



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

**Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel Conference Room
Rochester, Washington**

March 24, 2017

9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Brian Thompson*, *Lewis County Farm Bureau*

Bobby Jackson*, *Lewis County*

Bonnie Canaday*, *City of Centralia*

Chuck Caldwell*, *Port of Grays Harbor*

Chris Stearns*, *Thurston PUD*

Dan Wood*, *Montesano*

Glen Connelly', *Chehalis Tribe*

Jim Hill*, *Lewis County Citizen*

Julie Balmelli-Powe, *Citizen*

Kahle Jennings', *City of Centralia*

Lee Napier', *Lewis County*

Randy Ross*, *Grays Harbor County*

Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

GUESTS

Lee Coumbs, *Mayor's Husband*; Jonathan Bradshaw, *Citizen*; Colleen Suter, *Chehalis Tribe*; Jill Anderson, *City of Chehalis*

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. Approval of February Minutes

A quorum was not present. There were no comments on the minutes.

3. Member Updates

- Lewis County reported good participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), an alternative path forward for the agricultural community.

B. Presentations & Discussions

Chehalis Basin Partnership Business – discussion facilitated by Chair Harris

Chair Terry Harris facilitated a discussion around CBP Operating Procedures, specifically, the requirement for consensus. At the last meeting, members present voted unanimously in favor of a letter of support from the CBP for Kahle Jennings to fill an appointment by the Governor. After the meeting, a member came out against sending the letter. This brought the Chair to the conclusion that it is time for the group to discuss consensus. For background, consensus was required for writing the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan, but later the CBP adopted its guidelines for how to operate.

Chair Harris asked the group: Should we keep operating as needing 100% consensus for all decisions? The microphone was passed around the room for each to provide a response.

Chair Harris: Has no opinion on whether to keep consensus or not. But he does see it as stifling. It waters things down in order to make everyone happy.

Randy Ross: This is only his 3rd meeting so doesn't have the historical background to express an opinion on the CBP's process. In general, he sees consensus as not efficient.

Dan Wood: Mr. Wood raised the objection to sending the letter of support. Not because of the outcome of the decision itself, but rather because of the process by which the decision was made. There was nothing on the agenda for February that said there was going to be a decision at the meeting. The CBP Operating Procedures explain that information needed to inform a decision should go out to the entire membership one month in advance of the decision needing to be made, or if that's not possible, with the meeting announcement. The Flood Authority has a good process – they clearly state in their agendas that there is an action to be taken at the subsequent meeting, and provides information necessary to inform the decision. An issue with the current CBP decision-making process is that a quorum of 10 members is required to make decisions, but we don't often get a quorum. Further, 10 members is still a minority of the entire membership – less than half. Mr. Wood sees the CBP as struggling to be relevant since there are so many other groups in the Chehalis. Regarding the decision to write a letter for Mr. Jennings, Mr. Wood expressed that he would have shown up to vote if he had known a vote was to be taken. He wouldn't have supported supporting a single entity when there are many members organizations on the CBP who might have been interested in applying. It is not fair to collectively choose one over another.

Amy Spoon: She agrees that attendance has been up and down at meetings. There is more attendance when presentation or agenda topics are of interest to people. She suggested looking at alternative ways to make decisions. She suggested that members send alternates for decision-making. Ms. Spoon supported the idea of adding "Action Requested" to agendas, as she will respond when an action is requested.

Bonnie Canaday: CBP members had to learn the consensus process over many years. During the early years, if one person in the room objected, a decision couldn't be made. It might be time for the group to revisit its policies and procedures. She feels that this is still an important group.

Glen Connelly: He has been a CBP member for 13 years. When it started its operating procedures were driven by the fact that it received public money, so had to carefully follow rules. As it evolved, it was only supported by member donations, so became less formal. It's a stakeholder

group. Decisions are non-binding. No member can make anyone else do anything they don't want to. Coming to a middle ground is goal of consensus process.

Lee Napier: Agrees that it's good to revisit Operating Procedures. She agrees with Mr. Wood's comment that the Flood Authority process is a good model. But it currently is more rigorous than that of CBP because of funding mandates. They use EZview for meeting announcements and minutes. It is free and might be a good tool for the CBP, as well. Ms. Napier stated that consensus is a good tool to engage people. It forces people to listen to one another's opinions.

Bobby Jackson: He prefers working by majority vote. He thinks the CBP should work by majority.

Brian Thompson: The legislative intent when watershed planning started was that anything happening related to water resources in the basin would come through this group. Since then, the CBP has been ignored by government entities. Regarding consensus, the CBP didn't work well together in early days. Without consensus, the group wouldn't have been able to come together. But now that the group is well established and trust has been built, consensus hinders rather than helps. He would prefer majority vote.

Chris Stearns: Supports having good process. He doesn't like skepticism about government.

Terry Harris responded to Mr. Wood's comment about decisions going out in advance. We didn't know that there would be a decision to be made in advance of the meeting. We weren't supporting Kahle to work "on behalf of the CBP", but rather supported him as an individual and the experience he would bring to the position. Mr. Wood countered that decisions shouldn't be made unless something goes out to members earlier. Regarding relevancy, this group shouldn't die. The other groups were created after the CBP. The CBP should continue to remain a clearinghouse.

Possible Solutions proposed to address concerns brought up during this discussion:

Participation: Get majority of members here in order to have quorum truly represent unanimity. Relevancy will drive participation. Maybe we could have members call in for decision-making if they can't participate in person. If we make a move towards democratic decision-making, we could clear up the membership – if people don't come to meetings, they aren't members anymore.

Other: Maybe a subcommittee should revisit procedures. Relevance: The CBP should work on it's mission – what is left that is unique to this organization? If we're recognized by the Governor and the Governor's Work Group as having something unique to give, we become relevant again. Three members of the CBP are going to go make a presentation to the Governor's Work Group as a step to making this group relevant in light of the new processes in the basin.

Ms. Harma expressed that if the CBP gets a role recognized by the new Office of the Chehalis Basin, it will be especially important to get its own internal operating procedures figured out. She said that the act of getting a letter for Kahle was part of trying to make the group relevant and asked for compassion for the people who have been looking out for opportunities like that to make the CBP relevant again.

Presentation: Floodplain Management on the Chehalis Reservation. By Glen Connelly, Chehalis Tribe.

Mr. Connelly presented what the Chehalis Tribe has been doing in the area of floodplain management. The tribe has a plan on how to deal with flooding, and it undertakes activities to improve floodplain function. Their work in Harris Creek is a good example of how the tribe has worked to meet the dual goals of flooding and fish habitat. Land use in the floodplain in the

Tribe's land is designated for temporary uses – RV lots, for example. The Wickett Levee removal project restored historic flood channels – based on LiDar. The Porter Oxbow Reconnection project had many functions, including groundwater recharge. (More information is available online through Mr. Connelly's Power Point slides:

<http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (Land Use Presentations))

Q) How does the tribe acquire new property?

A) The tribe buys land fee simple. Some land is held in Trust.

Q) Based on your experience, what are some of your recommendations for other jurisdictions

A) Most of this information comes from conferences we've gone to around the country. Many other people are using these approaches. There are lots of experts throughout the US and best practice guidelines have been developed. We're just following those.

Other Business:

Future presentation topics proposed by group:

-How well have past projects worked? What are indicators of their results?

-Habitat projects

-Flood Authority "Local Projects"

-Habitat Work Schedule – What is in there and how do we use it?

-Student presentation from "Student Congress"

-Grays Harbor MRC

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING

April 28th 2017 - Meeting topic to include amphibians, citizen science, and other aquatic species topics.