



CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Zoom Call with Screen Share

November 17, 2020

3:00-4:00pm

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT

Lee Napier', *Lewis County*

Tye Menser*, *Thurston County*

Kaitlynn Nelson', *Thurston County*

Jane Hewitt', *Grays Harbor County*

Alissa Shay', *Port of Grays Harbor*

Colleen Suter', *Chehalis Tribe*

Kris Koski*, *City of Aberdeen*

Rick Sangder', *City of Aberdeen*

Kim Ashmore*, *City of Centralia*

Terry Harris*, *City of Chehalis*

Jaron Heller*, *City of McCleary*

Nick Bird*, *City of Ocean Shores*

Jan Robinson*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*

Lauren MacFarland', *Quinault Indian Nation*

Jim Hill*, *Lewis County Citizen*

Mike Noone*, *Ecology Water Resources*

Paula Holroyde*, *Citizen, League of Women Voters Thurston County*

Megan Tuttle*, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Bob Johnson*, *Washington Department of Natural Resources*

Dusty Guenther*, *Boistfort Water District*

Chris Lunde*, *Port Blakely*

Jason Walter*, *Weyerhaeuser*

GUESTS

Jill Van Hulle, *contractor to Grays Harbor County*; Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*; Garrett Dalan, *The Nature Conservancy*; Tom Culhane, *Ecology*; Isabella von Trapp, *Aspect*

STAFF

Kirsten Harma, *Partnership Watershed Coordinator*; Cynthia Carlstad, *Facilitator, NHC*; Rebecca Roberts, *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 October Meeting Summary

The meeting summary was accepted with no edits.

3. Watershed Plan Addendum – Final Approval

Ms. Carlstad advised the group of the status of the addendum and minor changes to be made regarding some project updates and addition of photos and graphics. Ms. Carlstad noted that a few absent members had communicated their intent to vote for final approval of the plan. She then reviewed the approval process through Zoom and the gradient options to vote for or against plan approval.

Ms. MacFarland spoke about the Quinault Indian Nation's October vote of a "formal disagreement, but willing to go with majority" and provided a statement explaining their position. This statement was provided to the Partnership in a document distributed earlier in the day. Ms. MacFarland explained the letter of dissenting opinion, which is to be included with the Plan Addendum, noting Quinault's belief that the Addendum does not adequately protect treaty rights primarily due to the limitations of the Streamflow Restoration Act. Quinault believes the Addendum lacks assurance of implementation and even with project implementation, there is no assurance of meeting NEB and mitigating impacts because of the lack of an adaptive management approach requirement in the Streamflow Restoration Act. Ms. Carlstad asked if the Nation intends to work with the CBP to advance the work pertaining to the feasibility study for the TransAlta water right acquisition, which is the biggest water offset project in the Plan. Quinault was awarded a Streamflow Restoration grant for that work. Ms. MacFarland confirmed the Nation does intend to carry on that work and also work with the Partnership to implement as much as possible to help stream flows.

Ms. Carlstad opened the floor to questions and comments before the vote. Ms. Tuttle notified the group that WDFW would be voting in favor of approving the Plan Addendum, and would provide a letter accompanying their vote. Ms. Carlstad mentioned that independent letters and statements would be included with the Addendum submittal and Ecology will include those documents in their review. Seventeen partnership members were present and voted to approve the Watershed Plan Addendum.

Mr. Harris recalled the initial meeting to gather interest in taking on the challenge of the Watershed Plan Addendum and he said he's glad that every organization has participated and had their concerns heard and have stood their ground to create a living document that will provide good within the watershed.

Ms. Harma passed around thanks to the Steering Technical Committee members, the Demand Forecast work group, and the Offset Projects work group. She also called out a thanks to citizen members who reached out during the process. She gave a final shout out to NHC and subcontractors for their help. Other participants such as Ms. Shay and Mr. Ashmore noted their thanks in the Zoom chat. Mr. Noone congratulated the group on local approval of the plan and reminded the group of a few Ecology bookkeeping items:

- A cover sheet should be included with the submittal.
- A list of emails for people who should be cc'd on a submittal response email needs to be provided.
- Ecology's adoption deadline is February 1st, and Ecology's decision can be expected that day or shortly thereafter.

Ms. Carlstad asked Mr. Noone if there are any other materials he needs for Ecology's review of the plan. Mr. Noone responded that any materials for review should be gathered into one packet along with a record of the votes and description of the process.

