



## **CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Rochester, Washington**

**March 23, 2018**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT**

Amy Spoon\*, *WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*  
Bob Johnson\*, *WA Dept. of Natural Resources*  
Brian Thompson\*, *Lewis Farm Bureau*  
Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*  
Edna Fund\*, *Lewis County*  
Kris Koski\*, *City of Aberdeen*  
Glen Connelly\*, *Chehalis Tribe*

Jan Robinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*  
Lee Napier', *Lewis County*  
Susan Luond\*, *City of Centralia*  
Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*  
Patrick Wilzius', *City of Chehalis*  
Wes Cormier\*, *Grays Harbor County*

#### **GUESTS**

Garrett Dalan, *Nature Conservancy*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Bob Amrine, *Lewis County Conservation District*; Mike Gallagher, *Department of Ecology*; Tye Menser, *Citizen*; Chrissy Bailey, *Department of Ecology*; Anthony Waldrup, *Grays Harbor Conservation District*

#### **STAFF**

Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Meeting summaries are available on the Chehalis Basin Partnership website: [www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org](http://www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org)
- PowerPoint presentations from this meeting are available on the Chehalis Basin Partnership website: [www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations](http://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, September, October & January Meeting Minutes**

A quorum was present. All minutes were approved.

##### **3. Member Updates**

Members provided updates. The Farm Bureau has a new president, Thurston PUD has a new building, and Aberdeen has funding to construct the Fry Creek project. Ms. Spoon is permitting salmon habitat projects and reported a new WDFW reporting tool for members of the public who observe injured swans. Lewis County has been helping with a draft plan for the Voluntary Stewardship Program, which will be ready by the fall. Ms. Harma updated the group on her work

with the Grays Harbor Stream Team, the 2017 SRFB grant round and the 2018 SRFB grant round, as well as her engagement with the Chehalis Strategy and its Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. The Stream Team's Rose Foundation grant runs out next fall. Anyone with ideas on new funding sources to support that project is encouraged to contact Ms. Harma

## **B. Presentations & Discussions**

**ESSB 6091- Ecology's Initial Policy Interpretations** – Mike Gallagher, Water Resources Program, WA Dept. of Ecology.

Mr. Gallagher provided background on the Hirst Decision, subsequent conversations at the Washington State Legislature, and the resulting ESSB 6091. Ecology is working to interpret the new law and to develop policies and a subsequent implementation plan. There are two aspects of the law, one is regulations for new "exempt" private well systems that affect maximum gallons per day that they can pump, and one is developing/updating watershed plans to identify ways to off-set the water consumed through the construction of those new wells. In watersheds where there is an existing Watershed Plan and a Planning Unit that is still active, those units are being asked to update their plans to include projects to off-set the impacts of new "exempt" wells. Starting early this summer, there will be grants available through a state-wide competition that will fund projects that do water-for-water mitigation for new wells. Funding may be awarded for projects that improve watershed health, though those receive a lower priority than water-for-water projects. Ecology's operating budget included capacity funding to support facilitation for Planning Units as they complete their plan update. Ecology will provide a new staff person to support the Planning Units in the technical and policy aspects of that work. If watershed groups do not agree on a plan by 2021, Ecology will set rules for the basin.

Visit the Ecology website for more information: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration>

Presentation slides are available on our website: <http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (see Water Quantity presentations)

## **Discussion – CBP and Watershed Planning**

The group asked questions of Mr. Gallagher, and then discussed a potential role for the CBP in implementing the new law. Mr. Gallagher stated that the incentives for the CBP to come together to work on this plan include: improvements in stream flow, money for projects, and the opportunity to come together for a shared purpose. Ms. Napier suggested re-engaging CBP members who have not been attending meetings but who may be interested in participating in this project through a re-engagement letter. Mr. Stearns commented that if we don't work on this, others will tell us how to manage our resources.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**NEXT MEETING:** April 20, 2018