



## **CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP**

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

**January 27, 2017**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT**

Amy Spoon\*, WDFW

Chuck Caldwell\*, *Port of Grays Harbor*

Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*

Randy Ross\*, *Grays Harbor County*

Jan Robsinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

Kahle Jennings', *City of Centralia*

Kris Koski', *City of Aberdeen*

Patrick Wiltzius', *City of Chehalis*

Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*

Bonnie Canaday\* *City of Centralia*

Bobby Jackson\*, *Lewis County*

#### **GUESTS**

Kim Smith, *Grays Harbor Conservation District*; Kylea Johnson, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*;  
Alice Martin, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*, Lee Coumbs, *Mayor's Husband*; Jonathan Bradshaw,  
*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. Chair Harris invited new members to provide a brief summary of their background. New members included Commissioner Randy Ross from Grays Harbor County, and Commissioner Bobby Jackson, from Lewis County.

##### **2. Approval of October Minutes**

A quorum was present. There were not comments on the minutes.

##### **3. Member Updates**

- Chehalis River Basin Land Trust: Will be starting a "Learnings from the Chehalis" lecture and field trip series. These events will be free and open to the public. They also will be conducting "Bioblitzes" – short field trips to catalog the diversity of species found in a given area of the Chehalis Watershed. The Land Trust has a new office, and the address is

being changed to 612 to match the number of the local Union who shares that space. Land Trust staff will be doing monthly restoration events as part of their “youth basin stewards” project with high school students. They hope this will teach kids what it takes to do restoration, and inspire future involvement in similar projects.

- Centralia will be having a Spring Youth fair in May . Non-profits are encouraged to participate and are being offered a non-profit rate (\$50 for whole weekend). Lee Combs, Chairman, encouraged Partnership members to host a booth about the Chehalis River Basin or individually.
- Thurston PUD is working on a new telecommunications service
- Centralia is still waiting to implement its China Creek project. They have been held up because they are waiting on a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The last day for permitting is March 1<sup>st</sup>, and thus the last chance for being able to implement this project this year. Kahle Jennings expressed concern that the Corps process for restoration permits is slow and holds up good work that will benefit fish and reduce flood damage.
- Bobby Jackson, new Commissioner for Lewis County, is ready to listen and is excited about the future of the County.
- The Port of Grays Harbor is doing further work in the Satsop Development Park
- The City of Chehalis is connecting 9 more houses to the city sewer system with a Department of Ecology grant. This will reduce pollution of an adjacent creek.
- The City of Chehalis is creating a Transportation Benefit District. That will become a funding source for street and road projects, including runoff control and water quality improvement. They hope to use these funds as match in attracting larger grants.
- Aberdeen is finishing up its Timberworks masterplan, which is multi-benefit habitat restoration and flood reduction and economic development. The North Shore levee project is nearly 60% designed. The City is expecting funding through the Flood Authority to take it to 100% design. Design is starting on the Fry Creek restoration and flood reduction project. Kahle Jennings pointed out that Jarred Figlar-Barnes had done a conceptual design for that project for the Stream Team. It takes a while, but project ideas do come to fruition.

## **B. Presentations & Discussions**

### **2016 – Year in Review – presentation by Kirsten Harma**

Ms. Harma provided an overview of 2016 Chehalis Basin Partnership activities. She began the presentation with a slide about what the group had decided on as its work plan in January 2016 and proceeded to demonstrate how that work plan was accomplished. She summarized meeting and presentation topics from the year’s meetings, and pointed out that all major sections of the Watershed Management Plan were covered by these presentations and discussions. She then summarized the outreach and education activities she had undertaken as Coordinator and in partnership with other entities.

#### **Feedback:**

- The Willapa Trail event was a great outreach opportunity
- The City of Centralis is implementing the watershed management plan through its work on a project with USGS to further understand their groundwater resource.

Q) What about the Centralia Stream Team?

A) The Stream Team hasn't been meeting formally but does projects as they can. They have been an active participant in planning and implementing the Chehalis Watershed Festival, and have a new "Drain Dare" they can use for community outreach.

### **Engagement - Office of the Chehalis Basin** – presentation by Kahle Jennings

Kahle Jennings gave a presentation on the Office of the Chehalis Basin and possible coordination with the Chehalis Basin Partnership. He noted that the stated objectives for the Chehalis Basin Strategy are those the CBP has been talking about for 20 years, effectively: "water for people and water for fish." There is an opportunity now with the Office of the Chehalis since the watershed has the focus of the governor and legislature. This attention could be used to leverage funding for good projects in this basin or other opportunities.

