***CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP***

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

**Rochester, Washington**

**February 22, 2019**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

**Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES’ PRESENT**

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| Amy Spoon\*, *WDFW*Brian Thompson\*, *Lewis Co. Farm Bureau*Bobby Jackson\*, *Lewis County BOCC*Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*Cindy Wilson’, *Thurston County* Ed Mock, *City of Aberdeen’*Glen Connelly\*, *Chehalis Tribe DNR*Kim Ashmore*\*, Centralia*  | Jan Robinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust* Jim Hill\*, *Citizen*Lee Napier’, *Lewis County*Mike Noone\*, *Ecology Water Resources*Patrick Wiltzius’, *City of Chehalis*Phil Papac\*, *Port of Grays Harbor*Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*Tye Menser\*, *Thurston County* |

 **GUESTS**

Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Jonathan Bradshaw*, Citizen;* Kait Nelson*, Thurston County;* Tom Culhane*, Ecology;* Tristan Weiss, *WDFW*; Dave Vasilauskas, *City of Chehalis*;; Paula Holyroyde, *League of Women Voters Thurston County*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Zainab Nejati, *Thurston County Public Works*; Allison Osterberg, *Thurston County*; Jill Van Hulle, *Pacific Groundwater*; Chris Vandenberg, *Lewis County Water Conservancy Board*.

**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, Introductions**

The Chair convened a welcome and participants introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of January Meeting Notes**

All in favor.

**3. Partner Updates**

-Lewis County reported on participation in the Nisqually Plan update.

-The Port of Grays Harbor is working with Westport to improve roads and restrooms.

-Ecology approved a watershed plan update for WRIA 11, but WRIA 1 will need to go to Rule Making. Also, eligible entities in the Chehalis Basin have applied for participation funding for the watershed plan update, with the exception of Grays Harbor County. They have additional funding they can apply for.

-Thurston PUD recently had a presentation about their service area.

-Thurston’s Conservation District recently had two board members removed.

-The City of Centralia will host a tour of the China Creek project site for the Chehalis Basin Board on the first Thursday in May. CBP members are welcome to participate.

-The League of Women Voters is hosting a series of presentations on “Thurston County water realities.” Their first meeting was on the state policy on watershed planning. On May 7th they will host a presentation on Streams, Salmon and Orca. They would like someone from the Chehalis to present.

-The Thurston County Water Conservancy Board is disbanding. They used to make recommendations on water right change applications in Thurston County.

-The Office of the Chehalis Basin (OCB) is supporting a new position that will help “support the long term viability of agriculture” in southwest Washington, and the Chehalis basin specifically. Mike Peroni provided a detailed update on what that work will entail. The Office of the Chehalis will support a part time position, which is held by Mr. Peroni, who will be housed at the Northwest Agricultural Business Center. OCB supports this work as a way to help landowners who might have a habitat restoration project on their land. Mr. Peroni asked the group if they’d be willing to sign a “Letter of Understanding regarding collaboration on regional agriculture development in the South Puget Sound/SW Washington Region.”

Action: The letter will be discussed and the group will come to a decision on signing at the March 22nd CBP meeting.

**4. Update on Facilitation Contract for Watershed Plan Update.**
Ms. Harma provided an update on the facilitation contract. NHC has been hired to facilitate the watershed plan update process and will be facilitating the March 22nd meeting.

**B. Presentations & Discussions

WRIA 1 Plan Amendment: Success! & Lessons Learned** – Allison Osterberg, Thurston County Senior Planner

\*This presentation was recorded for distribution on Thurston County TV. A web link is now available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILsbOVi6x4U&feature=youtu.be>

Steps they took included:
1) Define Sub basins. Choose boundaries that make sense. Some choices were made for “administrative ease”
2) 20 Year Population Projections. Get all counties to come up with estimates in a similar way. The Nisqually Planning Unit found that 2/3rds of their new exempt well growth would be in rural areas.
3) Calculate new domestic permit-exempt wells.
4) Calculate consumptive use. The planning unit used three different methods to account for consumptive use.
They concluded that exempt wells would consumptively use about 1 cfs of the Nisqually River: a “drop in the bucket” of the river’s low flow in August (469 cfs).

Key Recommendations:

\*Spend more time developing projects and off-set actions, and less time on the details of future consumptive use.

\*Make a plan that demonstrates “Net Ecological Benefit.” Tie it in with your salmon strategy.

\*Leave time for back and forth with Ecology prior to final submittal.
\*Treat this as an opportunity to reach big goals
\*Show up. It will be a lot of work.

Discussion:

-Nisqually didn’t have areas where minimum instream flows were the top limiting factor for salmon. Maybe it will be different in the Chehalis.

-Ecology will still look for “water for water” projects since reviewers have experience in water resources.
-Ms. Napier advocated budgeting plenty of time to work on the plan update, and coordinating with other activities for success.

-A suggestion was made to get individual jurisdictions to approve the plan before it goes to Ecology, and to accomplish that by briefing leadership throughout the process.

**Consumptive Use 101 –** Tom Culhane, Water Resources Program, Ecology

-Mr. Culhane provided Ecology’s guidelines for how to calculate consumptive use, qualifying that Planning Units don’t have to use Ecology’s numbers. The assumption is that 90% of indoor water use goes back into the ground. Important to consider will be outdoor watering area –which assumes 80% of water is consumptively used, contributing the most to consumptive water use.
-In defining sub-basins, consider the implications of local impacts of wells on streams. The plan will be more useful with more, smaller sub-basins.

-Mr. Culhane presented various methods for determining number of future permit exempt wells.

-Getting accurate data only goes so far. WRIA 1 had good GIS data, but didn’t get consensus on the plan, so it ultimately failed.

-In considering ground-water surface water connectivity, flag areas close to streams with shallow wells for developing projects.

Q) What will “rule making” be like?

A) For WRIA 1, Ecology will have to write a rule within 18 months. The rule will do the same thing a plan would do. Ecology may reduce the maximum gallon per day per exempt well. There will be a supporting document (not in rule) that Ecology comes up with that includes offset projects.

Q) Did WRIA 1 fall apart because of differences in aerial estimates of outdoor watering area?

A) Not really, they fell apart because of different philosophies about the type of mitigation projects.

Q) Do we need to account for stock watering if domestic wells are used for that purpose?
A) Mr. Culhane doesn’t know if that is an issue in the Chehalis.
Q) What if a Planning Unit wants to vary from Ecology’s guidance?

A) They can use their own estimate. Just document assumptions.
Q) What is Ecology’s plan for oversight and enforcement of the Plan?

A) Good question. 90.94 legislation focused on planning, not implementation. There isn’t guidance for implementation. Planning Units will need to report back, but this is not a requirement of the law. There may be a slight incentive for Ecology to fund projects that are included in the Watershed Plan.

**5. Other Business**

Ms. Harma convened a conversation about sub-committees. She asked for volunteers to serve on the Steering Technical Committee. She also asked people to start thinking about other subcommittees. Ms. Osterberg recommended 3 subcommittees: Water Forecast, Habitat Work Group, and Other Strategies. She advised the group to not wait to get started on this. The Water Forecast group should include Counties, Tribes, and Ecology. Participants agreed to think about who to recommend for the Steering Technical Committee, and want more information about the time commitment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:00.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 22, 2018