



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Fairfield Marriott Inn, Rochester, Washington
July 26, 2019
9:30 am – 12:00

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Alissa Shay', *Port of Grays Harbor*
Brian Shay*, *City of Hoquiam*
Dan Wood*, *City of Montesano*
Jan Robinson*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*
Jim Hill*, *Citizen, Lewis County*
Lauren McFarland', *Quinault Indian Nation*
Mark Cox', *Grays Harbor County*
Bobby Jackson*, *Lewis County*
Chris Stearns*, *Thurston PUD*
Phil Papac*, *Port of Grays Harbor*
Lee Napier', *Lewis County*
Colleen Suter', *Chehalis Tribe*
Dave Vasilauskas', *City of Chehalis*

Kaitlynn Nelson', *Thurston County*
Mike Noone*, *Ecology Water Resources*
Nick Bird*, *City of Ocean Shores*
Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*
Wes Cormier*, *Grays Harbor County*
Terry Willis*, *Grays Harbor County*
Dusty Guenther', *Boistfort Valley Water*
Bobby Cox*, *Town of Pe Ell*
David Windom*, *Mason County*
Paula Holyroyde*, *Citizen, League of Women Voters Thurston County*
Andy Olen', *Centralia Water Department*
Amy Spoon', *WDFW*

GUESTS

Tristan Weiss, *WDFW*; Bob Amrine, *Lewis Conservation District*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Chris Lunde, *Port Blakely (Business Representative applicant)*; Karin Strelhoff, *Thurston Conservation District*; Anthony Waldrop, *Grays Harbor Conservation District*.

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*
Cynthia Carlstad, *Facilitator, NHC*

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. Chair Harris shared revisions to the meeting order – moving Partnership Updates to the end of the meeting. This is intended to help us use our time efficiently to work on the Watershed Plan Addendum. He suggested that participants can provide written updates ahead of time, and participants can also consider lengthening the meeting to three hours in the future.

2. Approval of June Meeting Notes

All in favor. Chair Harris asked participants to review the summaries carefully to make sure statements are attributed to the correct participants.

3. Watershed Plan Addendum and Consensus Decision Making

Ms. Carlstad introduced this topic and provided handouts of Appendix C from the Partnership's Operating Procedures – Decision-Making by Consensus. She acknowledged that the Partnership is getting more formal about decision-making, with voting members identified and grouped together at the meeting tables. This is a good time to review the purpose of the Watershed Plan Addendum, its required contents, and the Partnership's rules for consensus decision-making.

Watershed Plan Addendum Purpose and Requirements

Ms. Carlstad displayed the two slides shown below which summarize the Watershed Plan Addendum purpose and requirements. She emphasized the strength of the Partnership's history working together, and the value of a locally driven process over state rulemaking. She described the required Watershed Plan Addendum elements (slide 2 below) and noted that the Net Ecological Benefit term is not a previously defined term, so Ecology is developing guidance for meeting that criteria. Ecology's final Net Ecological Benefit guidance will be published in August.

Watershed Plan Addendum Purpose	Watershed Plan Addendum Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required by law (Chapter 90.94 RCW), which was a fix for the impasse around addressing impacts from small permit-exempt domestic well uses.• <u>Locally-driven</u> process through Chehalis Basin Partnership <u>avoids Ecology-led rule-making</u>• Plan Addendum must meet Ecology requirements and be adopted by Ecology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20-year consumptive domestic water use estimate from new permit-exempt wells• Impact assessment for streamflow• Projects and actions to offset estimated consumptive use and meet net ecological benefit• Net Ecological Benefit determination• Deadline! February 1, 2021 - be adopted by Ecology

Ms. Willis voiced her concern about what she had heard about Ecology rulemaking in the Nooksack (WRIA 1) where the Planning Unit did not succeed in approving its watershed plan update. At the Partnership New Members Orientation last month Ecology staff reported that permit-exempt wells would be interruptible, which would mean individual private homes on permit-exempt wells would be interrupted nearly every year from June until September (potentially based on recent droughts). Mr. Noone clarified that the interruptible status in the proposed rule would be for outdoor use only; indoor use would not be interruptible. Ms. Willis furthered her inquiry – how much is the proposed allotment for each well? Mr. Noone responded that the proposed rule is 500 gallons per day for indoor domestic water use for a well serving a single home connection.

