



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

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

January 22, 2016

9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Bob Burkle', *WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*
Bonnie Canaday*, *City of Centralia*
Bud Blake*, *Thurston County*
Brian Thompson*, *Lewis Co. Farm Bureau*
Chuck Caldwell*, *Port of Grays Harbor*
Chuck Turley*, *DNR*

Dustin Bilhimer*, *Dept. of Ecology*
Frank Gordon*, *Grays Harbor Commissioner*
Lee Napier', *Lewis County*
Patrick Wiltzius', *City of Chehalis*
Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

GUESTS

Garret Dalan, *The Nature Conservancy*
Jan Robinson, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, *Chehalis Basin Partnership*

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- The 2016 Work Plan will include the following:
- Monthly meetings with presentation topics planned well in advance
- External communication via "Drops of Water" articles.
- Additional community outreach pending approval of Kathy Jacobson's funding

MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Bonnie Canaday welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and guests provided self-introductions.

2. Member Updates

- No updates

B. Strategic Planning:

3. Review of referral to STC from November Meeting

Neither Glen nor Kahle were present to address this topic. Kirsten mentioned that Glen had sent out an e-mail on this topic prior to this meeting and asked if everyone received it. No one stated

that they did not receive the letter.

4. Presentation on 2016 Work Plan Proposal

Kirsten's presentation – Kirsten presented the STC's recommended work plan for 2016, based on information gathered through surveys, discussions in previous CBP meetings, the financial situation, and the recent funding to support the Coordinator working on the Lead Entity/ salmon recovery aspect of this position. The proposal for the CBP includes continued monthly meetings focused on information-sharing about one topic per month, outreach via e-newsletters that summarize presentation content, and broader community outreach via a "watershed hero" article series. Kathy Jacobson has applied for a grant that if funded, will help advance the CBP's community outreach goals.

There was some discussion around the topic of the Chehalis Basin Strategy – Kirsten mentioned that included in the work they are doing on floods and habitat in the basin is interest in addressing water quantity issues, such as meeting instream flows for fish. Some of the goals of the Partnership may be addressed through that work. CBP members expressed interest in making sure planners/ those part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, are aware of Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan and past work of partners in the basin. Terry mentioned that he had not heard of the "Chehalis Basin Strategy." Lee Napier expressed the need of speaking a common language about these different topics. Many people are familiar with the Chehalis Flood Authority, but don't know what the Chehalis Basin Strategy is, or how they are related. She stressed the importance of on-going communications to learn what each group is working on. This is the key to accomplishing goals. Kirsten said the proposed work plan includes Chehalis Strategy updates as the topic of the February meeting.

Discussion and Decision on 2016 Work Plan

Each member reported his or her response to the proposed 2016 Work Plan.

- Brian Thompson: He was present during the Steering Technical Committee discussion. This plan is the most logical way to move forward.
- Chuck Caldwell: Understands that we are struggling based on the limited amount of funding.
- Frank Gordon: Sees that the handicap for the work plan is still funding. He is disappointed that the CBP won't be moving forward with the NGO option.
- Chuck Turley: Agrees with the recommendations of the Steering Technical Committee
- Bob Burkle: Has also been participating on the Steering Technical Committee. The plan is the best we can do based on funding. Meetings should occur monthly, with perhaps a few months off over the winter holidays and mid-summer. Is glad to see that the Watershed Festival can continue. Overall, "we are getting what we can for the money we have."
- Dustin Bilhimer: As a representative of Ecology, he appreciates having the CBP as the go-to group to engage in these water-related topics. He thinks the proposed work plan is a good way to continue this group for as long as we can. He hopes the outreach work proposed will help stimulate more work/projects later on. He thinks the CBP can serve in a unique

role for bringing people together to discuss the flood and fish topics, as well (unique from the Flood Authority and Habitat Work Group), and hopes to see it continue.

