



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

**Chehalis Tribe Lucky Eagle Hotel , Sky Room
Rochester, Washington
November 30, 2018
9:30 am – 12:00**

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Bob Johnson*, <i>WA DNR</i>	Jan Robinson*, <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i>
Brian Thompson*, <i>Lewis Co. Farm Bureau</i>	Jim Hill*, <i>Citizen</i>
Chris Stearns*, <i>Thurston PUD</i>	Lee Napier', <i>Lewis County</i>
Cindy Wilson*, <i>Thurston County</i>	Patrick Wiltzius', <i>City of Chehalis</i>
Colleen Suter', <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i>	Phil Papac*, <i>Port of Grays Harbor</i>
Ed Mock, <i>City of Aberdeen'</i>	Terry Harris*, <i>City of Chehalis</i>
Glen Connelly*, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i>	Wes Cormier*, <i>Grays Harbor County</i>

GUESTS

Mike Noone, *Ecology Water Resources*; Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Lauren Macfarland, *Quinault Indian Nation* Jerry Louthain, *HDR*; Chrissy Bailey, *Ecology/Office of the Chehalis Basin*; Greg McLaughlin, *Washington Water Trust*; Jason Hatch, *WWT*

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, Introductions

The Chair convened a welcome and participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of October Meeting Notes

Mr. Stearns made a correction to the spelling of his name. There were no objections to the minutes with the above-mentioned corrections.

3. Partner Updates

Members and partners present provided updates.

- Agriculture: The grain industry is revitalizing in Washington. Farmers are introducing more barleys to use in local beer production.
- Chehalis River Basin Land Trust: Hosting volunteer work parties to remove invasive species and plant native plants along the Discovery Trail.
- Ecology is reviewing the project applications submitted for the near term Streamflow Restoration Act funding. Announcement of successful projects will be made in January.

- Lewis County is updating its Community Rating System. An EIS has been completed for a wind powerplan in the Skookcumchuck basin.
- Thurston County Water Conservancy Board, of which Jerry Louthain is a member, is going to dissolve since it is running out of volunteer capacity. Ecology will have to take over its former role of processing water right change applications.
- Aberdeen had a big public meeting regarding flood elevation certificates – this is a way for residents to save on flood insurance premiums.
- The Port of Grays Harbor is looking for more power for its Satsop Business Park. An application is being made by a Canadian company to locate a Potash facility in Grays Harbor.

4. Organizational Business

Ms. Harma made a request regarding the Grays Harbor Stream Team. This presentation followed up on a presentation made by Katie Lutz, Stream Team Coordinator, at the July meeting, which included a request to use some of the Chehalis Basin Partnership’s unobligated funding to support the Stream Team Coordinator position in the coming year. Following that meeting, CBP members asked for time to think about the request. Ms. Harma provided additional information and background to the funding request. The Stream Team coordination role was in the original job description for the Watershed Coordinator. With the reorganization of that position, there has not been time for Ms. Harma to take on that work. The model of hiring a Grays Harbor area resident to run volunteer coordination, restoration, and education programs has been very successful. The program has built community support and recognition and has provided career development for two Grays Harbor youth. Partner organizations and the Stream Team Coordinator have been successful in securing additional grant funds and donations for the position. Ms. Harma stated that the funding deficit is \$8,000 to fund a full year contract for a new Coordinator. She asked that the group allow \$8,000 of the CBP’s approx.. \$45,000 in unobligated funds go to this purpose.

Discussion:

-We heard in July that \$15,000 is needed to hire a part time Coordinator for a year. A reduced funding request to \$8,000 is a good thing.

Q) You are saying that the work fills a part of your work plan that you haven’t had time to do?

A) Yes

Q) You are still looking for additional funding. If that additional funding is secured, could the amount taking from the CBP funds be reduced?

A) Yes

Decision: Allocate up to \$8,000 of Chehalis Basin Partnership unobligated funds to the Stream Team Coordination position.

5. Presentations & Discussions

Update from Ecology – Mike Noone, Ecology

Mr. Noone provided updates from Ecology on technical guidance for implementing the Streamflow Restoration Act. Planning Units will need to estimate population growth within the watershed boundaries and locations where that growth is likely to occur. They will also need to estimate the number of homes per exempt well and the amount of consumptive water they will use. Mr. Noone tasked the group with getting that information together by January 2019. He will mail out a list of data needs to CBP members so that relevant entities can start thinking about how they will compile that data. Ms. Napier suggested that all the Counties coordinate so that they are using the same units of measurement and same methods. Ms. Harma reminded the group that at

the last meeting volunteers signed up to be on a “Water Supply” subcommittee. She recommended tasking the subcommittee with this work.

Mr. Noone shared that Ecology staff are putting together presentations that will be available to Planning Units. Example topics are: “Water 101”; “How instream flows are determined”; “Modeling and Uncertainty”; “Net Ecological Benefit guidance.” He will forward a complete list to the CBP so that member can decide which presentations they would like to receive, and if they have ideas for topics that aren’t listed.

Presentation: Washington Water Trust. Jason Hatch and Greg McLaughlin

The Washington Water Trust is a non-profit whose goal is to improve and protect stream flows. They work where limited flows negatively affect aquatic species. This presentation explained the tools they used to get more water in stream for aquatic species, and the specifics of a project they are under contract to complete in the Chehalis.

The Chehalis contract is a “water rights pilot study” paid for by the Chehalis Strategy and intended to advance the goals of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP). WWT will conduct the pilot study in the Scatter Creek and South Fork Chehalis subbasins. First, they will identify and quantify out of stream use. Then they will find potential locations for flow restoration projects. They start using remote sensing data (GIS) to look for where water is being used for irrigation in the summer. They will look at the landscape for locations where surface water diversions might affect stream flows. The tools they use help farmers stay working on the land. They look for opportunities for restoration – not to “dry up” agriculture. After their work is complete, they will rely on local partners to do outreach and see if any of the project ideas are feasible.

Q) Could your methods be used to identify opportunities to offset exempt well water use?

A) Yes

Q) When will your report be ready?

A) A first draft will be available for internal review in March. The final draft is due in the summer of 2019.

4. Other Business

Ms. Harma shared that the CBP Operating Procedures call for nominations of Chair and Vice Chair to occur in October. We missed the chance to hold those nominations at that time. Ms. Harma made a call to open nominations. A nomination was made for Terry Harris to hold the position of Chair and one was made for Glen Connelly to serve as Vice Chair. Elections will occur in January.

Next meeting will include one of Mr. Noone’s recommended presentations from Ecology, and a presentation by Andrea McNamara-Doyle, Office of the Chehalis Basin.

ADJOURNMENT

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

NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2018