

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday January 26, 2012

Call to order: 1:50 pm

Board Members

present: Grays Harbor County Commissioner Terry Willis – Vice Chair
Thurston County Commissioner Karen Valenzuela
Glen Connelly- Chehalis Tribe Alternate

Others present: Mark Swartout – Thurston County
Chris Hempleman – Dept. of Ecology
Mark White – Chehalis Tribe (arrived late)
Jim Kramer – Consultant to WA OFM

Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes: The minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting were approved by consensus.

New Business

State Report on Flood Funding and Projects in the Chehalis Basin Jim Kramer described his role as an independent consultant, hired by the State to research the current state of affairs related to flood projects in the basin. OFM is required to produce a report for the state that will cover several specific areas related to flood plain management in the basin. The first draft of the report will be in May, a second draft will occur in June and a final will be due in July. The state will comment in June on what projects it may support.

Unfinished Business

Sickman Ford/South Bank Road Project Update Glen Connelly described the initial findings of a study near the Sickman Ford Bridge on the Chehalis Reservation. The study found that the 2000 foot raised section of South Bank Road that approaches the Sickman Ford Bridge does create a backwater situation and increases flood velocities and infrastructure damage, when the water passes over the roadway. The study modeled several possible projects that would alleviate the backwatering effect and reduce flood levels in that area. The most promising projects involved extending the existing bridge to allow flood waters to pass more freely and included reconnecting an old flood channel to it's historic path. The Tribe is going to do some further study to determine which option may be the best alternative to pursue.

Floodplain Roundtable The members discussed flood related issues in each jurisdiction. It was noted that both Thurston County and Grays Harbor County are still involved with the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and that that entity was dealing with funding issues related to their Fish Study. It was also noted that the Flood Authority was considering

allowing two new members to join and that the city of Bucoda had voted to leave the Flood Authority.

CWC Strategic Plan And Work Plan: Due to time constraints, this discussion was moved to the next CWC meeting.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be February 23, 2012 at 1:30pm in the small meeting room at the Tribal Community Center.

Good of the Order: none

Adjourn: 3:40 p.m