



Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

Erik P. Martin, P.E., District Administrator

*351 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532-1900*

Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Lewis County Commissioners Hearing Room, 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse, 351 NW North St., Chehalis WA 98532
Meeting Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023
Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John Henricksen at 8:02 a.m., Thursday, January 12, 2023. Those in attendance were:

Lara McRea	Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Erik Martin	Chehalis River Basin FCZD District Administrator
Matt Dillin	Project Manager, Chehalis River Basin FCZD
John Henricksen	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Dan Maughan	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
David Fenn	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Frank Corbin	Chehalis River Basin FDZD Adv Committee Member
Maureen Harkcom	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Charles Coddington	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Steve Grega	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Dave Muller	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
J. Vander Stoep	Office of the Chehalis Basin board member
Barbara Russell	Lewis County Prosecutor's Office
Nic Scott	Lewis County Public Information Specialist

Absent:
Jason Humphrey Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member

Approval of Minutes for December 8, 2022

Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022. Dave Muller seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Project update

Matt reported he sent a list of landowners to the advisory group and asked for feedback. He reiterated that this outreach is an important piece to the whole project going forward over the next few years. He thanked the group for their responses.



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He said the District's wetland specialist visited the area above the FRE site and also visited landowners. The wetland specialist identified their top five sites for wetland mitigation. The mitigation would replace the wetlands the project would be impacting. Out of those five identified areas, four of the landowners allowed the property access.

The group discussed having a community meeting in the near future as some citizens have met this project with resistance.

Another current focus of the flood district are the fish passage culverts.

Matt discussed the proposed upstream and downstream minimization alignments that HDR has been looking at due to the sensitive cultural property. They looked at each alignment for a couple of purposes. One was to minimize the direct impact to the sensitive cultural property and the other was to look at the option of having an open channel fish passage during construction. They looked at constructability and safety as well.

The district found that both options are feasible and both appear to be viable to have open channel fish passage during construction. The district needs to choose one of the alignments and is hoping to get feedback from the tribes.

In September the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) has released new fish passage design guidance and the new minimization alignment design will need to follow the new fish passage guidance. Matt said this will take some additional time to design the fish passage following the new guidance and that the district will likely not meet the March schedule for submittal. HDR is currently reviewing the new guidance and helping the District set a new delivery date.

Matt said the district has received some good feedback on the vegetation management plan but more work needs to be done. The Dept. Ecology and WDFW want a higher level assurance on the plan.

Matt noted that some of the work that would have been done during permitting is being done as part of the EIS. Because it is such a large project the entities are worried about making assumptions.

The district had a meeting with NMFS yesterday and are starting the ESA consultation. Consults can take up to two years and the district is hoping to stay on the same timeline. Matt reported the initial meeting with NMFS went well.

Land Owner Engagement

The group discussed the upcoming land meeting. Dan noted the land committee is looking for people to attend that have expertise in areas such as forestry, agriculture, etc.

J. said the land committee is going to propose 20.4 miles of levees that have a height of 6 ft. to 14 ft. He also said they are going to propose raising homes and building new homes higher. Raising homes is part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and they are doing that now.

He also said OCB plans to hire an independent consultant to look at the land projects and the proposed water retention facility and do a cost benefit analysis.

Dan noted the land committee is trying to make comparisons of the projects and would like the district to provide a description or slide of the proposed water retention facility.

Dan discussed that the land committee would have three different proposals. The first being safe structures and floodplain management. This option could include raising homes and relocating structures. The second



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option is waterflow diversion and conveyance. This could include removing and relocating the Mellon Street Bridge. The third option is add new and expanded levees.

The three options are approximately \$1.2 to \$1.6 billion for each option, and if you combine all three options together the cost would be \$2 billion.

Dan discussed the modeling concepts the land committee used to develop their proposed projects.

The group discussed the options in detail.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

Maureen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara McRea
Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors