Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Regular Meeting Minutes

Lewis County Commissioners Hearing Room 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse 351 NW North St Chehalis WA 98532

Meeting Date:

July 22, 2020

Meeting Time:

2:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Supervisor Fund at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Those in attendance were:

Edna J. Fund Robert Jackson

Gary Stamper

Erik Martin Amber Smith

Amber Smith Lara McRea

Bill Brumsickle Frank Corbin Josh Metcalf

Lou Desmond Nicole Desmond Betsy Dillin

Jim Waldo Sarah Kohout

Rona Spellacey

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor (teleconference)

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor

Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Administrator

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Attorney (teleconference)

Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member

Lewis County Public Works Director

Desmond & Louis, Inc. Desmond & Louis, Inc. Engineer, Lewis County

Chehalis River Basin FCZD Consultant

Senator Cantwell's Office

HDR Engineer

II. Verification of a Quorum

There is a quorum of three district supervisors.

III. Introductions

No introductions.

IV. Approval of minutes for June 24, 2020

Supervisor Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020. Supervisor Stamper seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

V. Public Comment

No comments.

VI. <u>Invoice approvals</u>

(Grant 17-1373 Chehalis Basin Strategy Participation)

Vendor	Date	Service	Amount
Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell	June 2020	Governmental affairs svcs	13,700.00
Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell	April – May 2020	Prof Svcs-SEPA advice (Bill	3,196.50
		Lynn)	
LC Public Works	June 2020	Staff time	5,723.60
LC Administration	June 2020	Staff time	1,370.12
HDR Engineering	5.24-6.27.20	Engineering svcs	68,363.09
Chronicle	June 2020	Budget Amendment notice	41.20
East County Journal	June 2020	Budget Amendment notice	51.29
	TOTAL ALL EXPENSES:		92,445.80

(Grant 18-2599 Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan-Phase 2)

Vendor	Date	Service	Amount
Perteet Engineering	6.1-6.28.20	Engineering svcs-CFHMP	8,024.33
LC Public Works	June 2020	Staff time	457.88
	TOTAL ALL EXPENSES:		8,482.21

(Grant .09 Distressed Counties Funding)

Vendor	Date	Service	Amount
Desmond & Louis Inc	July 2020	Citizen Survey & outreach	15,000.00
	TOTAL ALL EXPENSES:		15,000.00

Grand Total of all expenses:

115,928.01

Motion made by Supervisor Jackson to approve the invoices totaling \$115,928.01. Supervisor Stamper seconded the motion.

Erik gave a briefing of the expenditures.

Motion approved.

VII. Project update

Erik noted the district staff had a meeting last week with Diane Butorac from the Department of Ecology (DOE) who was working on the SEPA. Diane gave the district some updates on some of the comments that the district made and discussed some informational items she needs from the district. The group had a philosophical conversation about what he district feels are shortcomings of the EIS. DOE didn't have much response for the district at this point but they are still evaluating comments on the EIS and what to do with them. Erik said he anticipates more meetings with Diane.

Erik asked Diane if and how the EIS would deal with the separation of impacts between the project and climate change. Diane didn't know the answer to this question yet. Many impacts to the fish species are almost as bad as or worse with climate change than no action doing nothing than with a project.

There is a lot of mitigation work that will need to be done for those impacts if the project moves forward. Potentially with the project and mitigation there is a chance this would turn out better than doing nothing. This is also without the aquatic species restoration plan. This would further benefit the fish. Erik discussed the seismic impact that DOE put in the EIS and discussed how far reaching it is.

DOE also assumed that any debris removal that needed to take place for the project would be burned.

Discussion was held regarding Weyerhaeuser's involvement in the project.

Betsy noted the next milestone is submitting the permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers. This will include several work products to include the vegetation management plan, the biological assessment and the mitigation opportunities report. The final mitigation opportunities reports was submitted to the district today by the districts consultant. She noted the district would like to take another look at it and it should be ready to share with the Office of the Chehalis Basin and other stakeholders. There is ample opportunity for mitigation as the district thought and feels this is a good work product.

Erik said the permit applications are required for NEPA process and the Army Corps plans to have a draft EIS out the week of September 20.

Betsy said this application will be submitted about 2 weeks before the Army Corps releases the EIS.

Erik noted the Army Corps has been very engaging in this process and they are very interested in the district's thoughts and opinions.

Further discussion was held about the SEPA and NEPA process.

VIII. Communications-Lou Desmond

Erik introduced Lou and Nicole Desmond who are working on a communications plan for the district.

Lou noted they operate a communications firm and political campaign firm and public relations lobbying out of Southern California for about 2 decades. Several years ago they purchases a home in Winlock and decided to move here permanently. They now operate their business out of their Winlock home. They still have an office and a few employees in Southern California.

He noted this will be a public outreach and public education campaign. The goal is to make sure the public fully understands the project. There are many misconceptions out there that are hurting the project as many people don't really understand it.

Their job is to get the facts out in the most understanding way. They will be using media, local news, television, radio, social media and email communications.

Lou noted they have met the other consultants that are working on various parts of the project.

Supervisor Fund discussed an individual who contacted her questioning this contract as they felt it was all public relations and not education.

Lou noted they are a consultant for the project to educate and not advocate. Their role is to educate and inform the public.

Supervisor Fund also noted the individual was concerned the district hired a firm from Southern California and didn't hire local.

Erik noted this is public money and the district went through a competitive process and it was put out to bid and asked for proposals. The Desmond's were chosen through this process and are a local company even though they also still have an office in another state

Lou further discussed the media side of the communication plan.

IX. <u>Announcements</u>

Supervisor Fund noted there was a recent Flood Authority meeting and local project proposals were received. There were two projects that were put forward from Lewis County and LC Public Works. Boistfort Road Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment \$50k. Chehalis Industrial Park Storm water Management Project \$1.7 million. The total for all projects is a little

over \$9 million.

X. Adjournment

Supervisor Jackson made a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Stamper seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara McRea Interim Clerk