

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday March 22, 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 February 23, 2012 meeting were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

Floodplain Roundtable:

Comm. Valenzuela stated the county is updating their Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. The county has also hired a consultant to review their new Critical Areas Ordinance. They expect to include new provisions related to substantial damage and substantial improvements to structures in the flood plain in the new regulations. Adding those provisions, when combined with their updated Comprehensive Flood Plan, should improve Thurston County's rating in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) and may lower their CRS rating to a 2. That low rating would create a discount of up to 40% off of flood insurance for people in the county's special flood hazard areas. The county is also expecting FEMA to complete a new flood insurance study for the Deschutes River basin. That will give the county a more precise flood map for the basin and improve the county's administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Comm. Willis noted that Grays Harbor County is still working with FEMA to complete the updating process for the newly digitized FEMA flood maps. 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. Comm. Willis also said that the county is working to train a staff member so that they can become a Certified Floodplain Manager.

Mark White mentioned that the Reservation has never had a detailed flood insurance study and the maps currently list the reservation as "Area Not Included." FEMA has invited the tribe to submit evidence of where we determine the flood zone is and they will review the data and update the flood maps for the Chehalis Reservation, as part of the update to the Grays Harbor County maps.

Sickman Ford/South Bank Road Project Update:

Mr. White announced the Tribe has chosen a preferred project and is talking to the state about what funding may be available to continue the design of the project.

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 April 19, 2012 at 1:30pm in the small meeting room at the Tribal Community Center.

Good of the Order: none

Adjourn: 3:35 p.m