



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

**Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Chehalis Meeting Rooms
Rochester, Washington**

April 28, 2017

9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

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| Amy Spoon*, WDFW | Kahle Jennings', <i>City of Centralia</i> |
| Bonnie Canaday*, <i>City of Centralia</i> | Lee Napier', Lewis County |
| Chuck Caldwell*, <i>Port of Grays Harbor</i> | Patrick Wiltzius', <i>City of Chehalis</i> |
| Dan Wood*, <i>Montesano</i> | Randy Ross*, <i>Grays Harbor County</i> |
| Jan Robinson*, <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i> | Terry Harris*, <i>City of Chehalis</i> |
| Jim Hill*, <i>Lewis County Citizen</i> | |

GUESTS

Alice Martin, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*; Tim Martin, visitor from Montana; Marc Hayes, WDFW; Kim Ashmore, *Centralia Stream Team*; Maria Hunter, WDFW; Hope Rieden, *Chehalis Tribe Fish & Wildlife*; Kylea Johnson, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Meeting summaries are available on the Chehalis Basin Partnership website: www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org
- PowerPoint presentations from this meeting are available on the Chehalis Basin Partnership website: www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations

MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Terry Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and guests provided self-introductions.

2. Review of March Meeting Minutes

A quorum was present. There were no comments on the minutes.

3. Member Updates

- None

B. Presentations & Discussions

Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) – Maria Hunter, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Maria Hunter is the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Manager with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) is part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy which aims at flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration. The Plan itself is currently under development. The Steering Committee is developing goals and objectives for the Plan. Ms. Hunter expects details to be worked on this summer. Communities and existing processes will be engaged as the plan is developed. In 2017-2019, there will likely be about \$10 million for projects but we don't know yet. Funding for restoration work in 2017-2019 will probably focus on salmon. Other aquatic species will be addressed later on. Funding will likely go towards barrier correction. An acquisition strategy still needs to be developed. Restoration of this scale hasn't been attempted here before. Local expertise and on the ground information will be critical in developing the Plan. There will be opportunities soon to provide guidance on drafting the plan. We'll need guidance from citizens on how to do implementation. We'd like guidance on a communications and outreach approach.

Q) Who will read this Plan?

A) The ASRP Steering Committee will read it and use it to make decisions. The Steering Committee's voting members include WDFW, Chehalis Tribe and Quinault IN. Other groups will be brought in over time.

Q) Who oversees the ASRP?

A) WDFW. Ecology will oversee the entire Chehalis Strategy through the Office of the Chehalis Basin. Roles haven't been formalized yet and we don't know if the Office of the Chehalis will have influence over the ASRP or not. The ASRP Steering Committee is the decision-making body for the ASRP.

Q) Is the Steering Committee advisory or decision-making?

A) Decision making. Though that isn't written in stone yet.

Q) Do we know how much money will go to aquatic species projects?

A) The amount of funding that can go to projects will depend on the overall Chehalis Strategy allocation. The way this dual-purpose initiative is set up, if the Chehalis Strategy gets funding, the aquatic plan will get funding.

Q) For acquisition, are you including easements or purchase?

A) We're flexible. Will consider anything that provides permanent protection. Everything is voluntary. We want to develop options that are of interest to people.

Q) What kinds of property and what locations are you considering in your acquisition strategy?

A) Those are the questions we're trying to answer. We'll consider anything that leads to permanent protection of functioning habitat, or protection of habitat to be restored. Everything voluntary is on the table.

Q) Will property be acquired, and if so, where? Are you going to take farm land? Commercial land?

A) In 2017-2019 we're looking at 5 watersheds. We'll probably look as far upstream as possible.

Q) Will you take farmland? Lands with commercial value? What considerations do you have for economic impacts.

A) We haven't discussed these issues yet.

Comment – you need to consider economic impacts. Land is the tax base and used for food production. Don't take land out of food production.

Comment (Montana guest) – Open space has value. It’s hard for wildlife when there is a lot of sprawl. Often conservation easements stay in the family. There are a variety of different ways to get involved in habitat protection.

Comment – Conservation easements can be in place and still allow farming to continue.

Comment – The types of projects proposed for acquisition as part of “returned funds” were where most land would be retained in farming and retain a buffer for the river. All had willing landowners.

Ms. Hunter heard that concerns about agriculture need to be built into the ASRP.

Ms. Napier from Lewis County advised that the ASRP managers let permit centers know when a lot of projects are going to be starting so that staff are prepared.

iNaturalist & Potential Citizen Science Opportunities for the Chehalis Basin. By

Wendy Connally, Wildlife Program, WDFW

Ms. Connally provided an overview of tools for citizen science her team is working to provide to communities around Washington. WDFW’s research ability is limited. They recognize that citizens have expertise and interest and could help with research. Some tools are “crowd-sourced” – this means the data aren’t “project specific” but rather are data people are just interested in gathering. A good example is eBird, where people keep bird observations online. iNaturalist is a newer WDFW crowd-sourced tool. It’s designed for land trusts and other conservation partners to run projects on their own.

