



# Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District

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

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

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

**Location:** Lewis County Commissioners Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse, 351 NW North St., Chehalis WA 98532  
**Meeting Date:** Thursday, December 8, 2022  
**Meeting Time:** 8:00 am

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### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by John Henricksen at 8:04 a.m., Thursday, December 8, 2022. Those in attendance were:

Lara McRea	Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors
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 FCZD 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
Edna Fund	Office of the Chehalis Basin board 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
Owen Sexton	Chronicle Reporter

### **Absent:**

Jason Humphrey	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member
Dave Muller	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Adv Committee Member

### Approval of Minutes for October 13, 2022

Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2022. Chuck seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### Project update

Matt Dillin discussed the minimization alignments that HDR has been working on. He noted the original alignment of the water retention facility needs to be relocated due to sensitive cultural properties. The district is looking at relocating the facility roughly 1000 ft. upstream or 1000 ft. downstream. HDR has been working on the new alignments for months and have visited the site location. As part of the realignment



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work, HDR has also been looking at an open channel fish passage during the construction phase. HDR has a team of engineers and scientists looking into the construction feasibility of the two alternatives. Early results of the work, indicate that both sites are feasible. HDR will be drilling in January to collect geotechnical data to support their field observations.

Matt said the district is reaching out to the Chehalis Tribe to get their feedback on which option would be more effective at minimizing impacts to a traditional cultural property.

He also said the district has received feedback on the mitigation plan and the vegetation management plan from the review agencies. Matt noted the Dept. of Ecology and the Army Corps of Engineers are looking for more information about the plans. The district has a chance to do another update with the agencies which is scheduled to occur in March.

Matt discussed the wetland and stream mitigation landowner outreach. He said there has been really positive responses from landowners recently. There is a 2 mile stretch of the river that includes Dave Fenn's property where the district has gotten really good landowners engagement. Along the 2 mile stretch the district has developed concepts for stream and wetland mitigation. In order to develop a strong mitigation plan, more sites like this are needed.

Matt said the district's consultant team has identified potential projects from a high level using computer modeling and desktop studies. The work highlights all the different locations where mitigation could occur. What the agencies want to see now, is if the projects are feasible. They would like to see if the district is getting the property owners permission to enter their properties to take measurements, look at scour holes, etc. Landowners wouldn't have to sign a contract at this time as the team would just be taking measurements.

Matt said the district has a wetland mitigation specialist coming to the site tomorrow. The consultant gave the district their top 5 priority sites and 4 of the 5 property owners have agreed to the district looking at their land. Matt said the district still needs more sites however.

Matt said he has a list of top landowner mitigation sites that he would share with the group. Matt discussed what the team would be measuring; water temperature, bank full widths on streams, bank heights, looking at the topography of the properties, etc.

He asked for assistance in getting in touch with the landowners.

### **Office of the Chehalis Basin update**

J. Vander Stoep noted that in the NEPA EIS process, the Army Corps of Engineers wants the flood district to go through an Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service before the NEPA EIS is finalized.

He further discussed the budget request and the anticipated funds to be allocated to the FRE project.

### **Land Owner Engagement**

Dave Fenn discussed a conversation with a neighbor who is interested in helping with the project.

He also discussed his daughter's frustration with the politics and timeliness of the project. He discussed being on the Conservation District since the last flood and the challenges with the project.



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Matt noted the district is working through the EIS process but cautioned pushing too fast without answering important design questions. With the \$17 million that is anticipated to be received in the next biennium, the district will be able to advance the design and answer more questions.

Edna Fund said the Office of the Chehalis Basin asked the state for \$73 million instead of \$70 million. They have asked for an additional \$3 million for the flood control zone district.

Dan Maughan said the land committee will be holding a workshop on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Great Wolf Lodge. The purpose of the meeting is to show concepts of a non-dam alternative and they will look at how projects should be prioritized. He felt their proposals would work well for small level floods but expressed concerns about larger floods.

John reminded the group that the land committee was commissioned to find an alternative to the effect of the flood retention facility.

Dan discussed agricultural lands. He noted that levees being proposed by the land committee is proposing back water up and there will be winners and losers. The land group talk a lot about raising house elevations and voluntary re-locations. He said the committee intends on helping with houses to make them flood proof.

Dan noted the land committee is using data to model future floods that is similar to what the Office of the Chehalis Basin has been using..

J. noted the OCB board agreed on hiring an independent consultant to do a cost benefit comparison when the land committee presented their flooding mitigation options.

The group thanked Dan for his time he has spent on the land committee.

## **Announcements**

No announcements.

## **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lara McRea  
Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors

