



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Chehalis Meeting Rooms

Rochester, Washington

July 28, 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*

Dan Wood*, *City of Montesano*

Kris Koski*, *City of Aberdeen*

Jason Gillie', *Chehalis Tribe*

Jan Robinson*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

Jim Hill*, *Lewis County Citizen*

Kahle Jennings', *City of Centralia*

Lee Combs*, *City of Centralia*

Patrick Wiltzius', *City of Chehalis*

Randy Ross*, *Grays Harbor County*

Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

GUESTS

Mark Mobbs, QIN; Bonnie Canaday, Centralia Citizen; Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District; Kathy Mai, Otak; Liz Gilliam, Otak; Rachel Stendahl, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium; Shelby Reibel, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium; Kylea Johnson, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust; Eric Johnson, Thurston Conservation District and local farmer; Chrissy Bailey, Ecology

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. Mr. Koski had one amendment to the minutes Member Update section. He reported that "making progress on the Fry Creek levee" is incorrect. There are actually two project and progress is being made on that both Fry Creek restoration project and North Shore levee. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. All in favor.

3. Member Updates

- Bonnie Canaday is no longer on Centralia City Council. A new member will have to be elected to serve as Vice Chair. Nominations for the Vice Chair seat will open at the following CBP meeting and be announced as an action item on the agenda.
- Thurston PUD will be moving it's office and start at the new location December 1st
- Centralia will be opening up bids for construction on the China Creek project next week
- Amy Spoon announced that many stream habitat restoration projects are finishing up construction.
- The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust held its first BioBlitz and it was a success. Next month will be their annual fundraising Gala.
- The City of Chehalis received an Ecology grant to install new septic tanks in an area where the previous septic tanks were failing and contributing to degraded surface water quality in adjacent Coal Creek. Tanks are now installed and water quality is expected to improve.
- The City of Aberdeen's will be hosting an open house to share more information about the Fry Creek project and answer questions from the public. They are continuing design and are waiting for the next phase of funding, contingent on the Capital Budget. The Charlie Creek project is also pending.
- Grays Harbor County Commissioners will be discussing a proposed resolution next week to appoint the Habitat Work Group as the Citizen's Committee for the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity process.
- Montesano is completing its waste water treatment plant protection project. This is a \$5 million project supported by the Flood Authority which will protect the treatment plant from erosion along in the Wynoochee River. The project was developed using a cooperative approach with Ecology and the Quinault, and the Department of Transportation. Montesano is exploring an additional project component is use of red worms to remove 90% solids and 90% of nitrogen as well as other nutrients. The residual product can be used as a fertilizer that can then be sold for agricultural use.
- The Chehalis Basin Education Consortium is will be taking on more education projects in the Chehalis this coming year. Coordinator Rachel Stendahl will be leaving on maternity leave. Shelby Reibel will take her place while she is away.
- The Lewis County Conservation District will be installing three livestock pads and getting started on a recently permitted fish restoration project on Bunker Creek road. They will be opening up for bids next week.

B. Presentations & Discussions

Water Rights and Use Analysis – Discussion led by Kirsten Harma

A water use, water rights and water management study is being proposed for inclusion in the Chehalis Strategy in the upcoming biennium, pending a capital budget. The project will be managed through the Office of the Chehalis Basin now at Ecology. A draft scope of work was put together by Anchor QEA, a consultant already under contract to the Chehalis Strategy. A large part of the scope of work is to provide an update for the Water Quantity Evaluation (Tetra Tech, 2003) prepared for the Chehalis Basin Partnership. The strategy management team proposed that the "kick off" planning meeting take place at a regular meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership. Chrissy Bailey, Project Manager for the Office of the Chehalis, noted that the scope of work will likely be fleshed out and amended after budget discussions in the coming weeks. The

work in the contract may be undertaken by Anchor alone, or by Anchor with subcontractors, or by a different consultant. It may begin this biennium or be postponed to a future biennium.

Mr Harris asked the group if they would like to be involved in a “kick-off” meeting for this work and further project elements as they develop. Mr Jennings noted that this would be an opportunity for the CBP to increase its relevancy in the basin. Mr. Wood questioned why the CBP would be involved when this is a project of the Chehalis Strategy. Mr. Jennings pointed out that the CBP has a larger scope that includes elements both within and outside of the Chehalis Strategy and the project is in line with both the interests of its members and the mission of the organization. Engaging the CBP on an advisory basis only will allow for a discussion of the topic among a broad range of constituents. The CBP has overseen the investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in water management planning, so it makes sense to have input into this upcoming study.

