



**Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Flood District Formation
Thurston County Public Meeting
Swede Hall, Rochester
October 14, 2010**

**Draft Meeting Summary Report
October 19, 2010**

**Prepared by:
Norton-Arnold & Company**

Introduction

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority is holding three public meetings – one each in Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston Counties – to provide information about and receive public input on the potential formation of a flood district to address flooding problems in the Chehalis River Basin, which includes parts of the three counties. All meetings are being held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. and consist of an open house from 5:30 to 6 p.m., a presentation from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., and a public comment period from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Meeting dates, locations, and times are:

- Thursday, October 14 at Swede Hall (18543 Albany Street SW) in Rochester
- Monday, October 18 at City Hall (112 N. Main Street) in Montesano
- Thursday, October 28 at the Centralia Middle School (901 Johnson Road) in Centralia

This report summarizes the results of the Thurston County meeting. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting. The Flood Authority was represented by the following members: Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner; Edna Fund, Centralia City Council; Julie Balmelli-Powe, City of Chehalis; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Mark White, Chehalis Tribe; and Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County Commissioner. The meeting was staffed by consultants from the consultant team hired by the Flood Authority to assist with district formation, and included: Pam Bissonnette and John Ghilarducci from FCS Group; and Chris Hoffman and Fala Frazier from Norton-Arnold & Company. Bruce Mackey and Spencer Easton, Flood Authority staff; and Mark Swartout, Thurston County Natural Resources Program Manager, also attended the meeting.

Presentation

Chris Hoffman began the presentation by welcoming all participants and giving a brief introduction of Flood Authority members and consultant staff. He indicated that the flood district formation process is about creating a new organization to address flooding problems in a comprehensive and cooperative manner on a multi-county basis. He also said that it was important for the Flood Authority to hear from the public on the proposed district, and welcomed participants to fill out comment forms, which were provided at the sign-in table. A copy of the comment form is provided in Appendix A of this report. Chris then turned over the presentation to Pam and John who spent approximately a half an hour covering a range of topics, including:

- Flooding issues
- Actions being undertaken by the Flood Authority
- The district formation process and options for district types
- The role of a flood district
- A description of developing district boundaries and governance structure
- The benefits of forming a flood district
- Ways to stay involved in the formation process

A copy of the presentation is provided in Appendix B of this report.

Question and Comment Period

After the presentation Chris opened up the floor for questions and comments from meeting participants. A complete transcript of the questions and comments, as well as the responses to them, is provided in Appendix C of this report. In summary, the questions and comments followed a number of common themes including:

Paying for flood control projects outside of Thurston County. In general, participants said that they don't want to pay to address problems if they are not contributing to them. Specifically, many participants said that Thurston County should not have to help pay for the large dam and levee projects currently being considered in Lewis County. They said that these projects will not benefit Thurston County and that Lewis County is looking for ways to spread the cost of these projects. They also said that some of the flood damage experienced in Lewis County is a result of the County allowing development in the flood plain and that Thurston County should not contribute to addressing problems that are a result of Lewis County land use decisions.

Voting on district formation. Many participants felt that there should be a public vote on flood district formation, specifically because the district will have taxing authority. They were also concerned that cities and towns would not have representation on the flood district, and some suggested that Thurston County should form its own district rather than participate in a multi-county district. On a related topic, participants said they wanted to know more about the projects before a district was formed, to know what they are getting before they are asked to help pay, and whether or not there would be a vote on the list of projects.

Flood district boundaries. Participants had a number of questions about the flood district boundary—how it was developed and how it will be approved. It was explained that the boundary roughly follows the watershed boundary and that the Boundary Review Board for each county reviews and holds public hearings on the proposed boundary. Participants were generally concerned that those within the boundary should benefit from flood reduction projects and programs.

Public meeting notification. Participants made a number of comments about the notification done for the public meetings and said that the mailing that was done to the approximately 3,000 addresses within the flood plain was not enough. They said that it was especially important for people to know about this process because they might be asked to pay taxes or rates to help pay for projects. They suggested that school reader boards, radio and newspaper advertising, and a larger mailing should be used to notify the public.

Impacts of dams and levees. Participants were concerned about the cost and environmental impacts of large scale infrastructure projects. One specific concern was that a new dam on the upper Chehalis or South Fork could affect the Chehalis River system, which has healthy fish stocks and good salmon habitat. It was also noted that the cost of the project would be extremely high and would place a large burden on those within the district.

