



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Zoom Call with Screen Share

October 29, 2020

1:00-3:30pm

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Bobby Jackson*, <i>Lewis County</i>	Lauren MacFarland', <i>Quinalt Indian Nation</i>
Lee Napier', <i>Lewis County</i>	Chris Stearns*, <i>Thurston PUD</i>
Tye Menser*, <i>Thurston County</i>	John Weidenfeller', <i>Thurston PUD</i>
Kaitlynn Nelson', <i>Thurston County</i>	Jim Hill*, <i>Lewis County Citizen</i>
Alissa Shay', <i>Port of Grays Harbor</i>	Mike Noone*, <i>Ecology Water Resources</i>
Colleen Suter', <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Paula Holroyde*, <i>Citizen, League of Women Voters Thurston County</i>
Kris Koski*, <i>City of Aberdeen</i>	Megan Tuttle*, <i>Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>
Kim Ashmore*, <i>City of Centralia</i>	Bob Johnson*, <i>Department of Natural Resources</i>
Terry Harris*, <i>City of Chehalis</i>	Dusty Guenther*, <i>Boistfort Water District</i>
Brian Shay*, <i>City of Hoquiam</i>	Chris Lunde*, <i>Port Blakely</i>
Jaron Heller*, <i>City of McCleary</i>	Jason Walter*, <i>Weyerhaeuser</i>
Nick Bird*, <i>City of Ocean Shores</i>	
Jan Robinson*, <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i>	
John Bryson*, <i>Quinalt Indian Nation</i>	

GUESTS

Jill Van Hulle, *contractor to Grays Harbor County*; Joel Massman, *contractor to Quinalt Indian Nation*; Caprice Fasano, *Quinalt Indian Nation*; Garrett Dalan, *Nature Conservancy*

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, *Partnership Watershed Coordinator*; Cynthia Carlstad, *Facilitator, NHC*; Patty Dillon, *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 the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of September Meeting Summary

The meeting summary was accepted with no edits.

3. Watershed Plan Addendum – Draft 2 Major Revisions

Ms. Harma led the Partnership through a reflective exercise on when they began working together on development of the Watershed Plan Addendum. During their kickoff workshop Partnership members were asked "If we are successful (on this watershed plan), what can we accomplish together? Responses included the following:

- Fair and equitable plan that takes into account all interests
- Proactive at finding winning projects with benefits for people and ecosystems
- Be willing to trying new solutions
- Coordinated projects
- Overlap between projects
- Projects that address water quantity and water quality concerns
- A plan that goes above and beyond the requirements of 6091.

She asked members to reflect on whether we have accomplished these goals and offer thoughts about what they have experienced over the past two years working on the Plan Addendum. What have you learned from this process? Chair Harris commented that his biggest observation is what a pleasure it has been to work with the group. Mr. Noone said that the September 2018 meeting was his first as a new Ecology staff and he has been most impressed with how the group has pulled together to develop the Addendum. Ms. Robinson has enjoyed all the learning that she has gained from the scientists working through developing the Plan Addendum. Mr. Stearns complimented the team and especially noted Chair Harris's steady leadership. He also noted Brian Walsh's contribution in helping start the Partnership many years ago. Ms. Carlstad commented that the Partnership is very special both in its enduring time together and how it reinvented itself and stepped up to develop the Plan Addendum in response to the Streamflow Restoration law.

Ms. Carlstad transitioned to describing the goal for today's first decision on the Watershed Plan Addendum. She described how the group worked together to develop the revisions to the Plan Addendum Draft 2 based on the comments they discussed at the last Partnership meeting.

Ms. Dillon then reviewed the major changes to the Addendum:

- Added section on aquatic species to Section 2
- Wording changes to portray uncertainties accurately (e.g. changing 'will' to 'could')
- Table 14 – full list of projects with water benefit – added comments for each project to describe basis of certainty rating. Some certainty ratings were also adjusted.
- Table 15 – includes all water projects that have 'M' or 'H' certainty of water benefit. Estimates of water benefit from Table 14 were scaled to 25% for 'L' certainty of water benefit and 50% for 'M' certainty of water benefit. These values are described as 'credited' water benefit. Several projects are also listed as 'NQ' for 'not quantified'. Not quantified does not indicate lower quality projects, there is just not enough site-level analysis yet to quantify water benefit.
- Table 16, which tabulates water offset by subbasin using both estimated and 'credited' values.
- An additional map was created to show credited water benefit
- Table 20 was added to crosswalk Ecology NEB requirements with the Plan Addendum
- Chapter 8 Implementation and Adaptive Management was expanded significantly, with an initial work plan schedule and tasks with expected outcomes. This includes an initial schedule for additional project development. This chapter also includes much more detail on the tracking and adaptive management, much of which Mr. Weiss from WDFW provided.

Ms. Carlstad further elaborated that Ms. Harma is beginning to get organized to begin implementation with early steps being to get committed sponsors for projects and determine which ones can move along right away. She reminded the group that the redlined version showing changes between Draft 1 and Draft 2 is available on the OneDrive.

