***CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP***

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

**Rochester, Washington**

**January 25, 2019**

**9:30 am – 12:00**

**Meeting Summary**

**MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES’ PRESENT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alice Sawyer’, *Grays Harbor County*  Bob Johnson\*, *WA DNR*  Brian Thompson\*, *Lewis Co. Farm Bureau*  Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*  Cindy Wilson\*, *Thurston County*  Colleen Suter’, *Chehalis Tribe DNR*  Ed Mock, *City of Aberdeen’*  Glen Connelly\*, *Chehalis Tribe DNR* | Kim Ashmore*\*, Centralia*  Jan Robinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*  Jeff Nelson’, *Grays Harbor County*  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* |

**GUESTS**

Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Lauren Macfarland, *Quinault Indian Nation*, Andrea McNamara-Doyle, *Ecology/Office of the Chehalis Basin;* Jonathan Bradshaw*, Citizen;* Thomasina Cooper*, Thuston County;* Kait Nelson*, Thurston County;* Tom Culhane*, Ecology;* Devan Rosterfer*, Ecology;* Tristan Weiss, *WDFW*; Bob Amrine, *Lewis Conservation District*; Dave Vasilauskas, *City of Chehalis*; Garrett Dalan, *The Nature Conservancy*; Paula Holyroyde, *League of Women Voters Thurston County*, Annie Cumberly, *League of Women Voters Thurston County*; John Bryson, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*;

**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 November Meeting Notes**

All in favor.

**3. Partner Updates**Members and partners present provided updates.

-Thurston PUD- Two new systems have been merged into the PUD

-Lewis County – It’s Community Rating System (CRS), which affects flood insurance rates, is currently under review. Lewis County has a new county manager which has been positive.

-DNR is hiring for next year’s fire season

-The Nature Conservancy reported that the WCRRI program is faring well in the Governor’s budget, at $12.5 million.

-Thurston County reported that the Nisqually Plan was approved by the planning unit by consensus and submitted to Ecology. Their next step is to find projects that implement the plan and to find the funding to implement them

-Chehalis River Basin Land Trust completed 3 days of restoration along the Discovery Trail

-Quinault Indian Nation has been in discussion with the Port of Grays Harbor regarding the proposed potash facility. QIN will hire a hydrogeologist to help them with the Streamflow Restoration work

-The Port of Grays Harbor knows there are concerns with the development. They foresee a good year ahead

-Chehalis Tribe bought 30 acres along the Chehalis River. They have plans to do riparian restoration. Their fish-trap in Pe Ell has been reinstalled. Development is underway on tribal land in Grand Mound.

-Centralia is monitoring its aquifers for nitrates. China Creek Phase I is 90% complete. Phase II will take place downstream. Mr. Ashmore is happy to set up site tours in the spring.

-Ecology has released a list of funded projects through their Water Quality program

-WDFW has hired staff to support the Streamflow Restoration work. Staff will help find and support projects. Additional resources will go to regional biologists.

-The League of Women Voters will be holding 5 forums in Thurston County in a series about “where our water comes from.” They want to share information about the impacts of Hirst and water regulations.

-The Lewis Conservation District is supporting landowner outreach in design of several large-scale river restoration projects. They are waiting for information on what incentives can be offered to landowners who might have a restoration project take place on their land.

**4. Presentations & Discussions  
  
Chehalis Basin Strategy Update** - Andrea McNamara-Doyle, Office of the Chehalis Basin, Ecology

Ms. McNamara-Doyle provided an overview of the Chehalis Strategy. The presentation slides are available on the CBP website: <http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (Planning Presentations)

Q) Will the design of the dam allow for a retrofit for hydropower generation at some point?

A) The foundation could be retrofit to raise the pool level and store more water.

Q) Will you take care of Chum?

A) Fish habitat restoration is being addressed in the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan. There will be a chance for review of the technical aspects of the ASRP once released.

Q) Are SEPA and NEPA taking place?

A) The State is doing SEPA and the timeline is closely aligned with NEPA. We don’t know when the NEPA will be ready.

**Hydrogeology Concepts and Considerations for RCW 90.94– WRIA 22 & 23 –** Tom Culhane, Water Resources Program, Ecology

Mr. Culhane provided and overview of hydrogeology, as well as interpretations of the requirements of the Streamflow Restoration Act. The presentation slides are available on the CBP website: <http://chehalisbasinpartnership.org/presentations/> (Water Quantity Presentations)

Key Considerations:

* You’re not going to have to drill down into hydrogeology too much for 90.91 purposes.
* Your first task is to determine how many new wells are going to go in. Ecology’s database provides the lease reliable source of information for projecting future exempt wells. You will need to use multiple methods to determine this.
* Counties will need to figure out the number of future homes in their county.
* You will need to break the watershed into sub basins for this analysis.
* \*\*The State doesn’t expect anyone to use a groundwater model to determine exempt well use and mitigation. What you will need is a *conceptual* understanding of groundwater. That concept is already available for the Chehalis Basin.
* You can assume a steady-state use of groundwater by wells throughout the year. Even though more is pumped in the summer, overall use is rounded out throughout the year. You might have to do more work in areas where wells are close to creeks and there can be an assumed groundwater connection.
* Account for uncertainty. Your plan can go above and beyond and provide more mitigation than is likely needed.
* Spend your energy on developing good off-set projects in places that are good for fish, and less time worrying about the effects of permit-exempt wells.

Q) Do we need to look at the impact of soil type on infiltration rate? This will vary a lot throughout the watershed.

A) Pad your plan with projects that lead to Net Ecological Benefit. Assume things like a slow infiltration rate will “come out in the wash.”

Q) What role might adaptive management might play?

A) Trying to monitor changes isn’t realistic. In thinking about “adaptive management”, prepare for if a project falls through – have a back-up project.

Q) Do wells on both confined and unconfined aquifers count?

A) Yes. Confined aquifers have to receive recharge from somewhere. You can make similar assumptions for both kinds of aquifers. You will only need to make more site-based assumptions for areas with wells in unconfined aquifers close to a stream that is important to fish.

Q) Would a valid project be one in the tributary headwaters that re-engages a stream to its floodplain and thus improves groundwater recharge?

A) You would need to quantify the benefits with upstream and downstream gauges. You will likely have to assume uncertainty in the flow benefit from that project.

**5. Organizational Business**

**Contractor Selection –**A subcommittee of the CBP convened to select a contractor to facilitate the Watershed Plan Update. The subcommittee consisted of representations of Chehalis Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Thurston PUD, Lewis County and Thurston County. Five applications were reviewed and two consultants were interviewed. The committee unanimously chose the firm NHC (Northwest Hydraulics Consultants) for this work. Committee members justified their choice. The whole CBP was asked for input on the selection. All were in support of the selection. The committee is awaiting an updated budget from the contractor and the development of a contract with Grays Harbor County as the next steps.

**Vote: Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Harma convened a vote for Chair and Vice Chair. The nomination process is now closed. Nominated were Terry Harris for Chair and Glen Connelly for Vice Chair. All CBP members were in favor of these members taking this position.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting at 12:00.   
  
**NEXT MEETING:** February 22, 2018