- Jan Robinson: Wants to see clarity about the different roles and different groups.
- Lee Napier: Thinks this plan is going in the right direction. She realizes that the CBP has always taken advantage of the opportunities that come up. It serves us well to adapt to new opportunities.
- Garret Dalan: Supports the continuation of the Watershed Festival. Through his work with The Nature Conservancy, he plans do his best to participate and promote that event.
- Terry Harris: He supports the idea of going to NGOs (501(c)3s) with project ideas (such as Kathy is doing with the Chehalis River Council). This is still a way to get funding. He would like to get projects lined up, then approach NGOs and others with project ideas. He would like to revisit the Watershed Plan/Detailed Implementation Plan and find projects. The focus should be filling a gap – what other groups aren't doing. Wants to be able to demonstrate successes. He supports monthly CBP meetings.
- Patrick Wiltzius: He has been participating in the CBP for a long time and finds it valuable. He pledges his support for whatever direction it is going.
- Bud Blake: Supports forming a subcommittee to address financing. Once the group has financial stability, they will be able to demonstrate successes to the community.
- Bonnie Canaday: Disappointed that the Stream Teams are not part of the 2016 work plan. These are groups that people can get behind and put money towards. *(Kirsten responded that these groups are still going on their own, she is just not proposing supporting them by coordinating them as there is not time to do so with the proposed reduced time going to CBP. If she needs to interface with them, she can do so in her Lead Entity Coordinator role. There is no reason that they can't be "supported" in name, by the CBP).* The Mayor would also like to see two Watershed Festivals, including one in the upper basin. She would like to see monthly meetings, with the exception of November and December.

Discussion: How would you like to modify the proposed work plan?

Kirsten mentioned the flexible financing option being used by the Spokane River Forum is a model to consider. We can look into this some more if that is of interest. If there is a specific project, we can hire a contractor to do that work to move that work forward.

Patrick Wilzius said the e-newsletters won't meet educational/outreach needs. He would like to propose restarting the paper edition of Drops of Water. Would like topics to be big, general topics, such as "flood authority". He thinks that is a better way to reach "average citizens" than electronic communications. Lee seconded this idea, as she has heard good responses to the old ones from community members.

Proposed *Drops of Water* Topics: Watershed Festival, Habitat Work Group, funded projects, past funded projects, different groups in basin and what they're doing (keep it generic), what are water trusts, what water quality initiatives are happening, drought, agriculture, land trusts, etc....

Kirsten said that in order to focus on that approach, she will need to remove something from the proposed work plan. She suggested the e-newsletter could go. Garret mentioned that the Drops of Water could also be distributed as an e-newsletter once written up.

It was proposed that nothing should be removed from the work plan, but rather things should just be added and the salmon recovery work should be reduced. Dustin mentioned that Kirsten's work for salmon recovery via the Habitat Work Group work goes a long way towards implementing the Watershed Management Plan. Having a coordinator work in the Lead Entity/Salmon recovery side is very important to getting local involvement in salmon recovery projects. He suggested accommodating the time reallocation by focusing more on CBP topics around the time of the Watershed Festival, and allow for more coordinator time toward salmon recovery in winter and spring months.

Discussion: Presentation Topics:

Members suggested the following as 2016 meeting presentation topics:

- What is the Department of Ecology doing? What is DNR doing? What are the discussions within the different State agencies? How can we avoid duplication of efforts?
- Members supported the STC's proposed meeting topics for the next 4 months.
- February – Strong support for getting an update on Chehalis Strategy flood/fish work
- March -- For the water quality topic – include: what is the Chehalis Tribe doing with their water quality monitoring program? Also municipal storm water permits.
- Voluntary Stewardship Program – bring in the consultant putting that together
- August or September – Get Kahle to present on the China Creek project. Include an optional field trip.
- May, June or July -- DNR – What's happening with the FFFPP? What's happening with the Aquatic Lands mapping? How does this relate to fish passage?
- Mayor Canaday supported getting the meeting agendas out to constituents.

5. Presentation on 2015 Accomplishments

Kirsten gave a presentation on her implementation of the 2015 work plan, and also walked the group through the new CBP website.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Bonnie Canaday adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

February 19th 2016.

* Note that this is not our regular 4th Friday