Appendices

Appendix A - Comment Form

Appendix B – Meeting Presentation

Appendix C - Transcript of the Questions and Comments

Appendix A - Comment Form

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Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
c/o Norton-Arnold & Company
1932 First Avenue, Suite 802
Seattle, WA 98101

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Appendix B – Meeting Presentation



Chehalis River Basin Flood Entity Formation Public Meeting

Swede Hall, Rochester – October 14, 2010

Meeting Goals

- ▶ Present information and answer questions on forming a multi-county flood district in the Chehalis River Basin
- ▶ Outline formation process and schedule
- ▶ Discuss next steps
- ▶ Receive your input on formation process

The Issues

- ▶ Repeated major flooding in the Chehalis Basin including Lewis, Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties
- ▶ Multiple federally declared disasters
- ▶ Millions of dollars of damages
- ▶ Disruption of lives and commerce
- ▶ Closures of I-5 and State highways
- ▶ No single county can solve this problem alone

2007 Thurston County Flood Damages

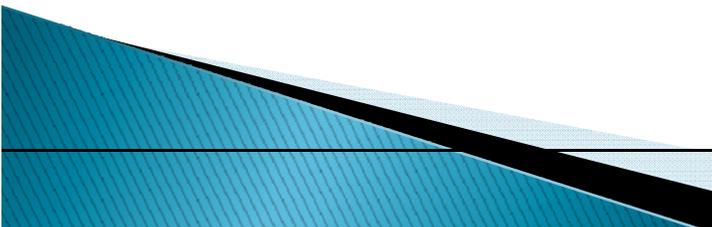
2007 December Flooding

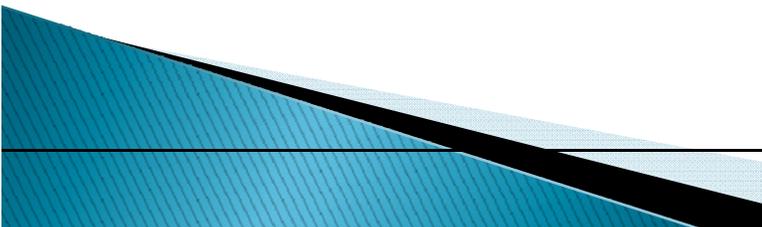
- ▶ Damage reporting from homeowners: \$13,461,820
- ▶ Damage reporting from businesses: \$2,027,904
- ▶ Damage reporting from local public agencies: \$4,559,483
- ▶ Initial damage reports: conservative estimate

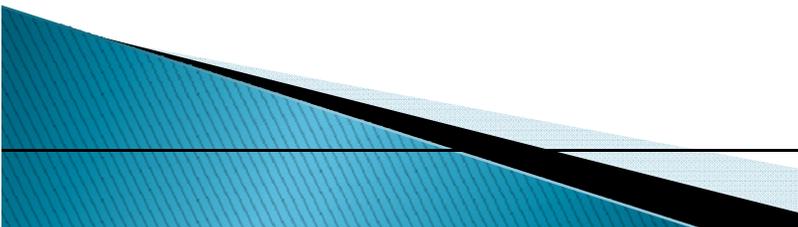
2009 Thurston County Flood Damages

2009 January Flooding

- ▶ Damage reporting from homeowners: \$1,612,653
- ▶ Damage reporting from businesses: \$58,926
- ▶ Damage reporting from local public agencies: \$2,508,716
- ▶ Initial damage reports: conservative estimate