Mr. Wood asked about proposed rule – status and information. Mr. Noone responded that information is available on Ecology's Streamflow Restoration Planning website. The public comment period ended in May and Ecology is now working on its final rule amendment proposal. Mr. Wood requested that information be sent out to the group on the WRIA 1 proposed rule. He asked if that is a statewide rule and clarified that it would not apply in the Chehalis. Mr. Noone confirmed this.

Partnership Consensus Decision-Making

Ms. Carlstad referred to the handout – Appendix C from the Partnership Operating Procedures. She stated that the Partnership Operating Procedures require consensus decision-making and

displayed the Appendix C document on-screen. Steps 1 through 7 (page 42 of 43) lay out a process where the Partnership discusses a topic until the group is ready to vote. Those in the minority view then have an opportunity to convince others view. At a point where those in the minority believe that others have adequately heard their view and reasoning, then the group is ready to vote.

The matrix on the handout (page 43 of 43) titled “SEEKING CONSENSUS” shows the six gradations of sentiment shown in the table below that are acceptable for a Partnership consensus agreement.

Endorsement: “I like it.”
Endorsement with a Minor Point of Clarification: “Basically, I like it.”
Agreement with Reservations: “I can live with it.”
Abstain: “I have no opinion that prevents this from going forward.”
Stand Aside: “I really don’t like this, but don’t want to prevent the group from agreeing.”
Formal Disagreement, but Willing to Go with Majority: “I want my disagreement noted in writing, but I’ll support the decision.”

The two sentiments listed in the table below from the same handout (page 43 of 43 Partnership Operating Procedures), if communicated by Partnership members, indicate a lack of consensus.

Formal Disagreement, with Request to be Absolved of Responsibility for Implementation “I don’t want to stop anyone else, but I don’t want to be involved in implementing it.”
Block: “I don’t support this proposal and will work to see that it won’t be implemented.”

Mr. Wood and Mr. Cormier questioned – can one member block the entire group? Mr. Harris responded yes, that one member can block a decision. He further explained that the “Formal Disagreement, but Willing to Go With Majority” option (lowest level of consensus approval) provides the option for a dissenting opinion(s) to be heard in a consensus approval. Mr. Cormier stated his preference for a simple majority vote.

Discussion occurred around whether including a dissenting opinion(s) with a consensus decision and/or failing to reach consensus on the Plan Addendum, but then providing the dissenting opinion(s) to Ecology as representing the product of the Partnership violates the Partnership’s rules. Mr. Wood stated strongly and repeatedly that he feels it does violate the Partnership rules and he opposes that. Ms. Nelson stated that passing the Watershed Plan Addendum work to Ecology in event of a failed consensus approval simply enables Ecology to use some of the work done by the group, and that in WRIA 1 they only passed along the work up to the point where they failed to get consensus from the Planning Unit. Mr. Windom shared a conversation he had with Mary Verner (Ecology Water Resources Program Manager) about the ability for one person to block 2-3 years of Planning Unit work. Ms. Verner conveyed to Mr. Windom that Ecology would prefer to use the work done by Planning Units rather than having to recreate the work.

Ms. Carlstad stated that no change to Partnership decision-making rules is being proposed for consideration. She stated what she believed the sticking point raised by Mr. Wood was: If we fail to reach consensus on the Plan Addendum, then is the body of work that we have created, and the majority/minority opinion automatically conveyed to Ecology? She stated her understanding that no, the body of work does not have to be provided to Ecology, and that the decision of whether or not to provide the body of work to Ecology would be a consensus decision by the Partnership. Ms. Carlstad asked Mr. Noone if her understanding is accurate and he indicated his belief that her understanding is accurate. Mr. Noone also stated that it is Ecology's preference that WRIAs 22 and 23 are successful in approving their Plan Addendum.