Next steps: Await notice from Ecology as to whether or not this scope of work will be funded.

CBP Purpose and Direction – Discussion led by Chair Terry Harris

The group discussed CBP’s purpose and future direction. Ms. Harma presented the results of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities discussion from the June meeting. The subsequent conversation centered around opportunities and goals for the CBP.

Legislative Outreach:

Mr. Harris suggested that a subcommittee convene to go and talk to relevant state elected officials, remind them that we were established by the legislature, that we are still relevant, and that we need funding. Four members volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Ms. Spoon commented that the group would need a clear statement about what we can provide before going and asking for funding from the legislature. Later in the meeting, members agreed that it would be premature to meet with legislators without a clear product to fund.

Goals and Activities:

Mr Combs suggested that the CBP engage with the Chehalis Strategy. He supported involvement in the water use/rights/management study and suggested the CBP get behind the work plan. Later in the meeting, members expressed support for this engagement.

Mr. Hill suggest that the CBP define what it’s “brand” is while considering what it can provide as a product. He suggested that the group undertake field trips to see the problems in the watershed and the ways local groups and governments are addressing those problems. Later in the meeting, only some members expressed support for holding field trips.

Mr. Wood suggested that members consider what unique role the CBP has, and what the group is doing about an issue. Mr. Jennings mentioned that the legislature gave this group a nearly impossible task when established it. “Water for people and water for fish” is the issue that we have been struggling with for decades and still haven’t resolved. This is still timely and relevant, it’s just a very challenging task.

Mr. Stearns noted that if the the group can agree on one project to work on, he can ask the Thurston PUD to forward some funding toward the group.

Action Proposal

After the break, Ms. Spoon proposed a plan for the CBP. She noted that since other successful groups in the basin work on the model of putting out calls for project proposals and then selecting projects for funding, the CBP could increase its relevancy by taking a similar approach. The group

could decide on the types of projects it would like to see implemented in the basin that relate to implementing the Watershed Management Plan, set criteria, and then send out a call for proposals. A list of the types of potential projects the group would like to see implemented could be taken to the legislature as a funding ask. Members present expressed general support for further developing this idea.

Coordinator Position Evaluation - Kahle Jennings

Mr. Jennings reported on a conversation held earlier this month between representatives of the CBP and Lead Entity program. The needs for the Watershed Coordinator position, initially set to be 50% CBP and 50% Lead Entity work, have shifted towards a greater need for more work done on the Lead Entity tasks. Pending the capital budget, funding will be available to support that work full time. The CBP does not have new sources of funding to support the position. Since half of the future funding will come through the Chehalis Strategy, a relevant use of Coordinator time would be to engage the CBP on the water use/water rights and habitat topics. To allow for this transition while still meeting the continuing needs of the CBP, there is a need for someone to provide administrative tasks, including minute-taking, minute writing, and sending out meeting announcements. This work takes approximately 10 hours per month. Mr. Jennings asked if any member had an administrative staff person who would be able to do this task. If not, the CBP's current budget of \$50,000 could go towards contracting out the work.

Action Item: Anyone with ideas on how to continue administrative functions through in-kind support should bring them to the next CBP meeting.

C. Other Partnership Business

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

Ms. Harma reminded the group of the "State of the Watershed" event the CBP has been invited to put on on September 21st. Thus far, Ms. Harma has received confirmation that a Ecology staff member can present water quality trends information. The invitation to Brian Walsh to talk about water quantity trends is still pending. Eric Johnson suggested hosting the event at either the Gate Schoolhouse or Swede Hall. It only cost \$25 to rent the former, and \$150 to rent the latter. The more convenient the location is, the more likely participation will be. Kylea Johnson of the CRBLT noted that at past Learnings from the Chehalis events, people show up because they want to ask questions of experts. Ms. Harma invited CBP members to promote this event in their communities as an opportunity for the public to get answers to questions about water quality and water quantity issues in the Chehalis.

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING: August 25th 2017.