strategic) noted that he will be on family leave for six weeks in mid-August. Lauren Dennis (Ross Strategic) will facilitate the September Board meeting. Mr. Ghalambor thanked Board members for their participation and adjourned the meeting. The next Board meeting will be held virtually on September 5th.

Attachment A

Board Staff/Board Guests

Those that participated virtually are noted with an asterisk.

- Alison Pieper, HDR*
- Casey Hart, Ross Strategic*
- Celina Abercrombie, WDFW
- Cindy Malay, OCB
- Col. Ronald Averill, Flood Authority*
- Cynthia Carlstad, NHC*
- Dave Bingaman, Quinault Indian Nation
- Drew Mealor, WDFW
- Edna Fund, FCZD
- Eric Eisenberg, FCZD
- Erica Britney, ICF*
- Izzy Zucker, Pyramid Communications*
- Jeff Zenk, OCB
- Jenn Tice, Ross Strategic*
- Jennie Lewis, OCB
- Jerry Louthain, Perteet*
- Jerry Otto, HDR*
- John Winkowski
- Kat Dickey, OCB
- Katrina Sukola, ICF*
- Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
- Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
- Larry Karpack, WSE*
- Lauren Dennis, Ross Strategic
- Mark Glyde, Quinault Indian Nation*
- Matt Dillin, FCZD*
- Matt Prociv, HDR*
- Mat Jackmond, Hopkins Drainage Ditch District/Thurston County*
- Mary Louise Keefe, HDR*
- Nat Kale, OCB
- Nicole Czarnomski, WDFW*

- Pat Brommer, OCB*
- Scott Boettcher, Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority*
- Shawn Ortivez*
- Stevie Alexander, OCB
- Teri Wright, Wild Orca*
- Victoria Knorr, WDFW