



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Chehalis Meeting Rooms
Rochester, Washington
June 23, 2017
9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Amy Spoon*, WDFW
Chuck Caldwell*, *Port of Grays Harbor*
Chris Stearns, *Thurston PUD**
Ed Mock', *City of Aberdeen*
Glen Connelly, *Chehalis Tribe*
Jan Robinson*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

Jim Hill*, *Lewis County Citizen*
Kahle Jennings', *City of Centralia*
Patrick Wiltzius', *City of Chehalis*
Randy Ross*, *Grays Harbor County*
Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

GUESTS

Mark Mobbs, QIN; Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy; Elyse Clifford, QIN.

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 not present. There were no comments on the minutes.

3. Member Updates

- Grays Harbor County submitted their Shoreline Management Plan to the State
- Alice Martin, Americorps Stewardship Coordinator for the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, has left the position
- The City of Aberdeen is making progress on the Fry Creek restoration project and North Shore Levee

- Centralia has created a splash pad fountain. Planning for Summerfest is underway. The China Creek grant has been extended which will allow the city to take advantage of its newly acquired permit and go out to bid on Phase I this summer.
- The Chehalis Tribal Chairman has stepped down. Harry Pickernell is the new Chair.

B. Presentations & Discussions

CBP Purpose and Direction – Discussion led by Chair Terry Harris

The purpose of today’s discussion is to review the relevance of the Chehalis Basin Partnership in light of the other work being completed by other groups in the Chehalis Basin.

Ms. Harma gave a presentation that addressed the CBP mission, history and 2017 work plan. She demonstrated a team dynamics model as a means to describe the history of the CBP. The group started with a purpose and reason, went through a trust-building phase, set goals, and then realized a need to answer “how do we meet our goals?” so addressed that through the Detailed Implementation Plan and then assigned people to tasks. After that, a virtual wall was hit in the team’s performance before getting to a phase of “high performance.” The wall hit due to lack of funding and transition of key people. The discussion of “where to go given these constraints” was held in 2016 and formed the work plan for that and subsequent years. The basic objective for the CBP was determined to be to stay a clearinghouse for information, have informative presentations at meetings, and then keep the Watershed Festival and other outreach events as “projects.” Because a question as to our purpose has arisen, there appears to be a need to start back at the “why.” A focus on purpose helps to get new people integrated and allows existing members to revisit these themes.

Ms. Harma then summarized the new groups and what they are doing. Topics well covered by other groups include flooding and fish habitat. Many groups are also doing outreach to get people involved in water and land stewardship. Elements that are less well covered are water quality and low flows.

Mr. Harris suggested that today’s discussion is a great opportunity to explore our own relevancy, where we are, and where we need to go. He led the group through a discussion on the CBP’s Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities and Ms. Harma took notes on screen for people to review as the discussion proceeded. A microphone was passed around the room and each individual provided his or her perspectives on how the Partnership is doing in each of those categories. The summary is as follows:

Strengths:

- Knowledge base of members
- If something comes up that’s relevant to water resources in the Chehalis, we’ve got the people in place to address it. Water will become an interest again
- Opportunity to learn from others
- Water is important – we all touch water and water touches us;
- Strength is relationships. Since the group has been around a while, members trust each other and appreciate different perspectives;
- This isn’t a group that does projects, but rather that facilitates communication and ideas that lead to on-the-ground projects implemented by landowners, citizens and local governments

- Partnerships with NGOs doing on-the ground projects
- Public education & learning at meetings
- Exists – agencies can come to group if needed
- Clearinghouse of information – in person!
- Good conversations generating ideas; Good place to gather & share info.
- Diversity – lots of different stakeholder interests
- No other groups keeps doing presentations/ info-sharing about everything is happening in basin
- Had a citizen group – 3 from each county (lost because dropped off, people are busy, turn-over)
- The strength of the basin is that it isn't in urban development- we have opportunities for planning for good growth. We have an intact fishery and can retain what we already have.
- Good things – let's retain them

Weaknesses:

