



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel Conference Room

Rochester, Washington

September 23, 2016

9:30 am - 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Amy Spoon', WDFW

Bob Burkle*, WDFW

Bonnie Canaday*, City of Centralia

Chuck Caldwell*, Port of Grays Harbor

Dan Wood', City of Montesano

Frank Gordon, Grays Harbor County

Jan Robinson, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust

Kahle Jennings', City of Centralia

Terry Harris*, City of Chehalis

GUESTS

Amy Hatch-Wineka, Thurston Conservation District; Caprise Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation;; Kim Smith, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Jim Getchman, Grays Harbor Conservation District; Jim Kramer, Kramer Consulting; Jess Helsley, Coast Salmon Foundation; Brian Footen, FishViews; Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe Fish and Wildlife.

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Partnership

Joe Kalisch, Grays Harbor Stream Team

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Chehalis Basin Strategy – PEIS Documents: <http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis-library/>
- 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 (see “Planning Presentations” accordian menu)
- Fish Views: www.fishviews.com

MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Later in the meeting, Kirsten Harma introduced Joe Kalisch as the new Grays Harbor Stream Team Coordinator. Mr. Kalisch then introduced himself. He stated that he had volunteered with the Fish Lab at Grays Harbor College and was excited to now be working for the Stream Team. His first tasks will be to start up social media, develop an event calendar, and then plan restoration work parties for Alder Creek, Fry Creek, Mill Creek and Wilson Creek. Anyone with a restoration project idea in the lower basin is welcome to contact Joe: graysharborstreamteam@gmail.com

2. Approval of July Minutes

Chair Canaday noted that a quorum was not present, thus the minutes could not be approved.

3. Partnership Business

Chair Canaday noted that she will be stepping down as Chair at the start of the new year, thus, elections for a new Chair will need to take place.

Chuck Caldwell made a motion to nominate Terry Harris. Frank Gordon seconded the motion. All in favor.

Later in the meeting, Chair Canaday noted the need to elect a Vice Chair. She stated that Glen Connelly had agreed to be nominated for this position. Frank Gordon nominated Bonnie Canaday as Vice Chair. Bob Burkle seconded. All in favor.

B. Presentations

Chehalis Basin Strategy – Programmatic SEPA Draft EIS – By Chrissy Bailey, Department of Ecology.

The PEIS will be publicly released next Thursday. It will be available through the Chehalis Strategy website and in hard copy at local libraries. Ms. Bailey summarized the elements and alternatives. This information is available in the CBP website:

<http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> and full information is available on the Chehalis Strategy website <http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com>

Next steps: There will be public hearings in October: October 18th – Chehalis; October 27th – Montesano. There will be an all-day meeting targeted at decision-makers on October 11th, to be held at Great Wolf Lodge. The Public Comment period closes on October 31st, 2016.

The public comment is limited to 30-days because the selected Alternative or combination of program elements will need to be included in the Governor's Budget, which is due in November. The final PEIS will be ready in 2017.

Q/A

Q) Is permitting addressed in the PEIS? We tried to do a project on China Creek this year to address flooding and we still haven't gotten a permit.

A) No, permitting is not addressed. That's because this is a "Programmatic" not "Project" PEIS. However, we know this is a statewide problem and are working with the Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate permitting. They may review the basin-wide strategy, and if it meets criteria, they may permit streamlining the permitting process.

Q) Where are the proposed reductions in stream temperature, and why will they occur?

A) The model shows an increase in temp by 4° C in the FRO due to loss of vegetation. The model projects a 10° C decrease from the FRFA immediately below the dam.

Q) Even with the temperature increase (FRO) you project an increase in fish?

A) The model shows benefits to Spring Chinook from flow augmentation. The dam would decrease populations by 1-3%, but when combined with restoration, there would be an increase basin-wide.

Q) This strategy depends on landowner willingness to implement the actions. How do you calculate landowner willingness?

A) The 20%-60% implementation of restoration in the target reaches (both low and high restoration scenarios) accounts for uncertainty about how many landowners would be willing to do restoration.

Comment: The reservoir above the dam would be uninhabitable to summer Coho. Steelhead don't live in still water. This area would also be unusable to fall and spring chinook spawning. There is no known technology on how to pass juvenile salmon upstream of a dam. There are lots of dams on spring chinook rivers, and that's led to extirpation. We need a case history to demonstrate the benefit of a dam before you can state that there will be a benefit.

A) Ms. Bailey replied that the PEIS recognizes that there is uncertainty about the impacts on salmon and doesn't conclude there will be a benefit.

Q) How do we draw a conclusion about the effect of the dam on fish? If we do nothing, the fish populations will decrease due to climate change, if there's a dam, it will be deadly to some (1-3% decline).

A) Alternative 1 includes a dam and spending money on restoration. That's what will lead to an increase of between 20-80% in fish.

Jim Kramer commented that the Chehalis has the greatest potential for restoration in the state. We have the state's interest now, better science, and more landowner interest than ever. This is a huge opportunity for the basin.

Fish Views – Brian Footen, Fish Views

Mr. Footen provided an overview of his company's services: providing 360° panoramic views of rivers. His company's stated goal is to connect everyone with their rivers, coasts and shorelines, and thereby inspire protection of those resources. FishViews tools also help provide "location awareness" to help inform decision-makers. It is a compelling way to share data. The data is collected by synchronized cameras, including an underwater camera, and a water quality sonde that collects data on 11 parameters. This information is then published on an online "cloud-based" system, which can be kept as a private url, or shared. FishViews partners with ESRI, so GIS data can be easily combined with the videos and data.

Q) How often is the data collected?

A) The data is collected through a "1-time pass, but this can be updated through subsequent trips. FishViews is also working on a way to get stakeholders the ability to lease the gear and provide updates to the data.

Q) How much does it cost to hire or lease the equipment?

A) We don't have numbers for that yet. We charge \$500 - \$800 per river mile to do it ourselves. This cost includes the cost of integrating data and licensing the software. It includes free license updates for 3 years.

Q) Would there be the ability to look at "before and after" pictures right next to each other? E.G., at high and low flows, or pre and post-restoration?

A) Eventually we'll have a slider like they do on Google Earth to look at different times next to each other.

Q) Could you look at a river after a major flood event? How long would you have to wait for water to clear?

A) We use acoustic imagery to image the bottom of some reaches. The underwater camera won't work until the water is clear.

Other Business:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Canaday adjourned the meeting at 12:00.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting topic next month will be small forestry. Mark White will Chair.

October 29, 2016