Several members voiced thoughts about where the Partnership dialogue and record of supporters and dissenters would be documented, and Mr. Harris and Mr. Jackson summarized that this Partnership dialogue and decision-making documentation would be described in the meeting summaries of the Partnership, but not in the Plan Addendum. Ms. Carlstad pointed out that the meeting summaries include a Record of Decisions. These are also posted during the meeting for decisions made during the meeting.

Ms. Willis asked about the language around implementation in the "Formal Disagreement, with Request to be Absolved of Responsibility for Implementation" category of the above matrix. Mr. Harris said he believes this language was used when the matrix was developed in 2004 because of the implementation obligations associated with the original Watershed Plan. It does not really have much relevance for the current effort.

Discussion occurred around the responsibilities for members to discuss and vet the Plan Addendum work within their organizations. Mr. Stearns and Mr. Wood exchanged disagreeable comments, and Mr. Wood stated that he briefed his mayor the previous evening on potential impacts to the City of Montesano should the Plan Addendum work prompt an increase in annexation requests to the City. Mr. Harris reminded the group that it is everyone's responsibility to keep their organization apprised of potential effects from this effort.

Mr. Shay asked about the projected time when the Partnership will begin seeing actual work products on the Plan Addendum. Ms. Carlstad stated that today that will start with subbasins, and next month the Partnership will have a major session on permit exempt well projections. Plan Addendum elements build on these elements. Some, like the permit-exempt well projections will be brought for formal Partnership approval soon, and other elements will remain in draft while the Addendum is being developed.

4. Membership Update / Approval for Charter Addendum to 2004 Operating Procedures

Ms. Carlstad handed out the draft Charter Addendum to the 2004 Operating Procedures which had its first reading at the July meeting. It is proposed for second reading and approval at today's meeting.

Ms. Harma gave an update on membership:

- Pe Ell (Mr. Cox) and Boistfort Water (Ms. Guenther) are participating and in attendance today.
- Grays Harbor Water District (Reg Hearn) is going to try to call in to the meetings when possible.
- McCleary – may not be able to come to meetings but will try to stay updated. Mr. Wood said that he intends to reach out to the mayor of McLeary to encourage more active

participation because of his concerns about this process prompting increased annexation requests and operational costs that would particularly impact small cities.

- Forestry seat – Weyerhaeuser (Jason Walter) will begin participating.
- Business seat – Ms. Harma proposed Port Blakely (Chris Lunde) for the business seat. Mr. Lunde stated that Port Blakely is a longtime landowner in the basin with an interest in doing the right things. Forestry is near and dear to his heart, and as a business representative he would represent small forest landowners and the Farm Forestry Association. Ms. Carlstad stated that because the business seat has not previously been filled, Port Blakely’s appointment requires a two meeting decision rule. Today is the first reading, and the Partnership will decide on Port Blakely’s appointment at its next meeting.
- Thurston County Citizen - Ms. Nelson stated that Ms. Holroyde has been appointed as Thurston County’s citizen representative.

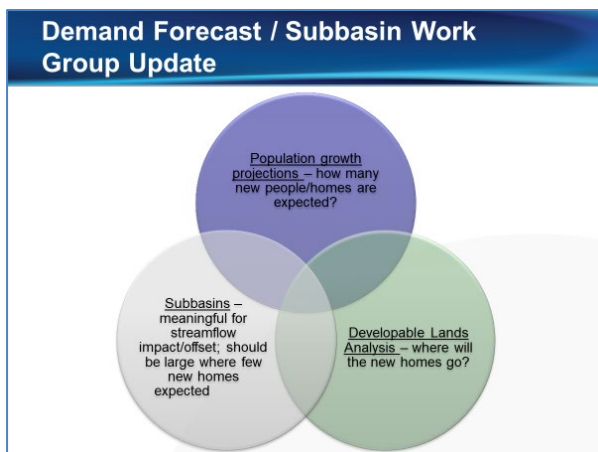
Regarding the Charter Addendum, Ms. McFarland stated that the Quinault Indian Nation had internal discussions around the charter ground rule “The parties agree to consider best available science, local experience and knowledge, and traditional knowledge.” and prefer the earlier language “utilize best available science,” but will not block Charter approval.

