

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel Conference Room
Rochester, Washington
March 27, 2015
9:30 am

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS*, ALTERNATES' & GUESTS PRESENT

Amy Spoon', <i>WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	Kahle Jennings*, <i>City of Centralia</i>
Bonny Canaday*, <i>City of Centralia</i>	Kirsten Harma, <i>Chehalis Basin Partnership</i>
Bud Blake, <i>Thurston County Commissioner</i>	Lee Napier', <i>Lewis County</i>
Chris Stearns*, <i>Thurston P.U.D Commissioner</i>	Miles Bachlder, <i>Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership</i>
Chuck Caldwell*, <i>Port of Grays Harbor</i>	Miranda Plumb, <i>US Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
Cindy Wilson, <i>Thurston County</i>	Patrick Wittzuis', <i>City of Chehalis</i>
Frank Gordon*, <i>Grays Harbor Commissioner</i>	Terry Harris*, <i>City of Chehalis Council</i>
Glen Connelly', <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

None taken

GENERAL PARTNERHIP BUSINESS

Quorum Requirement of 10 met? No

MEETING

1. Introductions

Partnership members present introduced themselves to new Watershed Coordinator, Kirsten Harma.

2. Discuss Partnership's history, current status and future plans

Bonnie invited the participants to explain the history of the Partnership, as well as current projects and future plans.

Khale took the lead in explaining the group's history since it's founding. He mentioned that the current near-term emphasis is salmon habitat enhancement, followed by a need for more education and outreach to sustain the group's efforts. A future change may be incorporating as a non-governmental organization (NGO). To date, the group has not become an NGO out of concern that with a more narrow Board of Directors, it might not keep its broad perspective.

Chris Stearns mentioned that the Chehalis benefited from being one of the first groups to undertake watershed planning. A success that can be celebrated is that the members are still meeting even after the plan was formed, and are still committed to making it work.

Terry added that a future task for the group should be to do presentations to member cities, counties and other entities in order to remind them of the value of this group's work, and ask for funding to sustain its efforts. These would have to be timed to fit with their budget cycle. He

stressed that the group is currently seen as a model for its education and outreach efforts, but need to do more.

Miranda suggested that a model for organizational branding and marketing can be found in the Tillamook, OR basin, where they are undertaking some innovative efforts. She offered to contact them and invite them to a future CBP meeting to present what they are doing in their basin.

Khale mentioned upcoming funding opportunities for habitat restoration work.

Related to an earlier point made about the NGO status, Miles told the group of a sister NGO of the WCSSP that could be a good model for this group. That NGO has checks and balances put in place to prevent mission drift, including a clause that it can't amend articles of incorporation without approval of the larger body.

3. Presentation by Miles

Overview of Salmon Recovery 1999-2015

The impetus for the current salmon recovery programs was to promote decision-making at a local level. Since 1999, \$15 million in funding for salmon recovery has been applied in the basin, and 4,132 acres of land have been permanently protected.

Examples of projects undertaken in the Chehalis Basin:

Wicket Floodplain; McDonald Creek Restoration; Grays Harbour Juvenile fish assessment, and the Elliot Slough acquisition.

The current status of this work is that there is a pending decision from the House on funding for salmon recovery, and there is not yet news of the SRFB proposals.

Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

This Initiative started by a group of people who came together to ask for funding for coastal watershed restoration projects. Coastal legislators got on board with their vision. Everyone recognized that this initiative will be good for salmon habitat restoration, but also about creating jobs over the near term and long term. The current status of this Initiative is that there is a pending decision from both the House and Senate on funding.

Olympic Natural Resources Center

This project of the University of Washington (<http://www.onrc.washington.edu/>) undertook Intrinsic Potential Modeling (e.g., using computer models and digital data to determine which places in the watershed are best for each species) for five species of anadromous fish along the Outer Coast of Washington. Thirty-two scientists evaluated the model and then it was adjusted to include their input. Local input will be needed to evaluate the models on the ground. Partnership members are encouraged to take a look at the information displayed in NetMap.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Bonnie Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:30.