Another type of citizen science project is partner-driven or partner-supported. Another type is WDFW-driven. Projects are proposed by specific researchers or WDFW program priorities. Projects “in the works” are bat roost surveys, loon observations, shrub-steppe wetland surveys, and bumble-bee watch.

Power Point slides are available online: <http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (Public Involvement Presentations))

Q) What’s happening with bumble bees?

A) Ms. Connally did not know the answer, but referred questions on this topic to Ann Potter, Invertebrate Specialist at WDFW (ann.potter@dfw.wa.gov)

Q) Which of these tools being developed will be the most appropriate for the Chehalis Basin?

A) Probably either the loon, bat, or bee project. We can also help design projects to meet other needs. You don’t have shrub-steppe wetlands in the Chehalis.

Q) Are you looking at invasive species?

A) We don’t have an formal invasive species project at WDFW, but do have a reporting tool.

Q) Do you have anyone looking at mussels?

A) We have partners who are interested in this but we haven’t gotten very far down that path yet.

Amphibian Research in the Chehalis. By Marc Hayes, Senior Research Scientist, WDFW

Mr. Hayes provided a case study of a scientific research project that uses data gathered by citizens. The example was from King County, where researchers wanted to know the role of forest cover in amphibian reproduction. They studied the association between forest cover and egg mass presence in ponds. They concluded that frogs move a long way from ponds, and therefore need the connectivity provided by forested patches to complete their reproductive cycle. Citizen

volunteers contributed to this effort through counting egg masses. In conclusion, you can answer important management questions through a carefully designed citizen science project.

Power Point slides are available online: <http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (Public Involvement Presentations))

Q) Do you know how many amphibians and animals you need to maintain a healthy ecosystem?

A) We're looking at some aspects of that in the Chehalis. We're looking at habitat needs of fish as they compare to the needs of amphibians.

Q) Are you doing any science projects that involve citizens in the Chehalis?

A) No

Q) Was the movement related to moving away from urbanization?

A) These species need a certain amount of forested habitat around the breeding sites. These frogs are still water breeders and need upland forests nearby. The species (northern red-legged frog) is rare where there is no nearby forest.

Q) Do those frogs return to the same locations to breed multiple seasons?

A) There is high site fidelity to breeding ponds. If they were born in a pond, they will likely come back to that pond to breed.

Q) What are your tactics for finding citizens with the right skills to participate in projects like this?

A) Talk to as many people and groups as possible, tell them what to expect in terms of physical work, time of year, etc., and they let them "self select" what types of projects they would like to do. Give people good training and support along the way.

Q) How do you build volunteer qualifications into reporting? This is important for understanding data quality.

A) We have forms that everyone fills out and we keep those records.

Q) Do you need volunteers who can put in a substantial time commitment?

A) We have a lot of flexibility in the kinds of volunteers we can use. We can use one-time volunteers who are trained/led by a lead volunteer. We can use someone who shows up just a few times.

C. Partnership Business

1. Lead Entity Resolution with Grays Harbor County – Update

Ms. Harma provided the group with an update on the governance of the "lead entity" work for salmon recovery in the Chehalis. The original resolution establishing Grays Harbor County as "lead entity" for the purposes of the Salmon Recovery Act was signed in 2000. Since then, conditions, players and other circumstances have changed. As Lead Entity Coordinator, she is shepherding a process to improve clarity about roles and responsibilities in the lead entity through working with Gray Harbor County to develop a new resolution. In the draft resolution, the Habitat Work Group, who has been the work-horse of the Lead Entity process for years, would be recognized as the "Citizen's Committee" consistent with what the RCW requires. Mr. Wood asked if the Habitat Work Group is a subgroup of this body. Ms. Harma answered that Grays Harbor County is the "lead entity" in terms of serving as fiscal agent with the state. The Chehalis Basin Partnership is not the "lead entity." Commissioner Ross noted that he still learning how everything works and would like more information before bringing this matter to the Commissioners.

2. **Chehalis Basin Watershed Festival – Update**

Ms. Harma reported that the Watershed Festival organizing committee is looking at a new approach for the Watershed Festival this year that will better account for constraints and opportunities for outreach in the Chehalis Basin. They propose holding several mini watershed festivals at existing events throughout the basin. This will allow for participation of more basin communities, and will eliminated advertising and other costs for the Festival itself. CBP members present agreed that this is a good approach. Someone noted that the original intent for the Watershed Festival was to have it move to different parts of the basin each year. Members suggested additional events to get involved in: The Willapa Ride, Pe Ell River Run and the Spring Youth Fair.

3. **Other Updates**

Kahle Jennings noted that he has received no notice on the status of his application to serve on the board of the Office of the Chehalis Basin. He had heard that J. Vander Stoep received a Governor’s appointment, and that the other seat was filled by a person outside the basin representing the “environmental community.” The Flood Authority seats have also already been appointed: Vickie Raines, Edna Fund and Jay Gordon.

Other Business:

For the next meeting, Mayor Canaday suggested holding the meeting a week earlier, May 19th – , to account for the Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Hill suggested getting presentations from Student Congress. For the June 23rd meeting, Mr. Wood proposed an entire meeting dedicated to the future of the CBP.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:40.

NEXT MEETING

May 19th 2017