Chehalis Basin Public Meeting 3-9-21 6:30pm

The mission of the CBC is to provide funding and strategy for long-term flood damage as well as aquatic species restoration.

The DOE March 4 Decisions:

1. Support $70 Million for next 2 years for projects and planning
2. 6 out of 7 members must agree before allocating funding
3. Continue deliberating on the next phase of projects from March until June

The Board is considering a range of options.

-Which projects are ready to be implemented

-Which projects need more evaluation before determining whether they should be implemented

Board meeting wi-Which projects should not move forward

Timeline

-March 9 Public Meeting and Input

-April 1, Board to review plans, public comments, and seek consensus

-Possible special meeting in May

June 1 Board meeting will approve project list and pathways for next 2 years and beyond.

Progress on Office of Chehalis Board (OCB):

24 homeowners have requested technical assistance for flood control

Provide educational webinars on flood insurance program and home flood protection plans

Waste water treatment plan and protection

House relocation in April in Wyoochie.

Projects and plans under consideration:

-Aquatice Species Habitat projects;

-162 miles of stream opened

-54 flood barriers removed

-5 reach-scale projects

We need 400 miles of streams opened up and 15,000 miles of restoration in the long term.

Progress on Flood Retention Plan

-Gov Inslee paused SEPA process

-ACOE is working to finalize NEPA

-Aquatic Species Habitat is separate from flood retention plan

Other flood control projects include replacing pump stations, channel improvements, and culvert improvements in Mill Creek. The bank erosion projects require technical assistance and more detailed studies. The floodplain aquatic Species Project includes buying easements and/or property as well as preventing development in rural areas in floodplain. There is no plan for considering Eminent Domain.

Another issue regarding Land Use Management includes zoning regulations as well as residential building to reduce flooding.

There were 80 participants at the virtual meeting. Only about 5 people spoke as most had submitted their comments prior to this meeting.