Several additional typographical corrections were made to the document, and the Charter was approved with Quinault registering the consensus approval level “Formal Disagreement, but Willing to Go with Majority.” Ms. McFarland will provide a written statement to accompany the approved Charter. The Charter will be dated July 26, 2019.

5. Demand Forecast Work Group Briefing

Ms. Carlstad introduced the work that the Demand Forecast Work Group has been engaged with. She handed out draft subbasin maps that had been created from the Work Group’s work session the previous day.

Ms. Carlstad displayed the slide shown below and gave an overview of the interlocking work elements – population growth projections, developable lands analysis, and subbasin delineation. This work is focused on developing a projection of permit-exempt wells over the 20-year timeframe.



Population growth projections can come from Office of Financial Management projections, Thurston Regional Planning Council modeling, or past building permit numbers. Developable lands analysis focuses on where the new people will live. Information that informs this is land use designations and constraints – zoning, urban growth areas, water service areas, presence of critical areas or other constraints. Ms. Carlstad stated that each of the counties has the best

knowledge and resources to propose what they think is the best estimates. The subbasin delineations are the third piece of this because they will become the “management areas.” The draft maps have 19 subbasins.

Ms. Nelson described that Thurston County uses TRPC for population projections and developable lands analysis. TRPC models on a parcel basis, removes critical areas, and even considers parcels likely to ready for redevelopment. They even survey landowners as part of this related to future subdivision. Historically TRPC has been very close to actual growth. Ms. Nelson has prepared a methods document that summarizes TRPC methods and assumptions; a more detailed document is available from TRPC.

Mr. Stearns asked if they consider buildout in non-urban areas for schools; he has been approached by south county schools looking for water rights. Ms. Nelson said she would look into it. She added that in rural areas they contact water purveyors to fill in knowledge about where permit-exempt wells may be installed. She said that in other WRIAs the presence of permit-exempt wells in UGAs has been variable, so they will be looking at that for WRIA 23. Mr. Wood asked about the reverse situation – where water and sewer extend outside city limits. Ms. Nelson said that yes, they would be looking at that more carefully, which takes more specific investigation.

Discussion occurred around some of the uncertainties projecting new well connections in rural areas, including the following:

- Grays Harbor County is not a GMA county so does not do comprehensive planning or have UGAs. This limits the amount of broadly available information about where water services are now and what is being contemplated in the future. Ms. Carlstad stated that the Demand Work Group includes Jane Hewitt and Alice Shawyer from Grays Harbor County Planning Dept. who have some knowledge about where water service is. This will still take more detective work.
- Mr. Noone asked if landowners in rural areas with the option to connect to city water are required to connect. Mr. Shay answered that no you cannot require connection. Mr. Noone inquired about probably magnitude of potential new wells with this uncertainty and said that if the magnitude is not large, it may not be worth spending a lot of time to pin down.
- Mr. Cox raised the point that we are all using the same water resource whether it is city or rural permit-exempt wells, and that it is a finite resource that is scarce in some areas. There are uncertainties about how much water is actually available in some areas. Mr. Bird stated that all the cities and water purveyors have some information for forecasting and capacity, and this would be used as a starting point in considering capacity constraints and evaluating annexation requests.

Mr. Windom provided further progress update from the Demand Forecast Work Group. He shared that in creating the subbasin maps, the work group looked at first cut population estimates and made decisions to combine subbasins where projections were low. He noted that in Mason County they are seeing more parcels combining than subdividing. This next month the Work Group will be digging in deeper to the population projections and developable lands and will bring those findings to the Partnership at its August meeting. He also encouraged the group to limit the time spent on the forecast piece and move on to the project development, which is time-consuming. Ms. Napier agreed with that and added that the projects piece can bring benefits to the members.

