



10:00 AM Virtual Meeting

January 18, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Flood Authority Members Present			
Representative	Jurisdiction	Representative	Jurisdiction
Edna Fund	Lewis County	Ron Averill	Centralia
Brian Shay	Hoquiam	Darrin Raines	Cosmopolis
Steven Lyle	Bucoda	Mike Olden	Montesano
Tony Ketchum	Chehalis	Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor County
J Vander Stoep (alt.)	Pe Ell	Rick Sangder	Aberdeen

Flood Authority Members Absent			
Duane Crouse	Napavine	Tye Menser	Thurston County
Richard Armstrong	Oakville		

Staff Members Present			
Scott Boettcher	Erika Britney	Cheryl Vincent	Katie Johnson
Katrina Sukola	Sarah Hensley		

Others Present			
Peter Regan	Celeste Wilder	Kat Dickey	Matt Dillin, CFZCD
Rick Sangder	Cherie Devore		

Meeting Materials:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#January%202024

1. Call to Order

Vickie Raines, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04am. Vickie announced that she needed to leave for another meeting at 10:30, at which time Edna Fund, Vice-Chair, would take over the meeting.

2. Determination of Quorum

Ten Flood Authority members were present, there was a quorum.

3. Approval of January 18, 2024, Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the January 18, 2024 meeting.

4. Approval of November 16, 2023, Meeting Notes

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes from November 16, 2023. The meeting notes were approved.

5. Approval of 2024 Flood Authority Positions

Erika presented the nominations for the Flood Authority Chair and Vice-Chair. The same positions remain for the new year with Vickie as Chair and Edna as Vice-Chair. Members approved the nominations.

6. Update:

A. Flood Authority Staff Directory (2024)

Erika presented a document that outlines each member and their role in Flood Authority, along with the main points of contact.

B. Administrative Logistics: Zoom vs. Teams, Email List

Erika presented that there is an option to transition to Teams instead of Zoom. As of now, there are no members that have an issue with this transition.

Erika presented the option to use Mail Chimp for sending the Flood Authority email updates. This would ensure there would be no communications error as any Lewis County staff member that has access can send notifications. The messages would look a little different than the normal emails.

7. Current Local Project Funding Adjustments

Scott shared that we have done ~135 projects. Funds are being committed to the Aberdeen Pump Station and S.F. Chehalis Boistfort CMZ but are not being fully utilized. These funds could be better used if they were reallocated to more immediate and pressing project needs since they are not ready to use the full amount of their funding.

Ron Averill shared that he spoke with Josh Metcalf, and he is supportive of reallocating funding for the S.F. Chehalis Boistfort CMZ project. Replacing the Skookumchuck Reservoir gage is a logical option for that funding.

Rick Sangder shared that Aberdeen doesn't have the full \$10 million funding to purchase a new pump and does not want any equipment sitting idle until they do. There is the option to repurpose the budget to go towards: (1) Aberdeen's portion of the Stormwater Comprehensive plans; (2) final "shovel ready" designs for their pump stations; and (3) purchase of a portable back-up generator.

Flood Authority approved the staff recommendation regarding funding adjustments presented here https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Staff%20Memo%20--%20Local%20Project%20Funding%20Adjustments%201-17-2024.pdf.

8. Future Projects List - collecting input

Erika sent an email to members with a list of future projects at the beginning of 2024. Erika will share this living document with the members for their input on any new projects that need to be added for the year. Erika would like comments and responses by January 26th, 2024.

9. Flood Authority Local Projects - Planning and Prioritization- Presentation for delivery to CBB

Erika shared a presentation on the process for identifying and prioritizing local projects. Flood Authority's priority is to protect from flooding, storm surges, and mitigate flood hazards. Flood Authority asks for input from other organizations to ensure projects are chosen responsibly.

See https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/meetings.aspx#January%202024 for full presentation.

J. Vander Stoep suggested adding the members of the Flood Authority to the first slide of the presentation and said adding a map of the jurisdictions would be helpful too. He also mentioned that the basic points of who the group is, its successes, standards these projects are weighed against, and the Flood Authority's future plans are the most important to mention.

Edna shared that the Flood Authority is closest to basin communities and is very integrated with what the communities need.

10. Flood Warning System Updates

Scott shared a Staff Memo with the group outlining his updates. He shared they set a goal of 3,500 sign-ups for the warning system in 2023. We have exceeded that goal and have set a new goal of 4,000 sign-ups for 2024. Erika shared that social media was the biggest contributor to providing awareness to citizens and new members.

The Skookumchuck reservoir gage has reporting problems and TransAlta is on board with the Flood Authority installing a new gage there.

The current China Creek gage also had some reporting problems. It has been fixed and will now transmit and record every 15 minutes instead of 50-60 minutes. Local governments pay for the maintenance of this system. It is for the communities they serve, and they and the Flood Authority will work continuously to cater and ensure the system meets all community needs.

The Grand Mound USGS gage was freezing and reporting inaccurately. Scott has not heard if this was resolved.

11. Local Investment Planning - Chehalis

Celeste Wilder gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Flood Strategy and Investment Plan. In the area of the old Wastewater Treatment Plant, there was no evidence of a flood

water reduction and there were no cost-effective solutions reached. See full presentation here https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Comprehensive%20Flood%20Strategy%20and%20Investment%20Plan%20Presentation%20Final%20011724.pdf.

12. Chehalis Basin Board

Edna shared on behalf of Jay Gordon that there was a discussion of the Department of Ecology taking over for what RCO was doing (contract management/administration). Erika added that the transition would be easier if we could finish and close as many current local projects as we can beforehand and to be adaptable to the new change when it comes.

13. Public Comment.

There were no members of the public who wished to comment.

14. Financial Report(s)

Sarah Hensley from Lewis County Community Development reported expenditures for the months of November and December. All payment of claims via warrants issued by the Lewis County Auditor's Office are entered into Board of County Commissioners' meeting minutes in compliance with the Washington State Auditors, Office Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting system manual requirements.

- Expenditures for November were \$8,513.17 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting services for SBGH.
- Expenditures for December were \$18,391.35 for salaries and wages (Lewis County Staff) and consulting services for SBGH and West Consulting for Professional Service.

Items to Note:

During the month of November, Lewis County went before the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

- Resolution 23-368 Approve Twenty-Sixth Supplement to Personal Services Agreement between Lewis County, acting as the Fiscal Agent for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, and West Consultants, Inc. not to exceed \$117,211.00.
- Resolution 23-369 Approval of Amendment No. One (1) to amend Project #23-1297 and increase funds by \$12,104.31 not to exceed \$236,104.31.

15. Reports

A. Chair Report

Chair Vickie Raines does not have any specifics to report at this time

B. Member Report

Steve Lyle looks forward to West completing their modeling work on the Skookumchuck and the new gage at the Reservoir. Ron Averil shared these updates will be helpful to his community as well.

C. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

16. Confirm Next Regular Meetings, Topics, and Location

The next meeting will occur March 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM as a virtual meeting.

- New Investment Planning update at the next meeting.
- Send any new agenda items for the next meeting to Erika.
- Edna requested an update on the water retention facility.

Adjournment was at 11:16am.