

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

**Lewis County Commissioners Meeting Room
2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse
351 NW North St
Chehalis WA 98532**

Meeting Date: May 6, 2019

Meeting Time: 2:00 pm

I. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order by Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Supervisor Edna Fund at 2:03 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019. Those in attendance were:

Edna J. Fund	Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Supervisor
Gary Stamper	Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Supervisor
Erik Martin	Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District Administrator
Lara McRea	Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Betsy Dillin	Senior Engineer, Lewis County Public Works
Dan Maughan	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member
Bill Brumsickle	Chehalis River Basin FCZD Advisory Committee Member
Dr. Lindsey Pollock	Citizen
Amber Caulfield	Civil DPA, Lewis County Prosecutor
Jim Waldo	Attorney, Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell LLC
Alex Brown	Chronicle Reporter

II. Verification of a Quorum

There is a quorum of two district supervisors. Supervisor Jackson is absent.

III. Introductions

Introductions were made.

IV. Public Comment

No public comments.

V. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) purpose and need statements

Erik reported that the district has been working diligently with the Army Corps of Engineers over the past several months by sending information and answering questions in preparation for the Corps to start looking at alternative options to the proposed dam as part of the environmental review. The Corps has spent many months analyzing the original purpose and need statement that was submitted by the district. At this stage the Army Corps is ready to accept an amended purpose, need and project description statement with a few proposed language changes.

Jim recapped the NEPA timeline and said the Army Corps had sent the project need purpose and description statement to the district reps last Wednesday for review. The document is a combination of information and data the district has sent to the Army Corps over the past several months. Jim, Betsy and John reviewed the document and made a few changes. He noted that representatives from the Army Corps came to the county last Thursday for a meeting. They reviewed the suggested changes and accepted them.

Jim said the district will not know what the NEPA alternatives are until the draft EIS becomes available. In looking at alternatives the district wants the document to be robust to withstand a legal challenge.

Jim and Erik reviewed the map that was noted as the flood damage reduction target area to which the dam would have the greatest effect.

Erik said the Army Corps will begin the alternatives analysis tomorrow once the language has been sent.

The district reps had a side bar conversation and discussed expanding the target area. Erik said doing so would probably exclude most other alternatives which is not good due to legal defensibility.

Jim said that the proposed facility is above Pe Ell which will benefit up river communities even if they are not shown on in the target area.

Erik spoke to Supervisor Jackson last Friday and sent him the documents for review. Supervisor Jackson had a concern that there may be an inference that this is the only alternative the district has considered. He also wanted to make sure that the additional communities affected are addressed.

Erik assured that the project still does benefit the Doty Dryad and Pe Ell areas. A huge portion of the monetary damage in blue area.

Betsy gave an overview of the project need, purpose and description document. She also noted the document has very specific metrics which will help the Army Corps decide on alternatives. One of the metrics is to remove about 635 structures of value from flooding risk during a 100-year flood. Language will be added that discusses the project benefits upstream and downstream.

Erik read the language that will be added to the document:

Within the target area shown on Figure 4, flood levels and flooding duration at properties within the 100 year flood boundary will be reduced. However, quantifying the amount of this benefit in a consistent manner would be difficult and site specific due to individual property's location, elevation, and interaction with the river, which is why it has not been included as a specific metric in the project purpose and need. Regardless, this benefit is demonstrable based on past flood damage assessments and is of critical importance to the Applicant.

The project will also lead to positive results in the area outside the defined target area shown in Figure 4. The area on the Chehalis River extending upstream of the Adna area to the proposed flood facility location will also experience a reduction in 100 year flood levels and duration. This will have a positive impact and be of benefit to properties and infrastructure adjacent to the river including reducing the risk of bridge damage during a major flood.

Discussion was held regarding the two bridges that were washed out in the 2007 flood which speaks to unpredictability of floods.

Betsy said there will be project benefits upstream and some downstream of the targeted area which are important to the district.

Jim noted that Betsy's changes will be incorporated into the document if the supervisors approve the language.

Erik said the Army Corps put the district's information, thoughts and words into a final draft document and the district will send the document back to the Army Corps as their own submitted work.

Jim said the Army Corps did an accurate job of incorporating the information the district sent them previously into this final draft document.

Supervisor Stamper made a motion to authorize the district administrator to move forward the proposed purpose, need and project description document as outlined to the Army Corps of Engineers. Supervisor Fund seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Erik noted that the Army Corps can now proceed with work on alternatives.

Erik applauded the efforts of Jim Waldo and John Robinson and noted having them on board has been very beneficial.

Jim discussed the work John has been doing for the district.

Jim described the dam's structure and the importance of telling our story.

Jim said that districts representatives met last week with the Chehalis and Quinault tribes at the Chehalis Trial Community Center. HDR did a presentation on the conceptual design of the dam. He has heard from a few participants and they felt that it was good interaction and discussion. He noted there are a few follow up questions the district will respond too which will allow them to make a good informed decision.

VI. Good of the Order

Betsy noted she has met with John a few times and he has already shown his value to the district. Once the scope is finalized Betsy said she could start to work on some visuals of the dam.

Erik said that Ed Zapel from HDR had suggested that the district visit Mudd Mountain which is located on the White River in Pierce County. This dam runs very similar to the districts proposed dam. Lara will look into a group tour.

Erik discussed the extra staff person the Army Corps is hiring to help expedite the review.

Erik said there is a tentative approval of budgetary ask. He said Ken Ghalambor is asking for a more refined scope of work but the funds are there. Erik thanked the Office of the Chehalis Basin and the legislature for their efforts on funding.

VII. Adjournment

Supervisor Stamper made a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Fund seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lara McRea
Interim Clerk, Board of Supervisors