***CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP***

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

**Rochester, Washington**

**April 20, 2018**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

**Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES’ PRESENT**

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| Amy Spoon\*, *WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*Bob Johnson\*, *WA Dept. of Natural Resources*Brian Thompson’, *Lewis Farm Bureau*Bobby Jackson\*, *Lewis County*Ed Mock’*, City of Aberdeen* Glen Connelly\*, *Chehalis Tribe* | Lee Napier’, *Lewis County*Susan Luond\*, *City of Centralia* Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*Patrick Wiltzius’*, City of Chehalis*Wes Cormier\*, *Grays Harbor County*  |

 **GUESTS**

Garrett Dalan, *Nature Conservancy;* Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Allison Osterberg, *Thurston County*.

**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 March Meeting Minutes**

A quorum was not present.

**3. Member Updates**

Members provided updates.

-The Chehalis Tribe Natural Resources Department is currently understaffed. They will soon be hiring a GIS coordinator. They will soon be doing tree planting for a riparian restoration project.

-WDFW has funding through the Chehalis Strategy and the “Hirst fix” to hire more staff for the Region 6 office. There will likely be a Chehalis-dedicated engineer coming on board.

-The DNR representative will be busy working on fires soon

-The City of Aberdeen will be hosting an open house about the North Shore Levee from 10-noon on Saturday.

-Lewis County Planning is working on updating their Critical Areas Ordinance. It will hopefully be complete June 2018. VSP is moving forward. It ties in and complements the CAO.

-The Washington Coast Restoration Initiative funding program has a new Request for Proposals out, as well as a new “R” for Resilience. The call for proposals will look for projects with ecology and jobs benefits, with a focus on the actual Washington Coast, through projects in the upper reaches of the Chehalis will be eligible. The deadline for draft applications in June 15. A funding request will go in for the next biennium’s Capital Budget. Contact Garrett Dalan, TNC, for more information: garrett.dalan@tnc.org.

-Centralia will start the China Creek project soon.

-Thurston County is updating the Rochester and Grand Mound sub-area plans.

**B. Presentations & Discussions**

**Chehalis Drinking Water Workshop** – Teresa Kubo, EPA Oregon Operations (brought it via Skype)

Ms. Kubo provided information about the new Drinking Water Providers Partnership. Its goals are to:

* Restore and protect the health of watersheds which communities depend upon for drinking water while also benefiting aquatic and riparian ecosystems, including the native fish that inhabit them.
* Support local partnerships between drinking water providers, landowners, and restoration practitioners.

The initiative originated in Oregon, as restoration practitioners realized that salmon watershed are also drinking water watersheds, and therefore that doing restoration could also provide water quality benefits at provider intake pipes. The EPA was brought in to act as a catalyst for developing multi-benefit projects and as a funding sources. The program currently provides about $600,000 a year to qualifying projects in Oregon. The initiative is expanding to Washington. Washington’s Department of Health identified some good locations to hold workshops and look for opportunities. Chehalis is one of those locations. There will be an all-day workshop on June 7th, location TBD. Potential participants are encouraged to contact Ms. Kubo to get invited to the workshop: Kubo.Teresa@epa.gov.

Visit the Drinking Water Providers Partnership website for more information: <https://www.workingwatersgeos.org/drinking-water-providers-partnership>.

**Watershed Planning/Streamflow Restoration/ESSB 6091, aka, “Hirst Fix” and the Chehalis Basin Partnership --** Kirsten Harma, Watershed Coordinator

Chair Terry Harris reminded the group that we received a presentation from Mike Gallagher of Ecology at our last meeting. The CBP has been invited to reengage as the “Planning Unit” to take on the new tasks outlined for the “Hirst Fix” legislation. Mr. Harris invited participants to each share their thoughts. Everyone present agreed that since this work needs to be done by someone, it makes sense for the CBP to be the group to do it. Participants discussed the benefits of having this diversity of perspectives at the table when discussing water issues. Commissioner Jackson expressed Lewis County’s need to deal properly with water so that rural development can continue. Mr. Dalan shared ideas for how to develop multi-benefit flow enhancement and fish habitat restoration projects. Ms. Balmelli-Powe noted that farmers need a seat at the table as it is their water that is shut off during the summer if there is a water shortage. Mr. Wiltzius expressed that waste water can be part of the solution in getting more flow back into streams.

Participants acknowledged that more work is needed to ensure that all Chehalis Basin Partnership members and original signatories are made aware that this work will be taking place. Ms. Harma presented a draft “re-engagement letter” for the group to discuss. Participants provided various ideas on the structure and content of the letter.

Ms. Napier recommended that the letter go to all Initiating Governments, highlighting the important role they had in the first round of watershed planning. Some members volunteered to reach out to people they know individually and tell them about the upcoming work. Ms. Harma asked members to let her know if they learn that anyone’s contact information has changed, especially those with mail-only contact information. Ms. Balmelli-Powe suggested that the first meeting that new/old members are invited back to be substantive, with someone from Ecology presenting information about the Hirst Fix and what watershed groups are being expected to do.

The group approved Ms. Harma sending the re-engagement letter after circulating a new version that included feedback from the day’s discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**NEXT MEETING:** June 22, 2018