

Chehalis Watershed Cooperative Meeting

Thursday May 23, 2013

Call to order: 1:45 pm

Board Members present:

Wes Cormier - Grays Harbor County Commissioner
Karen Valenzuela - Thurston County Commissioner
Glen Connelly - Chehalis Tribe Env. Prgms. Mngr.

Others Present: Mark Swartout – Thurston County Natural Res. Prgm. Mngr.
Frank Kirsch – Grays Harbor County resident

Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 28, 2013 meeting were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

Legislative Funding: Governor Insley and the legislature have not made a decision on a budget yet, but the \$28 million set aside for flood related projects in the Chehalis Basin still looks like it will make it into the budget. The CWC's recommended project, LiDAR for the entire basin, was not included in the suggested list of projects that makes up the \$28 million.

There is an RFP issued for \$5.7 million (out of the \$28 million) to be used for studies related to a potential dam on the Chehalis River.

Sickman Ford Overflow Bridge Project Update:

Glen Connelly reported that the project is on schedule. The Tribe selected a Design-Build Team of Quigg Bros & WH Pacific and the design of the bridge is moving along. They hope to break ground the first week of June and finish the bridge by early October.

Floodplain Roundtable:

Resident Frank Kirsch stated that he has participated in some of the meetings related to the Wishkah Road Project and said so far the project is looking good and the permitting is looking like it will fall into place. Comm. Cormier agreed that the project looked like it was getting community support and would hopefully move forward. It was also noted that the 90 day comment period on Grays Harbor County's new FEMA Flood Maps had expired and FEMA and the county would be responding to the comments and moving forward with mapping process.

Mr. Connelly reported that the Tribe sent in comments to FEMA regarding the Grays Harbor Flood Maps and hopes to see some improved maps for the Chehalis Reservation, which has never been fully mapped by FEMA.

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. Comm. Valenzuela also reported that after a recent flood meeting, the Satsop River Project was reportedly in a state of flux. The original project description may not achieve the stated goals of the project. Further study is needed before the project can move forward.

New Business

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 agreement that the Governor's Work Group may be a better venue to accomplish the CWC's goals. It was also noted that the CWC had not received any funding from the state and that the recommended project for this year's state budget was not included in the \$28 funding package.

It was decided, by consensus, to dissolve the CWC. All three members agreed to keep open lines of communication and share flood related information as they continue their individual efforts to reduce flood damages and improve the flood plain of the Chehalis River.

Good of the Order: none

Adjourn: 3:30 p.m