

# memorandum

date April 8, 2010  
to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
from ESA Adolfson  
subject Public Meetings

Public meetings on the Flood Plan were held April 5 in Rochester, April 6 in Montesano, and April 7 in Chehalis. ESA Adolfson will prepare a full report on the three meetings that will include detailed notes on comments made. That report will be delivered to the Flood Authority in May. This memo briefly summarizes each meeting and major comments made by citizens. All comments will be included in the full report and in an appendix to the Flood Plan. The Flood Plan will be revised to incorporate appropriate comments.

## **Rochester – April 5**

Approximately 40 people, 15 of whom were elected officials or staff, attended the April 5 public meeting in Rochester. Though a wide range of comments were made, several comments were brought up by multiple citizens, including:

- Reforestation and improved forestry regulations should be considered by the Flood Authority.
- Upstream jurisdictions should stop building in the floodplain.
- Downstream impacts of the Twin Cities project need to be communicated to citizens and mitigated.
- Projects upstream, such as opening up the Mellen Street interchange or other choke points, need to consider downstream impacts and avoid sending water downstream more quickly.

## **Montesano – April 6**

Approximately 40 people, 16 of whom were elected officials or staff, attended the April 6 public meeting in Montesano. As in Rochester, a wide range of comments were made, though several comments were brought up by multiple citizens, including:

- The plan should address upper watershed forest practices. Logging rotations should be longer.
- Upstream jurisdictions should stop building in the floodplain.
- Upstream storage dams are a bad idea and the feasibility reports done so far are inadequate and flawed.
- There are concerns about levees and how they would affect downstream areas.
- There is confusion about the different entities involved, the different projects proposed, and who is doing what.
- There is need to thoroughly study proposed actions and their impacts, particularly environmental impacts and flooding impacts downstream.
- There is concern that this is just another plan and nothing will happen.

## **Chehalis – April 7**

Approximately 75 people, 27 of whom were elected officials or staff, attended the April 7 public meeting in Chehalis. Again, a wide range of comments were made, though several comments were brought up by multiple citizens, including:

- There was support for the proposed upstream storage facilities being studied by Lewis County PUD.
- Flood control and reduction of flood water is needed.
- Lewis County jurisdictions should stop building in the floodplain.
- Lewis County jurisdictions don't build in the floodplain often; most development along I-5 in Chehalis is behind the Airport levee.
- Cleaning out the river would decrease flood risk.
- There are concerns about how logging practices impact landslides during a flood event.