

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday June 28, 2012

Call to order:

1:45 pm

Board Members present:

Grays Harbor County Commissioner Terry Willis – Vice Chair
Thurston County Commissioner Karen Valenzuela
Glen Connelly, Chehalis Tribe - alternate

Others present:

Alan Carr – Mayor of Bucoda
Mark Swartout – Thurston County

Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes:

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

Unfinished Business

Floodplain Roundtable:

Thurston County – Mr. Swartout told the group that Thurston County is currently updating it's Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. They will be holding public meetings in late summer / early fall and hope to have the update completed and ready for consideration by the commissioners in November. They are also in the process of updating their Critical Areas Ordinance.

Mayor Carr told the group that Bucoda was looking into the possibility of making improvements, or extending the levee that exists on the northern edge of town. They will be collecting information about the levee and potentially seeking funds to complete a hydraulic study to see how changes to the levee may further protect the town.

Grays Harbor County – Com. Willis told the group that some the county staff had attended FEMA's floodplain management trainings in Maryland and continue to work towards becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager. Com. Willis also mentioned the fact that the county updated their critical areas ordinance in 2010 and has been dealing with a lawsuit and related negotiations since then. Com. Willis said that there were two recent public meetings in the county so that the public could discuss the potential projects related to the flood project funding from the state. One was at the Sharon Grange hall and

the other at the Montesano grange hall. Com. Willis also described the potential project located near the mouth of the Satsop River.

Chehalis Tribe – Mr. Connelly announced that the tribe intends to begin construction on the culvert replacement project on South Bank Road at Harris Creek.

The group also discussed the upcoming meeting between the Tribe, the Flood Authority and the Governor’s Office in order to arrange a system or format for reviewing each other’s projects.

Sickman Ford/South Bank Road Project Update:

Mr. Connelly said that the Tribe is continuing the design and hydraulic study of the proposed project. The current design is now focused on adding a second bridge on South Bank Road, thereby allowing flood flows to pass more easily through the area, relieving the back-water effect the roadway is currently creating.

Com. Willis said she had heard some concerns from folks in Grays Harbor that are downstream of the project and asked the tribe to perform a new hydraulic study that would include the flows from Harris Creek (due to the new culverts installed there) and to remodel the project impacts so that the modeled area extends all the way to Elma, near Wakefield Road.

Mr. Connelly explained that Harris Creek was not included in the original USACE HEC-RAS model because the flows are so small. The Tribe’s consultant felt that the flows, even with the new culverts, would not have a measurable impact on flood flows and so the creek was left out of the model. Mr. Connelly also explained that the current model shows no measurable impacts after a very short distance downstream of the project, so extending the study area to Elma, would also show no measurable impact. Mr. Connelly agreed to take the request back to the Tribe for consideration.

CWC Strategic Plan:

This discussion was moved to the next CWC meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be July 26th at 1:30pm in the small meeting room at the Tribal Community Center.

Good of the Order:

none

Adjourn:

3:15 p.m