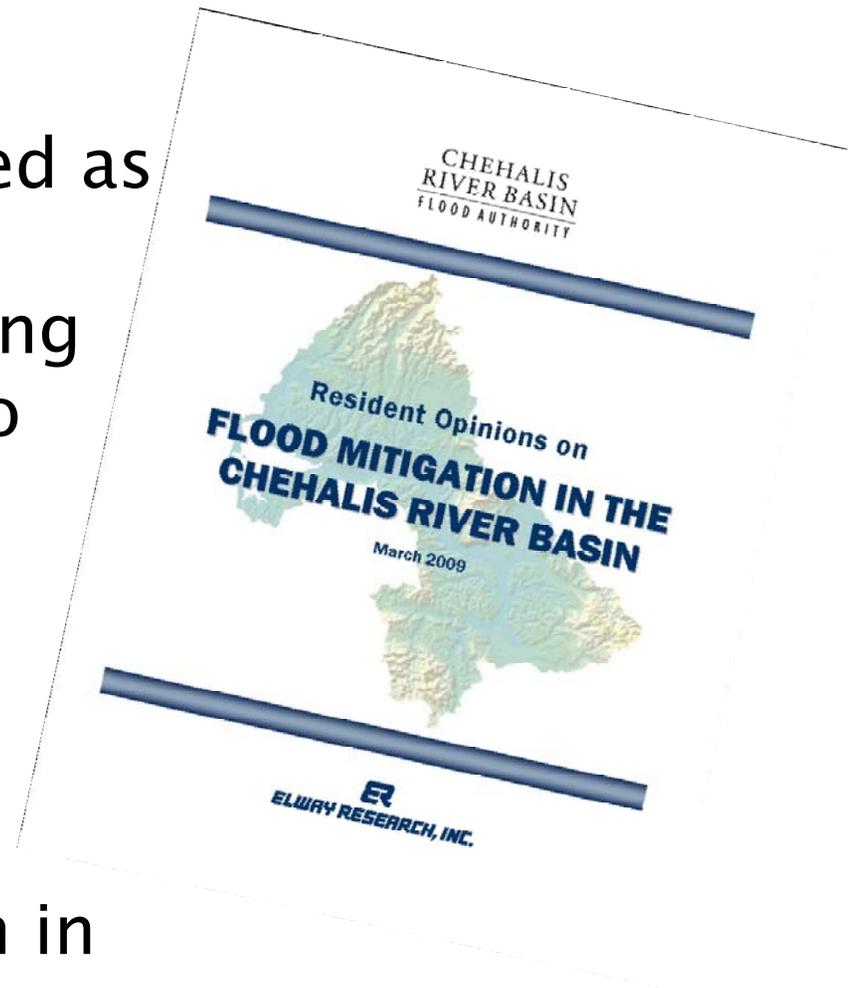






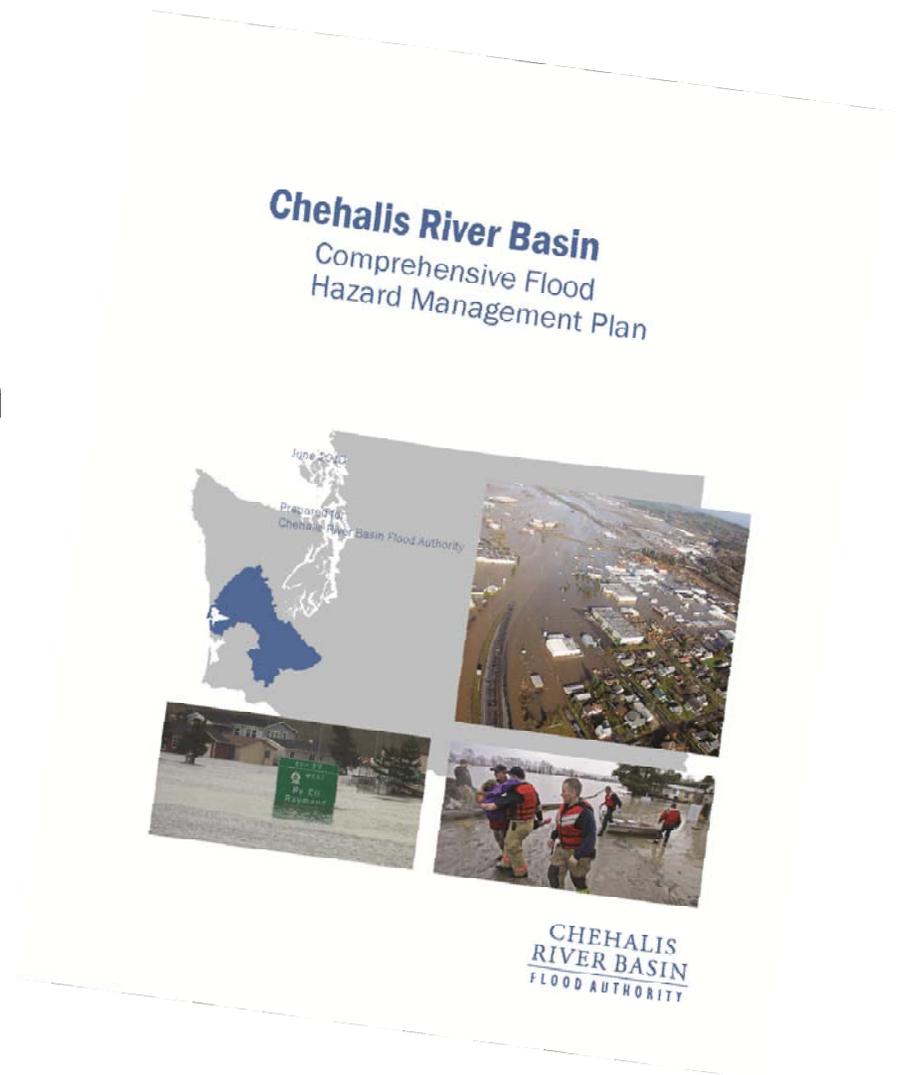
Actions to Date

- ▶ The Flood Authority formed as a temporary entity by Interlocal Agreement among 11 jurisdictions in 2008 to address flood issues throughout the basin
- ▶ Held public meetings in February and April 2009
- ▶ Conducted a basin-wide survey on flood mitigation in March 2009



