



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Chehalis Meeting Rooms

Rochester, Washington

September 22, 2017

9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Brian Thompson*, *Lewis County Farm Bureau*

Chuck Caldwell*, *Port of Grays Harbor*

Chris Stearns*, *Thurston PUD*

Dan Wood*, *City of Montesano*

Kris Koski*, *City of Aberdeen*

Jan Robinson*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

Kahle Jennings', *City of Centralia*

Patrick Wiltzius', *City of Chehalis*

Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

GUESTS

Teresa Julius, *Grays Harbor Council of Governments*

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 July Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present and thus a vote on the minutes could not take place. Mr. Wood had provided corrections to the minutes in advance of the meeting, which have been incorporated and will be included in the draft sent out to the group for vote at the next meeting.

3. Member Updates

- Mr. Harris reported that he attended the afternoon of the September Chehalis Basin Board meeting. His summary was that the group has work to do and they have to do it collaboratively. They are still figuring out what they can do without a capital budget.
- Mr. Jennings reported that Centralia's China Creek project donated funds allocated for its implementation but which are still unspent to fund the continuation of the Chehalis Strategy through November. The funds will be returned to the project once a capital budget is passed.

- Mr. Jennings will be retiring as the City of Centralia’s Public Works director in October. Kim Ashmore has been selected as his replacement. Mr. Jennings plan to be available to help the Chehalis Basin Partnership with its efforts over the next year.
- The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, in collaboration with the Chehalis Basin Partnership, held its capstone presentation, the “State of the Watershed.” There are funds to continue this popular and successful workshop series next summer. Jan Robinson has been nominated for an award that would give funds to the Land Trust. The award goes to whoever gets the most online votes.
- Mr. Thompson reported that we’ve had the wettest winter followed by the driest summer. This has had impacts on agriculture. Some folks are being forced to sell livestock, and junior water rights have recently been interrupted. He sees this as the future of what farming will look like.
- Aberdeen is moving forward on planning its large infrastructure project. The Chehalis Strategy also borrowed funds from the Fry Creek project to continue its efforts through November. They retained enough funds to work on design through the winter.
- The Aberdeen Stream Team, along with partner groups, will be holding a creek clean-up on Alder Creek on October 7th.
- The Chehalis Basin Partnership, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, and other partner groups coordinating under a Rose Foundation Grant, have hired a new Grays Harbor Stream Team Corodinator, Katie Lutz, for the coming year.
- The City of Chehalis has put 9 homes on sewer along Coal Creek.
- The Port of Grays Harbor has a good cash flow right now. It is looking at developing a pot ash operations, which would add 70 jobs. Developments at the Satsop Business Park has 400 employees. One company with 150 employees just joined the business park.
- Thurston PUD is increasing its footprint.
- The next meeting of the Chehalis Basin Board will include a session on “perspectives from agriculture.” Ms. Harma has inquired as to whether a future meetings might provide an opportunity to present “perspectives from Watershed Management.” Kahle Jennings has offered to give that presentation at a future

4. Nominations for Vice Chair

A quorum was not present, so the opening of nominations could not be made. The group decided that it is reasonable to open the call for nominations at the October meeting, at the same time as the nominations for Chair. At the October meeting, these nominations will be listed in the agenda as an Action Item. In the mean time, interested parties can reach out to possible candidates for Vice Chair. Lee Napier, Chuck Caldwell and Glen Connelly were mentioned as possibilities.

5. Reallocation of Watershed Coordinator Time

Representatives of the CBP Steering Technical Committee and the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity’s Habitat Work Group met to discuss allocation of the Watershed Coordinators time between these two entities. Mr. Jennings presented a letter to the Chehalis Tribe with the request to move more of the Watershed Coordinator’s split time to Lead Entity tasks. There is both need and funding for more effort to be spent on Lead Entity tasks. The letter proposes a split to have 90% of the coordinator’s time go towards Lead Entity tasks, and 10% towards CBP. There will likely be overlap between the tasks for both entities. Unknown is how to meet some of the CBP responsibilities that would have to be given up. No members had volunteered staff time from their organizations since the last meeting, leaving the most plausible option being to contract the work

out. A quorum was not present to vote on the recommendation and associated letter. Ms. Harma asked members present for their general feelings. No one expressed dissent.

B. Presentations & Discussions

Aberdeen's Fry Creek Restoration Project – Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen

The TimberWorks Master Plan came up with 50 or 60 ideas for large projects in the Aberdeen and Hoquiam area. The Fry Creek Restoration and Flood Reduction project was proposed and was the second highest ranking project after the North Shore levee project idea. It proposes to be a multi-benefit project meeting 3 objectives: reduce flooding; restore habitat; improve open space.

Proposing the Fry Creek project idea came out of a connection Mr. Koski made at a CBP meeting. Aberdeen applied for funding through WCRI. The project is on the list for funding by WCRI, and we'll know about results once there is a capital budget.

Aberdeen is currently undergoing a design process for the project. Construction will need to happen in phases. They want the first phase to show measurable impacts in order to show success.

Project presentation slides are available on the CBP website:
<http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/>

State of the Watershed Presentations – Cancelled

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING: October 27th 2017.