

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Chehalis Rooms
Rochester, Washington
January 27, 2012
9:30 a.m.
Meeting Summary

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES & GUESTS PRESENT

Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District	Julie Balmelli-Powe, Lewis County Farm Bureau
Bonnie Canaday, City of Centralia	Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia
Chris Hempleman, WA Dept. of Ecology	LaJane Schopfer, Mason County
Chris Stearns, Thurston County PUD	Lyle Hojem, Lewis County Citizen
Chuck Turley, WA Dept. of Natural Resources	Mark Swartout, Thurston County
Commissioner Bill Schulte, Lewis County	Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis
Commissioner Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County	Terry Harris, City of Chehalis
Commissioner Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County	John Penberth, Self
Dave Vasilauskas, City of Chehalis	John Lucas, Lewis County Farm Bureau
Don Loft, The Evergreen State College	Ken Estes, City of Montesano
Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership	

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Meeting Summary	January 27 th meeting summary approved. No changes suggested.
Approval of CBP Quarterly Progress Report and Budget Update	The group had many questions regarding the budget update, but did approve the quarterly expenses.
Approval of Legislative Outreach Letter and Brochure	The group made one suggestion to the letter and approved it for the Chair's signature.
Approval of Chehalis Tribe Letter of Support for Water Quality Grant Application	The group made one suggestion to the letter and approved it for the Chair's signature.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

Discuss January 27th Meeting Summary:

No changes were suggested. Meeting summary approved.

Quorum requirement of 10 met:

City of Centralia, City of Chehalis, City of Montesano, Citizen-Lewis County, Grays Harbor County, Lewis County, Lewis County Farm Bureau, Mason County, Port of Grays Harbor, Thurston County, Thurston PUD, WA Dept. of Ecology.

Chair and Vice-Chair 2012: Bonnie Canaday and Mark White are willing to continue to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the CBP for 2012. The group agreed to have Bonnie and Mark continue in their current roles.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Monthly Organizational Presentation, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, Janet Strong:

Janet Strong gave a presentation on the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust and some of their projects over the past couple of years. Their mission is to conserve, protect and restore ecologically significant lands in the Chehalis River Basin. Working since 1994 and received their tax exempt status at the same time. Protect conservation values of land through purchase and/or easements. Also act as land stewards for mitigation lands and projects. First property was Kimber property on Porter Creek, 20 acres. Other projects include: 57 acre Galvin easement across from City of Centralia's farm on main stem Chehalis and mouth of Lincoln Creek. Discovery Trail project (2003-2011) w/City of Centralia, restore 150' wide buffer along Chehalis River and to build a public trail; worked with CBEC to involve students in planting. Field studies for students at Discovery Trail.

Hoquiam Surge Plain project: acquired 10 miles of shorelines along the West, Middle, and East Forks of the Hoquiam River. Ownership of land was transferred to the Land Trust this last year. Working with city of Hoquiam to clean up a park on the north end of the west fork Hoquiam River. Need volunteers to keep an eye on projects.

Grays Harbor Audubon (GHAS) conservation easement w/Land Trust. Extra level of protection. Land Trust holds the easement while GHAS owns the property.

The Land Trust also conducts annual field reviews of properties. Janet distributed the Land Trust brochure and request for membership.

2) Review CBP Quarterly Progress Report and Budget Update:

Janel distributed copies of the Oct-Dec 2011 quarterly progress report and budget update from the Watershed Council Grant. This is the only grant the CBP has at this point, to help fund staff support to the CBP. This covers the time period from Oct 1-December 30 2011. Again the progress report is what is required by Ecology. You can see a description of work performed for each of the three tasks in the grant. Under roman numeral V you can see what was spent under this grant for this past quarter. You can also review the budget sheets to see what was spent in each task and what the cumulative amount that has been spent so far and what is remaining the grant. The current balance (as of Dec 30) is \$80,048.04. Janel distributed copies of the quarterly invoice that Grays Harbor College sends to the County. Bill would like the CBP to approve the quarterly invoice/voucher. The group approved the quarterly expenses but had several questions regarding the budget spreadsheets. Janel made an error on the projected column on one of the sheets which caused a lot of confusion. The group had a lengthy discussion and decided to form an ad-hoc committee to go over the finances of the CBP. Kahle, Bill, Terry Willis, and Janel volunteered to be on the ad-hoc committee. Terry said she would work on finding all of the invoices/vouchers that have been paid under the Watershed Council grant.

3) Follow-Up Discussion of November CBP Meeting Strategic Planning Session

Janel was very pleased at the outcome of the November CBP Strategic Planning Session. The CBP identified some areas of focus and projects for us to work in 2012.

Janel thought it would be helpful for us to refresh our memories of the strategic planning session by reading over the November CBP meetings from that discussion. The STC was tasked at the November meeting to continue the discussion and come up with a plan for accomplishing some of the priority projects identified by the CBP at the planning session.

As a refresher from the CBP meeting, the strategic planning session consisted of:

- 1) Reviewed the DIP and the strategies and discussed what work has been done to date on the DIP-Janel's powerpoint
- 2) Asked for members to provide feedback via the handout that was distributed before the meeting about work/projects they are doing on a local level that might also be implementing the DIP
- 3) Ask the group to prioritize the DIP strategies that should be tackled in 2012

After discussion about a possible water banking project the group identified that project as a top priority in 2012. The top priority projects they identified were:

- DIP 4: Keeping agriculture on the landscape: develop mechanism for sharing water that benefits all; promote sustainable ag
- DIP 2: Continue education/outreach like Stream Teams and the WS Festival; continue to form partnerships to fund CBP daily operations and projects
- DIP 1: Continue work of the groundwater/surface water model project with the USGS; need to find funding to continue this work
- DIP 3: Find funding to continue the feasibility work of an aquifer storage and recovery project

All of these projects require funding. The Chehalis Tribe donated \$5,000 towards the Chehalis Watershed Festival which should cover beyond 2012. The Stream Teams are self-supported by Centralia and the Watershed Coordinator.