Actions to Date

- ▶ The Flood Authority completed the flood hazard mitigation plan in June 2010
- ▶ State legislation awarded \$2.5 million to the Flood Authority in anticipation that a basin-wide flood district be formed as soon as possible



Actions to Date

- ▶ Current state budget legislation created a deadline of June 2011 to form a flood district
- ▶ The FA provisionally selected a multi-county flood entity structure be formed by interlocal agreement of the members as an interim structure, by June 2011 deadline

District Formation Process: Next Steps

- ▶ Legislation to amend state law to authorize creation of multi-county Flood Control Zone District (FCZD)
- ▶ Interim multi-county flood entity formed by interlocal agreement could be replaced by a FCZD
- ▶ County Commissioners (BoCC) decision of *intent* to form FCZD & set boundaries
[December 2010]

District Formation Process: Next Steps

- ▶ Public meetings on boundaries and tax/charge/assessments [March 2011]
- ▶ Boundary Review Board (BRB) decision [March 2011]
- ▶ Establish FCZD following BRB process [June 2011]
 - BoCC initial Board of Supervisors (later may be elected)
- ▶ Determine tax/charge/assessments as means to raise revenues [fall 2011 or later]

Thurston County Options

- ▶ Expand existing Drainage Utility and amend rates for the Chehalis River Basin

or

- ▶ Form a new FCZD for the Chehalis River Basin

or

- ▶ Form a new FCZD for all Thurston County for potential future application to other river basins in addition to the Chehalis Basin

What is a Flood Control Zone District?

- ▶ District formed by vote of Board of County Commissioners, who also set the boundary
- ▶ District Board of Supervisors is the Board of County Commissioners, or can be separately elected after formation
- ▶ Has tax/charge/assessment authority
- ▶ Has broad authority for services
- ▶ Can issue voted general obligation and non-voted revenue bonds

Role of Multi-County FCZD

- ▶ Develop flood projects
- ▶ Develop Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan/Updates
- ▶ Determine funding level and agree on allocations to members
- ▶ Undertake or contract with others to do projects/programs
- ▶ May issue bonds depending on structure

Why A Multi-County FCZD?

- ▶ A Multi-County FCZD provides for a regional, coordinated, and cooperative approach to addressing flooding problems.
- ▶ A Multi-County FCZD can raise revenues for flood purposes through taxes, charges and/or assessments.
- ▶ A Multi-County FCZD can require both incorporated and unincorporated areas [excluding tribal lands] within the County be included in the boundary by decision of the Board of County Commissioners.

Economic Analysis

- ▶ The FA has commissioned an economic analysis
- ▶ The economic impacts of flood damage, disruption to lives and commerce, and flood insurance costs will be documented
- ▶ Analysis will underscore importance of reducing flood impacts within the Chehalis River Basin to the economies of the region and state



District Boundaries

- ▶ May include territory within two or more counties
- ▶ Must generally follow boundaries of watershed area
- ▶ May include tribal reservation land located within watershed area with tribal approval.
- ▶ May not overlap other FCZD boundaries if they exist



CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD DISTRICT FORMATION

Upper Chehalis, Lower Chehalis, and Grays Harbor Subbasins

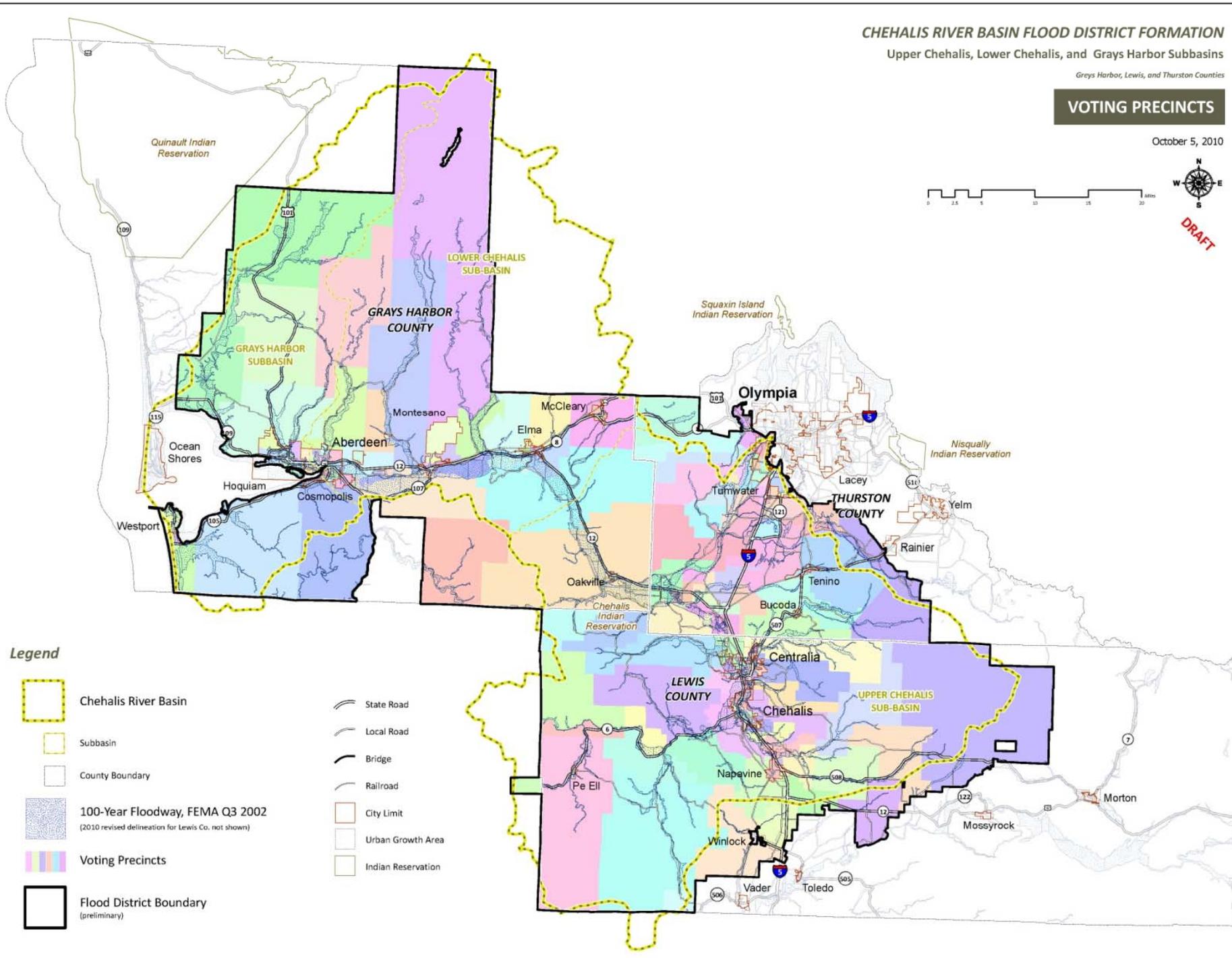
Greys Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston Counties

VOTING PRECINCTS

October 5, 2010



DRAFT



Legend

- Chehalis River Basin
- Subbasin
- County Boundary
- 100-Year Floodway, FEMA Q3 2002
(2010 revised delineation for Lewis Co. not shown)
- Voting Precincts
- Flood District Boundary
(preliminary)

- State Road
- Local Road
- Bridge
- Railroad
- City Limit
- Urban Growth Area
- Indian Reservation

Governance

- ▶ Initially will be the BoCC of each County
- ▶ Decisions made collectively based on an interlocal agreement among members (assumed to be Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston counties/cities, and the Chehalis Tribe)
- ▶ After formation, decision-makers can be directly elected

Benefits

- ▶ Provides additional ability to directly address longstanding flooding issues
- ▶ Provides ability to comprehensively address Chehalis Basin flooding which the individual jurisdictions cannot do alone
- ▶ Provides funding to match federal & state sources to do projects / programs



Public Meetings

- ▶ Public meetings will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on:
- ▶ Thursday, October 14 at Swede Hall in Rochester*
- ▶ Monday, October 18 at City Hall in Montesano*
- ▶ Thursday, October 28 at the Centralia Middle School in Centralia*
- ▶ *Presentation at 6 p.m. each night

Other Ways to Stay Involved

- ▶ Attend Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority meetings
 - Held 3rd Thursday of each month – check Lewis County web site for details
- ▶ Check BoCC calendar for each County for public hearings and meetings regarding FCZD formation
- ▶ For more information and all Flood Authority documents, go to <http://lewiscountywa.gov/communitydevelopment/chehalis-river-basin-flood-authority>
- ▶ Email info@chehalisriverbasin.org with questions or comments

Appendix C - Transcript of the Questions and Comments

Chehalis River Basin Flood District Formation

Public Meeting #1

Rochester, WA

October 14, 2010

Questions and Comments from the Public

Q: I can see a heck of a battle over this. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) can vote to create this flood district. The city representatives won't have a vote in there. There's going to be a war. The county vs. city has already happened. Thought this was going to be a vote of the people. I don't think County Commissioners should override the municipalities. Where's the money going to be coming from?

A: The statute does allow for the BOCC to put this out for election. There is the ability in the interlocal agreement for counties to include cities on the board. There doesn't have to be exclusions.

Q: We have the board – we don't need to go any further. The projects are going to cost \$300 million.

