

**Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes**

**Lewis County Commissioners Hearing Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Historic Courthouse  
351 NW North St  
Chehalis WA 98532**

**Meeting Date: July 22, 2020**

**Meeting Time: 2:30 pm**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Supervisor Fund at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Those in attendance were:

Edna J. Fund	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor
Robert Jackson	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor (teleconference)
Gary Stamper	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Supervisor
Erik Martin	Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Administrator
Amber Smith	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Attorney (teleconference)
Lara McRea	Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Bill Brumsickle	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member
Frank Corbin	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member
Josh Metcalf	Lewis County Public Works Director
Lou Desmond	Desmond & Louis, Inc.
Nicole Desmond	Desmond & Louis, Inc.
Betsy Dillin	Engineer, Lewis County
Jim Waldo	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Consultant
Sarah Kohout	Senator Cantwell's Office
Rona Spellacey	HDR Engineer

**II. Verification of a Quorum**

There is a quorum of three district supervisors.

**III. Introductions**

No introductions.

**IV. Approval of minutes for June 24, 2020**

Supervisor Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020. Supervisor Stamper seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

**V. Public Comment**

No comments.



There is a lot of mitigation work that will need to be done for those impacts if the project moves forward. Potentially with the project and mitigation there is a chance this would turn out better than doing nothing. This is also without the aquatic species restoration plan. This would further benefit the fish. Erik discussed the seismic impact that DOE put in the EIS and discussed how far reaching it is.

DOE also assumed that any debris removal that needed to take place for the project would be burned.

Discussion was held regarding Weyerhaeuser's involvement in the project.

Betsy noted the next milestone is submitting the permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers. This will include several work products to include the vegetation management plan, the biological assessment and the mitigation opportunities report. The final mitigation opportunities reports was submitted to the district today by the districts consultant. She noted the district would like to take another look at it and it should be ready to share with the Office of the Chehalis Basin and other stakeholders. There is ample opportunity for mitigation as the district thought and feels this is a good work product.

Erik said the permit applications are required for NEPA process and the Army Corps plans to have a draft EIS out the week of September 20.

Betsy said this application will be submitted about 2 weeks before the Army Corps releases the EIS.

Erik noted the Army Corps has been very engaging in this process and they are very interested in the district's thoughts and opinions.

Further discussion was held about the SEPA and NEPA process.

#### **VIII. Communications-Lou Desmond**

Erik introduced Lou and Nicole Desmond who are working on a communications plan for the district.

Lou noted they operate a communications firm and political campaign firm and public relations lobbying out of Southern California for about 2 decades. Several years ago they purchases a home in Winlock and decided to move here permanently. They now operate their business out of their Winlock home. They still have an office and a few employees in Southern California.

He noted this will be a public outreach and public education campaign. The goal is to make sure the public fully understands the project. There are many misconceptions out there that are hurting the project as many people don't really understand it.

Their job is to get the facts out in the most understanding way. They will be using media, local news, television, radio, social media and email communications.

Lou noted they have met the other consultants that are working on various parts of the project.

Supervisor Fund discussed an individual who contacted her questioning this contract as they felt it was all public relations and not education.

Lou noted they are a consultant for the project to educate and not advocate. Their role is to educate and inform the public.

Supervisor Fund also noted the individual was concerned the district hired a firm from Southern California and didn't hire local.

Erik noted this is public money and the district went through a competitive process and it was put out to bid and asked for proposals. The Desmond's were chosen through this process and are a local company even though they also still have an office in another state

Lou further discussed the media side of the communication plan.



**IX. Announcements**

Supervisor Fund noted there was a recent Flood Authority meeting and local project proposals were received. There were two projects that were put forward from Lewis County and LC Public Works. Boistfort Road Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment \$50k. Chehalis Industrial Park Storm water Management Project \$1.7 million. The total for all projects is a little over \$9 million.

**X. Adjournment**

Supervisor Jackson made a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Stamper seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lara McRea  
Interim Clerk