- Don't typically implement actions
- Need ways to inform more people
- State's focus is more on Office of the Chehalis Basin, etc. not us
- No legislative attention; We're not doing outreach to legislators anymore
- Lost members with knowledge, skills, position – haven't replaced those people with like-kinds;
- You can't make anything happen and no one needs your permission," (aka, no one comes to get our approval and we can't tell anyone what to do)
- Can't write letter "from group" in current structure (would need bylaw changes, quorum, not likely)
- Consensus
- Can't do implementation
- Water supply not issue "de jur" (so no dedicated funding)
- How to maintain interest when "water becomes interest again"?
- People busy with jobs- hard to keep stay aware of water issues & what's happening in basin
- Hard to move forward when there are opposing views
- Turn-over of members
- Ad hoc group – no dedicated funding and a plan. We come from our own entities which is where we get things done. We aren't a group that gets funding and does stuff- that's not who we are.
- Lack of funding; Not enough money for full time staff so can't do stuff
- Hard to sustain interest over the long term (when water quality/quantity isn't issue d' jour)

Opportunities:

- Keep clearinghouse of information
- Sub-groups could tackle issues
- Interface with legislature again (put together a group of people to go talk to legislature – share what we are and what we can do that the other groups aren't doing)
- Keep informing selves (water is important!)
- Recruit new members (with skills, positions that can help fulfil our mission)
- Increase attendance. More impact if more attendance (invite a friend)
- Maintain presence of elected officials – this is a good opportunity for education
- Keep project presentations -- what people are doing in basin that fits under CBP's mission
- Let people know that they can come here to hear better information.– better projects with ideas
- Keep strong information exchange that feeds the other groups that are part of this. Keep candid conversations to better inform work that they are going to do.
- Get rid of concensus. Go to majority or super-majority to get something done
- Refocus. Think about water quality and quantity. Emphasize water conservation. This is somewhere where people can take action.

- More presentations & less frequent meetings
- Stay active: When there's too little water, the need for group will return
- Get own funding to do shared-value projects
- Turn "turn-over" into an opportunity. Do an orientation – overview of water issues (for new folks)
- Get a place at table – Chehalis Board. Those are public meetings – There could be a role for this group – could share view of "average person" / general basin interest)
- People will want to take action when impacts them Climate change and population growth – people will take action when it impacts them.
- We could be really good at information sharing since we have everyone at the table.
- Form a non-profit.
- Pick a few things and do them well.
- Write an annual plan

Discussion: The Steering Technical Committee (STC) used to make recommendations for topics the whole group would then decide on. The membership of that group has been severely reduced and they meet only as needed. The group felt that there isn't a clear enough task for the STC to tackle and this "organizational direction" conversation is better suited for the whole group.

Next steps:

Mr. Harris will compile and simplify the "SWOT" results and send that information to all CBP members. The July CBP meeting will be dedicated to understanding how to focus our opportunities. At the meeting, the group will do another "round-robin" to pick out specific opportunities to focus on. After the group has adequately defined it's desired focus we can go back to planning what type of information-sharing and presentations we'd like. . In summary, summer meetings will focus on looking inward, and in the fall, we can restart presentations and other activities. Mr. Harris encouraged all members to contact others to invite to the next meetings

Salmon Recovery Funding Board – proposed projects for the Chehalis Basin. By Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator

Ms. Harma presented the 16 projects submitted to the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity for funding consideration.

Q) Is the fish passage project under Highway 8 the same branch of Wildcat Creek where the proposed project is taking place?

A) I don't know. We can asked the sponsor to provide a map.

Q) Is the beaver activity blocking the culvert in Newaukum Creek hurting fish or just causing problems to humans?

A) Beaver dams can provide habitat, but also cause hazard to road prims. For this project, there would be an advantage to creating a design that accounts for the project location in a wetland. Others noted that sometimes you have to address landowner concerns in order to get a good project completed.

C. Other Partnership Business

1. Preparing for "State of the Watershed" event in September

We have been invited by the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust to run a “Learnings from the Chehalis” session on the State of the Watershed. The general theme will be what has changed in the watershed since the CBP was formed. This will be an opportunity for the CBP to tell the community what it is, celebrate its successes and highlight its efforts. The evening of September 21 from 6-8 pm has been booked for us. The Land Trust asked us if we would like to do an additional lower basin event and an upper basin event. We will need a panel of people with expertise on different topics. Ms. Harma asked the group who would like to serve on a panel.

Possibilities suggested include:

- Water rights – Kahle
- Water quantity – Brian Walsh
- Water quality – Scott Collyard
- Tribe and water quality efforts – Glen or other from Chehalis Tribe
- Overview and who’s who and what’s what - Kirsten

Action Item: Members are encouraged to go back to their home organizations and ask for volunteers to serve on a panel and also to consider whether they would like this event to be held at one or two locations. Contact the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust at office@chehalislandtrust.org.

Other Business:

None

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at noon.

NEXT MEETING: July 28th 2017.