A: We haven't been told a cost yet. The State is involved/invested in this, and they have already put \$2.5 million into this effort. We're not anticipating all money coming from the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD), some money will come from the State. There's nothing to stop the BOCC from putting this out to a vote.

Comment: I don't think the BOCC is going to do that. I want to see this whole thing go to the citizens.

Q: We have a Flood Authority now – what's the difference?

A: The Flood Authority can't levy funds. The new group will make decisions on the future plans, projects, protections levels, how much it will cost, and then make decisions on how to raise the money.

Q: Aren't the two in conflict?

A: No, the current Flood Authority is a temporary entity put in place to form the district. They will dissolve after that.

Q: Do all three counties have to participate? Or can two decide to participate and can two form the final district.

A: There's nothing compelling any County to be a part of this. There are actually 8 counties with a stake in this – the three largest are Grays Harbor, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. The compelling reason to come together is that no one county can fix the flooding.

A: Any single county can form a flood control district. The new legislation that is being generated out of the flood authority is to allow two or more counties to form a district.

A: It would also allow for other counties to join later who are also part of the basin.

Comment: When headwater starts in the river it's going to make it to the mouth. We could have one county trying to fix things but they could pass problems down the river. We want to get together to solve problems that don't pass on other problems to others. The Twin Cities project on the Skookumchuk dam – the dam is actually in Thurston County. Water comes into the dam past the choke point. We're trying to work together to coordinate these things and find a solution that works for everyone. If the two were Lewis and Grays Harbor in the district – that leaves Thurston in the middle. We're aiming toward a cooperative agreement between all three counties.

Q: I don't like to see the forming of this body as a taxing authority before we see what we're buying. If you're not talking about projects then how are you going to sell this?

A: Forming the district doesn't raise any money at all. It makes a decision-making authority that can make a plan, and then figure out what it will take to do all the projects.

Q: Why didn't the current group do all this?

A: They were formed by an interlocal agreement aimed to form the entity.

A: The flood authority has been working – we haven't been doing nothing. Getting approval takes a long time. First objective was to improve the one dam so we didn't have another flood sneak up on us. We are working on a project to improve the early warning system – emergency operation centers with computers to help predict when and where problems are going to occur to get first responders out to people. The Twin Cities project isn't scheduled to start until 2016 - if it goes at all - which it might not. It is scheduled to finish in 2020. We will have flooding before that. We've been doing studies on other things that can be done in local cities. The Flood Authority has compiled a list of about 126 smaller projects and some other large projects. The partnership – Chehalis River Partnership has been working on ecosystem projects. We have started projects.

Comment: This organization has been in place a couple of years – the Flood Authority (FA) – but last night was first I had heard about it. I might be potentially in a new taxing district. That alarmed me. Second, we all recognize water runs downhill. Chehalis River has been flooding for the last century. County Commissioners have allowed development in the flood plain, I'm not happy to have to pay taxes to fix damages from those who built in the flood zone. It would be like asking me in Lewis County to pay for sewer in Tumwater – as I sit on my septic system. Black River drainage goes up past Black Lake with valuable homes that could contribute substantially to a district. They are on a tributary that contributes a marginal amount of water to the problem. Asking them to pay seems like an opportunity a Commissioner couldn't pass up.

Q: Does the district boundary have to follow the boundary of the basin or can they change it?

A: They have to follow it discretionally. This is the first time anyone has seen this map. We went conservative – big – the area of Black Lake if we could get some hydro data from that area – there's some question on how much if at all it flows into the basin. We wanted to draw the boundary larger to get people involved so we can get it right. We wanted to get people who contributed and those who benefit.

Q: It seems like Seattle would benefit from not having I-5 flood. Do the Commissioners have the authority to identify boundaries other than the basin?

A: If there is a reasonable basis.

Q: Who decides what is reasonable?

A: The statute – this has to go to the Boundary Review Board (BRB). After the BOCC makes their decisions then it goes to the BRB. The Boundary Review Board (each county has one) is also used for annexations – if anyone objects to an annexation they go to the BRB. With FCZD it goes to the same process:

- BOCC adopts Notice of Intent
- Notice of Intent goes to BRB
- Anyone can object
- It goes through a public hearing process

The BRB has 5 members – 2 from government – 1 city – 1 special district – 1 county. Anyone can petition to be on the BRB.

Q: Does the BRB apply to any boundary in that county?

A: Yes – by county.

Q: How will this work for this joint effort?

A: The first step is an interlocal agreement – Lewis County already has a Flood Control Zone District so they can sign the agreement, Thurston can also sign since they have a stormwater utility, Grays Harbor would have to create a stormwater utility or FCZD in order to participate. If they all join, the boundary covers all three counties. A county can bow out if they want to.

Q: What is the new legislation?