Ideas for the top priority project:

- Could do a pilot project.
- Chris distributed a map of interruptible water rights in the Chehalis Basin.
- The STC suggested coming up with a working group at the last STC of people including: Washington Water Trust (Erik Borgen), Ecology staff for pre-work (SWRO)-Peggy will ask around, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (via Ecology funding), Farm Bureau staff/volunteer (Julie/John Lucas?), City of Centralia, other willing participants Bob Amrine Lewis CD, one Ag landowner from upper and lower basin that has an interruptible water right; National Frozen Foods-Pat Sauter, Terry Willis for Ag landowners growing corn in lower basin.

4) Review Draft Legislative Outreach Letter and Brochure

The group reviewed the legislative outreach letter and offered one change: Start out the letter with Thank you for your support, moving the bottom paragraph to the top. The group agreed to have Bonnie sign and send the letter after that change was made.

Since we are not officially requesting anything from the legislature this year we thought it would be more effective to send all reps in Chehalis Basin Districts a letter that keeps the CBP in their minds while also thanking them for passing the original watershed planning legislation that got watershed planning going. We wanted to highlight that we are one of the few watershed planning groups still functioning and implementing projects, even though we have finished the official watershed planning funding. Because of their original legislation this group has been able to accomplish some great projects and plans to continue.

You all have seen and reviewed this brochure but I did update the last section on the back which describes our top priority work to reflect the priorities that came out of the planning session in November.

The letter and brochure would get mailed to all reps in Chehalis Basin districts.

Just last week Janel received an email from the WRIA 16 Watershed Planning Group and they are trying to amend the current statute so that the 5 year time period on funding is removed. Janel emailed the CBP after the January meeting asking their thoughts about sending an email of support for the proposed bill that would remove the 5 year clause. Janel heard from several members saying to go ahead and send an email of support. Janel did send the email using a lot of the same language that was in the legislative outreach letter that the group already approved.

Legislative Tour Idea:

This is an idea the STC came up with at their last meeting...a legislative tour around the Watershed Festival in September. Could try to plan an event for the legislators to attend that highlights some of the work we've done, maybe the WS Festival. Perhaps a SRFB project tour? Include awareness week activities during the Festival for legislators to participate in.

5) Chehalis Tribe Letter of Support for Water Quality Grant Application:

Mark White approached Janel earlier this month about a water quality grant the tribe was planning to apply for to help fund their basin-wide water quality monitoring project. The Tribe, CBP, and Ecology used to partner on funding the water quality monitoring but once the grant from Ecology ran out the Tribe stepped up and continued the monitoring on their own dime. Now they are once again looking for funding to help with the project and have asked for a letter of support from the CBP. Their grant funding would go to help pay for the tech's time for sampling and 250 hours of my time to help facilitate the sampling project (similar to what Randy Lehr did for the project a few years back). This funding would help supplement what we have in the current grant to make the funding last longer. The water quality monitoring program has been very valuable to the Water Quality Committee and the CBP over the past couple of years. After funding from Ecology ran out, the tribe paid for the monitoring on their own. Now Mark found an EPA grant that he would like to apply for to help fund this monitoring program.

There are 95 sites basin-wide that get monitored on a monthly basis for things such as fecal coliform, temperature, turbidity, pH, and other parameters. This data has been used to help publish the State of the River reports and all of this data also gets uploaded into Dept. of Ecology's EIM database for public use.

Janel presented a letter for the CBP to review and approve supporting the tribe's grant application. The group approved the letter but said that they would like to be assured that the tribe will share their data with CBP, Ecology and other interested parties. The group also suggested explaining who "we" is in the 2nd paragraph of the letter. With that one suggestion, the group agreed to have Bonnie sign and send the letter of support.

6) Agenda Items for February 24th, 2012 and Future Meetings:

The next CBP meeting will be on February 24th at the Lucky Eagle Casino near Rochester. Does anyone have recommendations for presentations?

Agenda items for February:

- CBP 2012 Work Plan Priorities
- Legislative outreach ideas and brochure
- Monthly Organizational Presentation:

Possible Upcoming Presentations:

- NWS for Doppler radar on the coast; presentation in Centralia/Chehalis

- Curt Holt from WDFW about status of fishery offered a presentation in Spring
- each Farm Bureau describes the activities/interests/needs/concerns/main crops/dairies in their respective areas; also a regional representative from the farm bureau
- shellfish industry: Brady, other?
- Commercial fishing industry: Doug Fricke
- tribal interests: resource management, preserving cultural heritage?
- ocean interests: acidification, ENSO, garbage patch
- Centralia stormwater monitoring project: Kim
- GH Audubon, Black Hills-birding opportunities in map

Last minute item:

Kathy Jacobson is once again coordinating the Annual Chehalis Basin Student Congress. It will be held at Centralia College this year on Thursday, March 29th. She is looking for facilitators for the State of the River Sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Bonnie Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:46am.