

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday February 28, 2013

Call to order: 1:30 pm

Board Members present:

Grays Harbor County Commissioner Wes Cormier – Vice Chair
Thurston County Commissioner Karen Valenzuela
Mark White Chehalis Tribe - Chair

Others Present: Glen Connelly – Chehalis Tribe

Agenda: The agenda was amended by Comm. Valenzuela, who added 2 items under New Business. The agenda was then approved by consensus.

Minutes: The minutes from the October 25, 2012 meeting and the minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

Legislative Funding: Outgoing Gov. Gregoir had recommended \$28.2 million be included in the 2013-2014 biannual budget specifically for flood related projects in the Chehalis basin. The new governor, Gov. Insley, has not made a decision on whether to accept the recommendations, but it appears that the recommendations will hold sway. We will know more over the next 2 months.

Floodplain Roundtable:

Comm. Cormier introduced himself and said he was going to participate in CWC meetings going forward.

Mr. Connelly reported that the Tribe has chosen a contractor to design and build a flood relief bridge for the tribe. The project is set to begin in March with on the ground construction to begin in May or June. The bridge will be a 250 foot concrete bridge and will be completed in late September.

Comm. Valenzuela said that she is hopeful that the \$28.2 million will be included in the budget and looks forward to working on the projects in that budget. She also would like to get another tour of the Tribe's recent flood projects, to get an "on the ground" understanding of the improvements to the flood plain.

CWC Strategic Plan: It was decided to move continued discussion of the Strategic Plan to the next CWC meeting.

New Business

Comm Valenzuela announced that Mark Swartout, her Natural Resources Manager and alternate representative for the CWC, will be retiring in June, 2013. The county is still considering whether to fill his position or shift his duties to other staff at the county.

Comm. Valenzuela wanted to discuss the future of the CWC. She felt that the Governor's Work Group was accomplishing many of the same objectives that the CWC had set out to do and believes that the CWC might consider disbanding. The group discussed that possibility and there was some agreement that the Governor's Work Group may be a better venue to accomplish the CWC's goals. It was decided to keep the cooperative operational for a while until the governor's budget is finalized, because the CWC may be able to facilitate some of the flood related projects in the budget. It was decided to cancel the March and April meetings and get together again in May to reassess the situation.

Next meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2013.

Good of the Order: none

Adjourn: 3:15 p.m