A: The Flood Authority was interested in finding a structure that was a single entity – that doesn't exist in state law – we had to go forward with new legislation that allows for a multi-county FCZD.

Q: Is this legislation on the web site?

A: Not yet. It's in draft form, but it will be up on the web site by early next week.

Q: You don't even have a draft, so we can comment on the draft?

A: All materials for the FA meeting have been sent to be put on the website. It will be available shortly.

Q: You work very closely with the Federal government. How are you working with FEMA in Lewis County? How are you working with them on this project?

A: We are not working with the Corps on this project.

A: Right now FEMA is proposing new maps for the Chehalis River Basin. We are not directly involved with that in the Flood Authority.

A: The new FEMA maps are a separate project. They are provisional and are being challenged by the locals. We have a meeting next week with FEMA to tell them how we object. The maps are vastly expanding the floodway and we are challenging them. We do, with many of the projects, work with the state and the Flood Authority. Some of the money from the state pot is going to the Corps for the Twin Cities project. We're working to get access to federal and state money. It won't all fall on the public. We're working on that. When Department of Transportation benefits from a project, they also have to contribute to it. We'll get the state to pay their share.

Q: The public involvement effort – none of my neighbors were aware of this meeting. If 44% of Thurston County were aware of this, the hall wouldn't be big enough. You need to do a better job of informing the public. Secondly, how can you not talk about projects when you're creating a regional governance with a huge rate base - that tells me that you're talking about really big projects. Chehalis is one of the best remaining river systems and has a healthy fish stock, which would be ruined by a dam. I can empathize with those experiencing flooding – I don't empathize with big box stores being built in the flood plain. I don't want to pay for putting a dam on the upper Chehalis or South Fork. Spring Chinook spawning areas would flood. We are removing dams on the Elwah River, so why are we talking about building expensive dams here. Don't ask me to pay for a district with a blank check.

Comment: Aren't levees also an issue with salmon habitat? Don't they just pass the problem down the line? Why are they challenging the FEMA maps? If those areas flooded before they mapped it – why are they challenging them? Because they want to build big box stores.

Comment: The municipalities want the maps changes for the revenue base. They hired an attorney to fight it with our tax dollars. The initiative started with \$300 million. We can't talk about something without talking about costs.

A: The water retention project is \$335 million – it's not an approved project. There is a lot of opposition to it. We would look for funding outside the FCZD if it was approved. The levees planned in Twin Cities are predominately set back levees - put back to let river have it's natural course, but yes – levees just redirect how water goes. Twin Cities project is trying to mitigate for the levees project.

Q: There has been discussion about 2 different kinds of districts – flood control and flood control zone district.

A: The Flood Authority made a provisional decision to go with the zone district. It better meets the needs of all involved. We are just dealing with the zone district concept.

Q: What about voter approval – flood control zone district doesn't require voter approval?

A: That's true.

Q: The governance of the district, does the idea currently being considered give one area the same vote as another? Is it population based?

A: That hasn't been decided. There are a number of ways to do that.

Q: With the estimates of adverse impacts – do you have those broken out by river miles – what the effects are downstream from my drainage and upstream from my drainage.?

A: We have economists working on it. It depends on how he can parse that out. We can use the transportation area zones and do the best we can with the data we have.

Q: If you made the argument that all Black River drainage was having an adverse effect I'd want to know what part of that I was contributing to. I don't want to pay for it if I'm not contributing to it.

A: We need to get the flow data from Black River to Chehalis to see what that is. We'll try to find it out.

Q: What happens then on the rate assessment part of this? In March are you figuring out the rate assessment?

A: No – in March and April the BRB will have looked at the boundaries and if they approve, they will form the district. It just forms the district - it doesn't levy a dime. Subsequent to that they will decide what projects need to be done and decide how money will be allocated to members. Only then will anything be levied. The earliest any taxes or rates would be collected is fall 2011, but it could be later.

Q: So after the district is formed, the BOCC sets expected projects to be funded in the flood control zone and then decides among themselves what fraction of the cost will be attributed to each of the counties that are participating?

A: Yes – or at that point they could put it out to public vote.

Q: But it's not required?

A: No – not unless they are going to sell bonds.

Q: I live on the Black River; I don't flood but all my neighbors do. What about flows that change the geography? Is there anything done to stop them or fine them or make them pay for all this flooding?

A: The way the flood district can be formed, it would have tax authority and rate authority. Rate authority can charge those who cause more of the problems more than those who don't. The potential is there to create a rate structure to assign more costs to those properties that cause more problems.

Q: You are an organization that everyone only heard about this morning and you want us to trust you? How is this going to work? The elected officials can tax us more if they want to and you know they want to. So tell me how this will work – why should we trust you?