Mr. Jennings noted that the Governor will be looking for Board members for the Office who have knowledge of watershed issues and local government regulations, and have an understanding of flood and aquatic species issues. He stated that the Board members will be representing our interests, their decisions will affect the work we are trying to do, and they are not elected. It bears paying some attention to who those people are going to be and even influence their selection.

Mr. Jennings summarized the STC meeting with Tom Clingman, who is setting up formation of the Office of the Chehalis. Questions brought up then were: Can some of our Watershed Planning goals be integrated into the new office? How can we coordinate? Can we have an advisory role? Can any of our recommended projects from our Detailed Implementation Plan be funded through the office?

Mr. Jennings asked the group: *Do we want to participate? And if we do, how do we want to participate?*

Ms. Harma added that Mr. Clingman recommended that the CBP go and talk directly to the Governor's Work Group. She asked for volunteers to participate in a meeting to decide what to bring up in that meeting.

#### Discussion:

-Ms. Robinson recommended that an ad hoc committee discuss these issues further. A further recommendation was that a call for participation in that committee be sent out to all CBP members.

-Mayor Canaday noted that Ron Avril, representative on the Flood Authority, has been talking about getting the CBP funding through the Flood Authority. She recommended that J. Vander Stoep come make a presentation to the CBP at February meeting.

-Mr. Coumbs brought up the idea that the CBP ask to have a member sit on the Office of the Chehalis Board.

-Mr. Stearns supported the idea that local interests be tapped in discussions with that Board.

-Mr. Jennings reiterated the criteria to get a Board seat. He noted that there are people in this room who are well suited because we live in the basin and feel impacts from flooding, to aquatic species, water levels, etc. and don't have a regulatory or financial interest in the outcomes of the Chehalis Strategy work.

-In summary, there was support for further engagement with the Governor's Work Group and drafting a letter to the Governor to ask about a potential appointment.

-Mr. Harris noted that we don't know what time commitment will be needed to be involved. There may be issues if we ask for a seat at the table and then can't provide anyone to fulfil it.

-Others supported letting the Governor know we're interested right now, even though we don't know the details yet.

-In summary, members present approved of the idea of asking for a CBP member to be appointed to the Office of the Chehalis Board. Since we don't know what this will take in terms of time commitment, we don't know if there will be an individual willing to take this on. At this time, we should at least ask for a "potential appointment." At minimum, there could be value in at least asking for input into the decision on who to appoint.

-For consideration if a CBP representative *is* appointed: How will the "voice" of all CBP members be represented by an individual who likely also represents another entity? Should we just choose a representative who can represent the history of watershed planning? If so, who has the historic knowledge to pass up the line?

-Mr. Stearns offered support in interfacing with the Governor's office.

-Mr. Jennings noted that time is of the essence. If we want to engage, we need to start that conversation soon. Others concurred.

#### Next Steps:

-Ms Harma will send out a call for participation in a Steering Technical Committee meeting to discuss recommendations for the Governor's Work Group to consider when setting up the Office of the Chehalis Board and work plan.

-Ms. Harma will ask Tom Clingman for advice on the Board appointment process, and will draft a letter to the Governor requesting a potential appointment for a CBP member. CBP Chair and Vice Chair, and the three Commissioner representatives will review and edit the letter over e-mail. Ms. Harma will then circulate the final letter to the whole CBP mailing list.

-All members: consider recommendations for who to recommend to sit on the Board.

## **2017 Planning**

Ms. Harma presented the group with options for the 2017 year. Needing discussion were meeting schedule, meeting topics, outreach opportunities, and engagement with other processes. The group agreed that we will need to meet monthly while the potential engagement with the Office of the Chehalis is being figured out. For future meeting topics, recommendations include: a presentation by J. Vander Stoep, Lamprey, and the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. Ms. Harma invited members to contribute to planning for a "State of the Watershed" outreach event with the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust Learning from the Chehalis series in September. The other major outreach activity planned for the year is the Chehalis Watershed Festival, scheduled for September 11-17, 2017. Another opportunity for outreach will be at the Spring Youth Fair.

#### Other Business:

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at 11:40

#### NEXT MEETING

February 24, 2017