

Office of Chehalis Basin Statute

RCW 43.21A.730

Office of Chehalis basin.

(1) The office of Chehalis basin is established in the department. The primary purpose of the office is to aggressively pursue implementation of an integrated strategy and administer funding for long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration in the Chehalis river basin.

(2) The office of Chehalis basin must be funded from appropriations specified for Chehalis river basin-related flood hazard reduction and habitat recovery activities.

(3) In operating the office, the department must follow, to the greatest extent practicable, the model being used to administer the Columbia river basin water supply program established in chapter 6, Laws of 2006.

RCW 43.21A.731

Chehalis board.

(1) The Chehalis board is created consisting of seven members.

(2)(a) Four members of the board must be voting members who are appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. One member must represent the Chehalis Indian tribe and one member must represent the Quinault Indian nation. Three board members must be selected by the Chehalis basin flood authority. No member may have a financial or regulatory interest in the work of the board. The governor shall appoint one of the flood authority appointees as the chair. The voting members of the board must be appointed for terms of four years, except that two members initially must be appointed for terms of two years and three members must initially be appointed for terms of three years. In making the appointments, the governor shall seek a board membership that collectively provides the expertise necessary to provide strong oversight for implementation of the Chehalis basin strategy, that provides extensive knowledge of local government processes and functions, and that has an understanding of issues relevant to reducing flood damages and restoring aquatic species.

(b) In addition to the seven voting members of the board, the following five state officials must serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board: The director of the department of fish and wildlife, the executive director of the Washington state conservation commission, the secretary of the department of transportation, the director of the department of ecology, and the commissioner of public lands. The state officials serving in an ex officio capacity may designate a representative of their respective agencies to serve on the board in their behalf. These designations must be made in writing and in such a manner as is specified by the board.

(3) Staff support to the board must be provided by the department. For administrative purposes, the board is located within the department.

(4) Members of the board who do not represent state agencies must be compensated as provided by RCW [43.03.250](#). Members of the board shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided by RCW [43.03.050](#) and [43.03.060](#).

(5) The board is responsible for oversight of a long-term strategy resulting from the department's programmatic environmental impact statement for the Chehalis river basin to reduce flood damages and restore aquatic species habitat.

(6) The board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy and developing biennial and supplemental budget recommendations to the governor.

RCW 43.21A.732

Chehalis basin strategy.

The Chehalis basin strategy must include a detailed set of actions to reduce flood damage and improve aquatic species habitat. The strategy must be amended by the Chehalis board as necessary to include new scientific information and needed changes to the actions to achieve the overall purpose of the strategy. The strategy must include an implementation schedule and quantified measures for evaluating the success of implementation.

RCW 43.21A.733

Chehalis basin account.

The Chehalis basin account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from direct appropriations from the legislature, including the proceeds of tax exempt bonds, or moneys directed to the account from any other sources must be deposited in the account. Interest earned by deposits in the account will be retained in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes set out in [RCW 43.21A.730](#) and for the payment of expenses incurred in the issuance and sale of bonds.