



# **CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP**

**Zoom**  
**August 27, 2021**  
**9:30 am – 12:00**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **MEMBERS\* and ALTERNATES' PRESENT**

Alissa Shay\*, *Port of Grays Harbor*  
Chris Stearns\*, *Thurston PUD*  
Chris Lunde\*, *Port Blakely*  
Colleen Suter\*, *Chehalis Tribe*  
Jan Robinson\*, *Chehalis River Basin Land Trust*  
Jill Warne\*, *Grays Harbor County*

Lee Napier', *Lewis County*  
Nick Bird\*, *City of Ocean Shores*  
Paula Holoyde\*, *League of Women Voters*  
Terry Harris\*, *City of Chehalis*  
Tye Menser\*, *Thurston County*

### **GUESTS**

Lauren MacFarland, *Quinalt Indian Nation*; Mark Mobbs, *Quinalt Indian Nation*; Anthony Waldrup, *Grays Harbor Conservation District*; John Bryson, *Quinalt Indian Nation*; Devlan Pool, *City of Chehalis*; Angela Johnson, *Department of Ecology*; Kevin Pine, *Grays Harbor County*; Nat Kale, *Department of Ecology*; Elena Fernandez, *Thurston County Public Works*; Sarah Moorehead, *Thurston Conservation District*; Rachel Stendahl, *Chehalis Basin Education Consortium*; Alex Gustafson, *Trout Unlimited*

### **STAFF**

Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*  
Amy Booth, *Intern*

### **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 and Introductions**

Chair Terry Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and guests provided self-introductions and went into breakout rooms for individual updates.

#### **2. Review of July Meeting Minutes**

A quorum was present. All minutes were approved.

#### **3. Member Updates**

Members provided updates.

Chris Stearns stated they are looking into broadband services in rural parts of Thurston County which prompted the County to create a Broadband Action Team and collaborate with other counties to identify needs.

Lauren MacFarland provided an update on Scatter Creek Thermal Study. QIN staff have been working with WDFW and USGS to determine how to accomplish their goal of pinpointing areas of ground water discharge along the Scatter Creek subbasin. They are interested in identifying locations for projects to enhance ground water input or identify areas to protect from well pumping. Ms. MacFarland stated they are in the beginning stages of the study and identifying roles of entities involved and where the funding will come from to support the study. Ms. Harma added they have discussed applying for a grant with a bundle of projects in the Scatter Creek watershed because the Scatter Creek Thermal Project is looking at the whole subbasin.

Sarah Moorehead provided an update for a project in the headwaters of Scatter Creek. The project is a partnership with Thurston Conservation District and Creekside Conservancy while they develop preliminary designs for restoration. Ms. Moorehead stated it is potentially a high quality Coho habitat area and they are focusing on aquifer recharge to assist restoration and summer water flow downstream. Ms. Moorehead also stated they are looking at more projects for instream flow grants, including a managed aquifer recharge on a parcel Creekside Conservancy owns near Tenino. Ms. Harma added Cynthia's firm, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, did an assessment for locations of Managed Aquifer Recharge all over the basin and are waiting on results.

Angela Johnson provided an update for the Ecology Streamflow grant round timeline. They are currently working on logistics and a timeline for the next streamflow restoration grant round. More information will be coming early this fall. A ListServ is available to sign up to receive updates for the grant. Ms. Harma stated the application deadline will likely be later this fall and the funds should be available by next summer.

Anthony Waldrop updated the group Schaefer Creek Pilot Project. They began construction of structures in the creek by placing woody materials in the creek bed. The goal is to build up the creek bed, reconnect to the floodplain, and monitor ground water levels in the process. Anthony presented a timelapse photo series of the progress and methods used to build wood structures. They are also looking at forming a group of restoration practitioners for future projects.

Ecology Grant Updates List:

<http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?SUBED1=SFR-PROGRAM-UPDATES&A=1>

## **B. Presentations & Discussions**

### **Discussion- Chehalis Basin Partnership Tours**

Ms. Harma updated the group on tours the Chehalis Basin Partnership has put together. So far there have been tours to Satsop/Wynoochee for Anthony's project and China Creek. The group added that China Creek was an elaborate project and everyone is anxious to see the progress once more water comes through the side channels. Upcoming tours include a beaver pond tour in Rochester and a tour put together by the League of Women Voters. Ms. Holroyde explained that

the League of Women Voters has a water study group who is interested in water history and where water comes from. They have also held forums in Olympia and gained interest from many community members about where their water is sourced from. Alex Gustafson offered to give a tour of Camp Creek in the next couple months with more details to come.

## **Presentation- Review of funding Request for Permit Exempt Well Fees**

Ms. Harma presented the draft letter requesting funds from Permit Exempt Well Fees. The letter is a request to Ecology that \$350 of each well fee collected in WRIA 22/23 be provided to the Chehalis Basin Partnership for implementation efforts. Streamflow restoration law directs counties to collect \$500 for permit exempt wells with \$350 going to Ecology and \$150 staying with the counties. The Partnership may request the portion going to Ecology be directed back to the basin for use in implementing the Streamflow Restoration Plan. Mike Noone said there is \$94,000 collected so far by Ecology for the Chehalis Basin (WRIAs 22/23). Approximately \$30,000 has been collected each year and is still expected in future years. The request seems to be aligned with the law and Mr. Noone expects Ecology to accommodate it. The proposed 12 month budget includes Technical Group Facilitation, Project Oversight- Scatter Creek Bundle, Project Development, Project Development in Deficit Sub-Basins, Project Tracking, and Facilitation of Chehalis Basin Partnership Meetings & Community Education & Outreach (optional).

### Discussion:

Ms. Suter suggested the budget slide be modified from parenthetical to show the request for an optional \$20,000 for facilitation in a less confusing manner. Mr. Menser asked if Ecology would fund the task "Facilitation of Chehalis Basin Partnership Meetings & Community Education & Outreach." Others also asked if Ecology would fund a partial ask or only approve the amount requested. Ms. Harma proposed that if the Partnership would like to request more than the \$30,000 per year, that it ask that those funds come from the existing \$90,000 Ecology has already collected, to meet budget needs, and also offer to meet with Ecology so as to come up with a funding request that would be supported. The request is time sensitive and needs to be made prior to Ecology Streamflow Restoration grant deadline. Since a few modifications to the letter were suggested at today's meeting, Ms. Harma requested member volunteers to read over the final version of the request letter. Mr. Harris and Ms. Suter volunteered to read and approve the final letter. All members were supportive of this path forward.

## **Videos of Chehalis Basin Partnership Tours**

Ms. Holroyde suggested the Partnership make videos of the project tours to show progress and gain support from decision makers. Group members expressed support for the idea to show what has been accomplished in the basin. It was also stated that the videos would help when requesting funds for continuing projects. Mr. Menser stated he made a video with Thurston County Media and is looking for more project ideas for future topics. Mr. Harris suggested we involve community colleges with communication students to make videos. It would ease the worry with funding and give the students an opportunity for field work. Ms. MacFarland stated she heard students at University of Washington were looking for outreach opportunities and has their contact information available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**NEXT MEETING:** October 22, 2021