4. Implementation – Project Showcase

Ms. Harma lined up a few of the project sponsors to present how they will advance their projects. Ms. Carlstad introduced Ms. Van Hulle to discuss the Grays Harbor forest management projects. Ms. Von Trapp provided an overview of Visualizing Ecosystem Land Management Assessments (VELMA) modeling used to predict changes to streamflow quality and quantity based on land management practices. Specifically, increasing the harvest cycle rotation length can greatly influence streamflow. The Nisqually Plan found that each forested acre left unharvested beyond the "forty-year threshold" could mitigate up to 0.15 acre-feet per year.

Grays Harbor County has nearly 37,000 acres of county-managed forested land which could mitigate as much as 82.6 acre-feet/year based on the Nisqually Plan mitigation metric. Forest

characteristics such as stand age and tree species affect the water benefit from mature forest. Data needed to determine a specific magnitude for Grays Harbor County includes stand ages, tree species, targeted areas for long term preservation, soil conditions, and other factors such as grade and forest buffers. Ms. Suter questioned whether the model could look at the variability between species composition and water retention. Ms. Von Trapp said yes, she believes the model could. Ms. Van Hulle noted that the model has not been run at this stage due to the lack of current information.

Water benefit estimate is based on a modeling assumption that two percent of the forest is protected to mature to over 40 years. Ms. Van Hulle clarified that that exact location for that 2% has not been determined yet. This value was selected for estimating purposes.

Mr. Noone said he believes it's a very interesting concept and he's curious what the end point difference in the macro-scale between a forty-year cycle and an eighty-year cycle. Ms. Tuttle remarked her excitement for this project and wondered what the response has been from the Grays Harbor Forestry Department. Ms. Van Hulle responded that data is available but much more is needed to get to an implementation level and there is discussion with the forestry department that has occurred. She also agreed with Mr. Noone that thought is needed to know how it will work in the long term and if this project moves forward there are a lot of questions to be answered.

Mr. Heller explained the Sam's Canal replacement project which has two phases. Phase I is taking the area of Sam's Canal, which is not currently fish friendly, cleaning out the uncapped portion of the canal and making improvements to the debris rack in the capped portion. Talks for Phase I have been in discussion for 15 years but funding hasn't been available. There is also hope to do community outreach regarding the importance of the basin. Phase II is looking at the capped portion of the canal which will require a feasibility study and coordination with many landowners. Long term, there are other branches of Wildcat Creek that could use improvement as well.

5. Watershed Plan Addendum Progress Reports

Ms. Harma discussed next steps for the Plan Addendum. She reminded the group that funding for the Addendum ceases in June 2021 so as much consideration as possible should be given to implementation of the Addendum right away. She then stated the December 11th offset projects group meeting will kick off implementation. The Offset Projects Work group will review projects included in the plan and begin prioritizing for funding support and implementation. All are welcome to attend that meeting.

Regarding public outreach, Ms. Harma informed the group that the press release was slated to go out following the meeting. The release was vetted with a local citizen to make sure it read well. The release will be in the Olympian, Daily World, and Centralia Chronicle.

Ms. Harma then polled the group for how frequently they want to meet going forward. The prior poll results indicated slight preference for bi-monthly Partnership meetings. Given the urgency to make quick progress on implementation, Ms. MacFarland advocated for keeping the momentum going since funding ceases in June. Mr. Harris continued with the sentiment, stating that a lot of the year would be missed if meetings didn't continue on a monthly basis. Mr. Noone added that he suspects the more fully developed a project proposal is which is included in the Plan Addendum, the stronger it will compete against other grants in the next round of grant funding, so he suggests doing as much analysis as possible while resources are available. A decision has not been made regarding when the next grand round will happen. It may coincide with the timeline of other funding entities. Ms. Carlstad asked Mr. Noone if Ecology funded monitoring projects in the last round. Mr. Noone said no, not as a standalone. However, projects that put water in-stream and included monitoring were funded and the monitoring was an eligible expense. Results of the poll

showed a 50/50 split for monthly and bi-monthly preference. Ms. Harma suggests a compromise of continuing with monthly meetings in the short term and extending time between meetings as there is less work to do. Mr. Harris thought that compromise was a good idea. Mr. Hill thinks the monthly meetings keep the enthusiasm up and information flowing. The next meeting will be January 22nd.

6. For the Good of the Order / Public Comment

Chair Harris opened public comment and partner updates. No one had any updates.

Mr. Harris asked everyone to give the group and the facilitators a round of applause.

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),
5. November 17, 2020 – Final 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: January 22, 2021