A: We're trying to give you this information as transparently as possible. We're trying to get the word out as much as possible. We went over the process for formation of a FCZD. In the end the county can decide to do nothing, to work independently of each other, or work together.

Q: Why are the FEMA maps being rejected?

A: We're not working with the FEMA maps.

Comment: You would have to ask the BOCC from Lewis County – they are the ones fighting.

Q: These officials will make the decisions. We have to live with that. When you start doing the taxes of up to a maximum of .50/\$1000 of assessed value and on top of that whoever benefits the most will raise rates again. As for getting money from the state – we are the state – we're paying for it.

A: The tax - .50 per thousand – I don't know anyone who levies the maximum amount. The reason I mentioned rates is because it's a possibility. The district could just use taxes or they could levy the rates. We all benefit on some level – but those who benefit more – those in the floodplain – it's a policy choice if those people should pay more. If they decide to do that, there would be a mechanism in place to make them pay more instead of making everyone pay more. It gives the district flexibility.

Comment: The state promised 5,000 votes against it and Safeco wouldn't be built – it was voted down and it got built anyway. I feel the same way about his.

Q: Thurston County has a stormwater utility that we all contribute to. In terms of rates or taxes and overlapping districts that already exist and do similar kinds of activities – how does that work? Is it allowed?

A: Drainage utilities are based on impervious services. A FCZD is usually used in places with major rivers and where it is impractical to measure impervious surfaces. In King County there was never enough money to fund major projects along the Cedar River using the surface water utility – it wasn't allowed – that's why the FCZD could be overlapped - it wouldn't be a double charge.

Q: I'm curious what the Chehalis tribe thinks about this.

A: State law doesn't allow us to be a part of this and the counties can't compel us to participate. We can opt in or out on a voluntary basis.

A: Personally I don't agree with this. I'm not impacted by floods. I live on a hill. I'm not going to pay to protect people upstream when they continue to keep doing what they are doing.

Q: I got a card a week ago about this – why did some only just hear about this?

A: We got a mailing list from Thurston County and mailed the postcards to that list.

Q: Why not mass mailing – flyers?

A: We're happy to take your suggestions about other ways to get in touch with people.

Comment: Maybe tell them more about the public process.

Comment: This is the first meeting of the formation process. This isn't the end – each county will have hearings on whatever option is chosen.

Q: Are you saying that everyone in the FCZD will get a flyer?

A: We can't afford to do big mailings.

Comment: There will be a meeting report about this meeting.

Comment: I only heard about this meeting yesterday from the Chehalis Basin Partnership. This is the most important meeting these people will ever have the opportunity to go to. To have just this small amount of people here is a disgrace. We have newspaper, television, radio. You should let everyone in the district know.

Q: What about the schools around here – maybe you could put up signs?

Q: I got 2 notices for this thing. They were both under different names. Why didn't all these other people get it?

Comment: You could use the Community Center board, the schools.

Q: This has been studied for 75 or 80 years. The problem is it rains up in Pe Ell and if flows down. Water (in the rivers) goes up and down and we live with it. What's going to change – you get more money and you study it and the water still goes up and down.

A: That the decision that the BOCC has to make – if they can live with it or if they want to make changes.

Q: The radio station 96.1 will give free advertisement for non-profits. What are building permits for? Why are we paying for these permits – what are they for?

A: Thurston County doesn't allow development in flood plains – we have to report to FEMA any permit requested – there are currently no new construction permits at all in the county.

Q: They are also supposed to study environmental impact. Now we're being told it hasn't been.

A: That's the planning department not the construction permit.

Q: I own 3 properties and I pay taxes up here. All my properties are flooded and my taxes go up each year. I lost my husband in '97 flood. This U.S. is so powerful and has so much machinery and everything – they come to my country – they build a ditch to the ocean and grow potatoes. The Chehalis River should be plated in gold with all the taxes we've paid. I'm going to sell all my properties in the flood area.

Comment: My name is Karen Valenzuela, I'm a Commissioner in Thurston County and a Flood Authority member. I appreciate all the feedback tonight. We will do better with the outreach. This isn't good enough. This presentation makes this sound like it's a done deal. Far from it. Thurston BOCC shares some of the concerns you voiced tonight. We don't think we would be comfortable moving forward

working with counties that we don't agree with how they do things. We've talked about a county-wide FCZD – particularly when other county's ideas of mitigation didn't agree with ours. We (commissioners) agree that this would have to come to you for a vote. We wouldn't do anything without coming to you for a vote and extensive public process. No project list – I share that concern. I won't be in favor of moving forward without a project list. It's a very contentious process. With all due respect to Lewis County – I know you're in the flood plain – we try to talk about a moratorium in the flood plain and you don't want to. There are a lot of things to talk about besides dams in the upper Chehalis River.

Thank you for coming tonight. Please fill out comment forms.