

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday February 23, 2012

Call to order:

1:50 pm

Board Members present:

Mark White, Chehalis Tribe Natural Resources Director - Chair
Grays Harbor County Commissioner Terry Willis – Vice Chair
Thurston County Commissioner Karen Valenzuela

Others present:

Mark Swartout – Thurston County
Glen Connelly - Chehalis Tribe

Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes:

The minutes from the January 26, 2012 meeting were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

Floodplain Roundtable:

Comm. Valenzuela announced that the county is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. The county is also in the process of adopting their new Critical Areas Ordinance. Once the two processes are complete, Thurston County may earn enough points under FEMA's Community Rating Service (CRS) to lower their CRS rating to a 2. That low rating would create a discount of up to 40% for flood insurance for people in the county's special flood hazard areas. The county is also expecting to release new digital FEMA flood maps. These maps are based off of the old FEMA insurance study, but they offer residents a more accurate depiction of the special flood hazard areas in the county.

Comm. Willis announced that Grays Harbor County is also in the process of releasing newly digitized FEMA flood maps and they just hosted a public open house on February 22nd to share the maps with the people of the county. Similar to Thurston County, the FEMA maps are a re-delineation of the older FEMA insurance study, but they do offer residents a more accurate depiction of the special flood hazard areas in the county.

Mark White discussed the Tribe's effort to work with FEMA to create more accurate flood maps for the Chehalis Reservation using the new maps from Thurston and Grays Harbor. The Reservation has never had

a detailed flood insurance study and the maps currently list the reservation as “Area Not Included.”

Sickman Ford/South Bank Road Project Update:

Mr. White announced the Tribe is close to choosing a preferred project, and once they do, they hope to continue to move the project forward by securing some state funding to design a bridge extension for the Sickman Ford Bridge and relieve the flooding that occurs upstream of the bridge.

CWC Strategic Plan:

This discussion was moved to the next CWC meeting.

Legislative Outreach Discussion:

This discussion was moved to the next CWC meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be March 22, 2012 at 1:30pm in the small meeting room at the Tribal Community Center.

Good of the Order: none

Adjourn: 3:35 p.m