Mr. Stearns commented that with climate change and the large and low-lying character of the Chehalis, it makes temperature more of a critical factor. Has there been any emphasis on that in

the Addendum? Ms. Carlstad and Ms. Dillon responded that climate change was factored into the Addendum in three ways:

- Irrigation demand used to calculate yard watering was based on growing commercial turf which overestimates the level of typical residential yard irrigation.
- The basin characteristics that Mr. Stearns described are also described in the Addendum
- Both aquatic species restoration programs in the basin (Lead Entity and ASRP) both have priorities driven by future climate considerations, especially temperature.

Mr. Stearns added that Ecology's Statewide Adjudication Assessment listed the Chehalis as a possible future adjudication. Chair Harris asked Mr. Noone if the Partnership would be wise to add a statement about climate change and other factors that may require adaptation. Mr. Noone responded that he believes the Addendum is sufficient in this regard.

4. Watershed Plan Addendum – “First Reading” Approval

Today's decision is the first approval on the Plan Addendum; the second approval is scheduled to occur on November 17. Ms. Carlstad explained that after this vote, if it is favorable, NHC will provide the Addendum to Ecology to begin their review process. Only minor changes are allowable after this vote.

Ms. Carlstad displayed the consensus decision chart that governs the Partnership's decision process and reminded members about the gradients of approval, abstention, and disapproval. She explained that she will use the polling function in Zoom to gather their vote. The vote is recorded for everyone, but each member's vote will not be listed in the meeting summary. The meeting summary and decision record will list members who abstained or were not present.

Ms. Carlstad then asked if anyone wanted to make a comment prior to the vote. Mr. Noone clarified that Ecology won't be voting on the Plan Addendum since they are evaluating the Addendum for compliance with the Streamflow Restoration law. Ms. Tuttle stated that DFW plans to approve the plan with an accompanying letter stating their rationale. They are focused on implementation. Mr. Hill confirmed that he is eligible to vote as a citizen representative from Lewis County. Ms. Hulle confirmed that she should vote on behalf of Grays Harbor County; they have passed a resolution which has been conveyed to Ms. Hulle, Ms. Harma and Ms. Carlstad. Ms. MacFarland stated the Quinault Indian Nation intends to vote for approval with the lowest level of approval and will be submitting a statement describing the Nation's perspective. They want to participate in implementation.

The vote was taken, and all members present voted to approve the Plan Addendum for this first approval.

5. Watershed Plan Addendum Progress Reports

Ms. Carlstad again explained next steps toward Plan Addendum approval, which are providing the document to Ecology, and then the second approval meeting on November 17.

Ms. Hulle reported that SEPA has been completed. There were only minor comments.

Ms. Harma announced that she is working on a press release which she plans to release on November 17. She is looking for quotes to add from local officials from each of the counties and any others who would like to offer that. Ms. Nelson and Chair Harris offered to help. She also told the group about the article recently published for Small Forest Landowners.

Ms. Harma asked which projects members are most excited about, and responses included TransAlta water right, Ocean Shores, Sam's Canal, Managed Aquifer Recharge projects, City of Chehalis added point of diversion, Garrard Creek BDAs, other BDA projects. Mr. Stearns commented that beaver dams are particularly helpful for young salmon because the small fish can

easily move through the sticks in beaver dams to find refuge from predators. Ms. Harma also described results from the recent Streamflow Restoration grant program that informs the Partnership to prepare for grant requests of around \$1 million for the next grant round.

Ms. Harma then polled the group for preferences on future Partnership meetings. She plans to convene a projects-focused meeting in December, and then the next full Partnership meeting will be in January. The poll results indicated preference for bi-monthly Partnership meetings.

6. For the Good of the Order / Public Comment

Chair Harris opened public comment and partner updates.

Ms. Harma announced that there is a Where's the Water event sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Kevin Hansen from Thurston County will be speaking.

Mr. Hill sent a photo to the group of the Centralia steam train crossing the Chehalis River and offered its use with the Addendum.

Mr. Noone announced that the TransAlta water right acquisition feasibility study, sponsored by the Quinault Indian Nation, was awarded a Streamflow Restoration grant. He also noted that the points awarded to projects in WRIsAs with approved watershed plans really made a difference in grant awards.

Mr. Stearns complimented Ecology in implementing the Streamflow Restoration law successfully and on time.

Chair Harris thanked Mr. Noone for his support through this process, noting how important his guidance has been.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Terry Harris adjourned the meeting.

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.
3. April 24, 2020 – Members voted by full consensus to approve the permit-exempt well projection of 4555 new permit-exempt well connections by 2040 with an estimated consumptive use of 504.8 acre-feet per year. Absent members: City of McCleary, City of Napavine, Town of Pe Ell, Terry Willis (Grays Harbor citizen member), WDNR, Brian Thompson (Lewis County Farm Bureau); Abstaining members: Weyerhaeuser, City of Aberdeen
4. October 29, 2020 – First approval of Watershed Plan Addendum by full consensus. Abstaining members: Boistfort Water District, City of Montesano; Absent members: City of Napavine, Town of Pe Ell, Terry Willis (Grays Harbor Citizen Representative),

NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2020