Ms. Carlstad summarized some features of the draft subbasin maps – larger subbasins typically have low growth projections and attempt to capture headwater areas where high quality projects could benefit the entire subbasin; smaller subbasins usually have high growth projections and/or instream flow vulnerabilities.

6. Offset Project Identification – Other Strategies

Ms. Carlstad introduced the need for forming a work group to develop the other strategies offset projects. Examples project types include water right acquisitions, managed aquifer recharge, alluvial water storage, and land acquisition/protection.

Ecology's water rights acquisition lead Kelsey Collins may available to present information on these types of projects to the Partnership, and Ecology may also be able to do a broad assessment of possible water right acquisitions in the Chehalis. Another resource for this project type is Washington Water Trust, a non-profit organization that does similar work and is working in the basin now.

Managed aquifer storage and alluvial water storage both work by inducing more infiltration into the shallow aquifer. Ms. Nelson shared that she and Kevin Hansen (Thurston County hydrogeologist) have been developing a GIS-based assessment method to find suitable areas for these types of projects. They are now starting to think about how to approach sensitivities related to landowner privacy and willingness. Ms. Harma suggested they come to the Habitat Offset Project Work Group as participants of that group have already been engaging that topic. Mr. Harris voiced his preference for casting a wide net for projects rather than screening out areas where landowner willingness is unknown.

Mr. Stearns noted exciting dairy waste reclaimed water projects occurring in Whatcom County.

Ms. Carlstad closed this item by stating that she and Ms. Harma will send an email recruitment for volunteers for the Other Strategies Offset Project Work Group.

7. Watershed Plan Addendum Progress Reports

The following progress reports were provided:

- Habitat Offset Projects – Ms. Harma reported that the work group will meet on August 5. They hope to have Mr. Hansen come this month or next. Ms. Carlstad noted that Sabra Noyes wants to be added to that mailing list.
- Work Plan Overview – Today's handout replaces last month's. A few changes were made to create this new version: adjusted some near-term work to match what is actually occurring. We are running a little behind with getting GIS data and working through the growth projections/developable lands but can likely make up that time. Ms. Napier flagged that the November Partnership meeting conflicts with the Washington State Association of Counties conference which will be a conflict for several members.

8. For the Good of the Order / Public Comment

Ms. Willis raised the question about other cities – Cosmopolis, Elma – that are not present. Those cities did not sign on the Interlocal Agreement. Several members voiced support for more inclusion. Mr. Wood said he would reach out to Elma.

Ms. Harma announced that the Albany Ponds project sponsor is doing a ribbon cutting in early October and asked if a Partnership member would attend.

Mr. Noone noted they had earlier discussed the WRIA 1 rulemaking, and NEB guidance forthcoming in August. Ecology will also be releasing draft guidance for project grants in August.

Mr. Windom shared they are working on a proposal to hook up two mobile home parks with failing wells to city water near the City of Shelton. Takeaway is to be ready with good projects, especially if there is a public health nexus.

Mr. Stearns announced Thurston PUD is adding a new water system in Pierce County.

Mr. Hill announced new restrooms and associated public facilities in Westport.

Mr. Wood reported that City of Montesano's wastewater treatment plant log jack bank protection is working, and they are installing smaller jacks in next phase. Appears that treatment plant will be saved.

Ms. Spoon announced that the Lower Chehalis will have staggered reopening to fishing starting in August.

9. Action / Follow-Up Items

The following were listed as action items from the meeting:

- A. The decision to appoint Port Blakely in the Business Representative seat will have its second reading and decision at the Partnership's August 23 meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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

RECORD OF DECISIONS:

1. June 28, 2019 – Members voted by full consensus to review the Charter Addendum as edited at this meeting within their organizations and be prepared for a second reading and approval at the July 26, 2019 meeting.
2. July 26, 2019 – Members voted by full consensus to approve the Charter Addendum to the 2004 Operating Procedures. The Quinault Indian Nation voted "Formal Disagreement, but Willing to Go with Majority" and will provide a written statement to include with the final charter.

NEXT MEETING: August 23, 2019