***CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP***

**Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Hotel , Sky Room**

**Rochester, Washington**

**July 27, 2018**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

**Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES’ PRESENT**

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| Alissa Shay\*, *Port of Grays Harbor*Allison Osterberg’, *Thurston County* Amy Spoon\*, *WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*Brian Shay\*, *Hoquiam* (via phone)Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*Ed Mock’*, City of Aberdeen* Glen Connelly\*, *Chehalis Tribe* | Jan Robinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*Lee Napier’, *Lewis County*Patrick Wiltzius’, *City of Chehalis*Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*Wes Cormier\*, *Grays Harbor County* Jim Haslet*\* City of Napavine* |

 **GUESTS**

Mike Gallagher, *Ecology, Water Resources*; Devon Rostofer, *Ecology* *TMDL Lead*; Jennifer Riedmayer, *Ecology*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Rachel Stendahl, *Chehalis Basin Education Consortium*; Katie Lutz, *Grays Harbor Stream Team Coordinator*; Jennifer Arnold, *Reciprocity Consulting LLC*; Bonnie Earle, *citizen*;

**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 June Meeting Minutes**

There were no concerns with the minutes. A quorum was present.

**3. Partner Updates**

- Chehalis Tribe Natural Resources has had personnel changes and is hiring new staff.

- Lewis County – Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) adopted by Commissioners. Took effect July 1. Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) plan is being presented to the state technical panel.

- Napavine – Mr. Haslet, the 1995-2006 representative returning to CBP after years away. The city is re-zoning, changing buffers on Newaukum River and Allen Creek, and adding 60 new homes to city limits to improve the economy.

- Ecology has two new staff. Jennifer Riedmeyer is working in the Newaukum to address non-point pollution and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). Devan Rostofer is the new TMDL lead and will soon tour the watershed to learn the issues.

- Quinault Indian Nation – directed Caprice Fasano to participate in the 6091/Watershed Plan update.

- Port of Grays Harbor is currently being represented by Mrs. Shay, but may soon appoint a Commissioner to be the representative.

- Chehalis Basin Education Consortium – Coordinator is looking for restoration project sites (tree plantings near streams) and is running a No Child Left Inside project with the Lewis County detention center with a focus on teaching about “green” jobs. Volunteers are welcome to showcase an environmental job at this weekly program.

- Chehalis River Basin Land Trust will soon be having its annual gala fundraiser

- Chehalis Basin Lead Entity – Projects have been ranked and will be presented to SRFB. Ms. Harma is representing this local group on the new Aquatic Species Restoration Plan committee.

- Thurston PUD is also participating on the watershed plan update for the Nisqually watershed.

**B. Presentations & Discussions**

**Watershed Planning/Streamflow Restoration/ ESSB 6091, aka “Hirst Fix” and the Chehalis Basin Partnership** – Mike Gallagher, Ecology

This Senate Bill has now become law as RCW 90.94 – “Streamflow Restoration Act.” Ecology has hired someone from North Dakota to be the representative for the Chehalis on the watershed plan update. He will begin work in September.

Mr. Gallagher provided a summary of what the Nisqually watershed planning unit is doing. Ms. Osterberg contributed additional information. The committee hadn’t met since 2012 but is not meeting regularly. They are using the same bylaws as before. They formed subgroups to take on different parts of the plan update. Their Habitat Work Group has been tasked with coming up project ideas. They are focusing on projects in more developed areas where there may be less benefit to salmon from a project, but where there may be the chance to get water back in streams. Another subgroup has formed for “Other Strategies.” They are looking at drilling deeper wells and policy options. All ideas are on the table.

Mr. Gallagher met with the Grays Harbor County Commissioners to discuss their possible role as Lead Agency on a planning grant. $100,000 will be available for facilitation and plan writing, as there are two WRIAs in the Chehalis. Solicitation of bids for contractors to do this work will follow County contracting guidelines.

**Presentation --- Contractor and CBP Funding --** Discussion

Ms. Harma presented a chart with funds currently in the CBP account and current monthly withdrawal. Over $50,000 of unobligated funds are still in the account.

Ms. Harma suggested that the group needs to take steps to regroup and prepare to take on the tasks of the watershed plan update. She requested that the group approve using existing CBP funds to support a small contract to hire Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting to run a one-day workshop.

Ms. Arnold’s specific qualifications are in the field of collaboration and conflict management. She has written a report on watershed partnerships in Oregon which outlines what they need to be successful. She helps group clarify role and purpose before decisions need to be made so that they can make decisions confidently. She has learned that slowing down to work on process can clarify and improve substantive work.

Mr. Harris convened a discussion. Members suggested holding the workshop at the regularly scheduled September meeting, but a longer meeting with lunch provided. No one opposed the contract. Ms. Arnold suggested advertising the event early to ensure participation.

**C. Other Business**

**Grays Harbor Stream Team – Key Accomplishments and Next Steps** – Katie Lutz, Stream Team Coordinator.

Katie Lutz presented the key accomplishments of the Grays Harbor Stream Team. She provided information on number of pounds of trash removed and invasive ivy removed, number of volunteers coming to events, as well as testimonials from volunteers and community members. She has received thanks from community members for the Stream Team efforts, and local elected representatives have come to clean-ups. She has promoted the work of the Stream Team through radio shows, which has brought more volunteers to events. Katie is the lead in organizing this year’s Watershed Festival, which will be a part of the Lake Sylvia Fall festival.

Funding from the Rose Foundation for Communities and Environment has supported most of the Stream Team over the past two years and the grant will soon come to an end without the option for renewal. Ms. Lutz shared the annual funding need for the program, approximately $20,000 per year. Ms. Lutz, Ms. Harma, and Mrs. Robinson have been working together to apply for small grants to support the projects, but funding for coordination is still needed. Ms. Harma asked if the CBP could discuss if they would be willing to put any of the CBP’s current unobligated funding toward some of these costs. Members expressed caution given that we don’t know what the Watershed Plan Update scope of work will be or how those funds can be used. Member municipalities may be interested in contributing individually, but cautioned that they all need to look closely at their revenue streams as discretionary funds are limited. Ms. Napier suggested the ASRP as a possible funding source. The work of the Stream Team is an effective way of reaching out to the public and this would be a more valuable way of implementing some aspects of the ASRP than are currently being used. If the CBP as the Watershed Planning Group makes a request to the ASRP to fund the Stream Team it may carry weight. Mr. Connelly sees value in the CBP contributing something towards the Stream Team, but keeping enough of the current unobligated funds on reserve. All agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:35.

**NEXT MEETING:** August 24, 2018

**\*Next month the meeting will also be held in the Sky Room of the Lucky Eagle Hotel, not in the Casino\***

**\*The September meeting will be an important workshop. Please reserve 4 hours for this meeting. Please plan to attend or send an alternate. Lunch will be provided.**