Chehalis Basin Partnership
-- Agenda --

DATE: **Friday, May 16, 2025**
TIME: 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: Economic Alliance of Lewis County
1209 Borthwick St, Centralia, WA 98531

Members Present: Kim Ashmore (Centralia), Daniel Friesz (DNR), Tye Menser (Thurston County), Rick Hole (Grays Harbor County), Terry Harris (Chair), Terry Willis (Vice Chair), Chris Stearns (Thurston PUD), Colleen Parrott (Chehalis Tribe), Rick Eaton (Elma), Brian Thompson (Lewis County Farm Bureau), Alissa Shay (Port of Grays Harbor), Kevin Eldred (Aberdeen),

Others present: Kathy Tennyson, Kirsten Harma, Victoria Knorr, Philip Adams (Thurston County), Holly Fuller (Centralia), Drew Mealor (ASRP), Sarah Hensby (Ecy – Water Quality), Sophia Sherman (Invasive Species), Deena Resnick (Ecology, OCB), Jakeb Hoyle (Chehalis Tribe), Farley Youkton (Chehalis Tribe), Chanele Holbrook (Citizen), Max Trujillo (Washington Water Trust), Ed Kolodziej (UW), Cynthia Carlstad (NHC)

Partnership Business	**Start Time**
1. Welcome, Introductions *Terry Harris, Chair* Participants discussed field trips, including the success of the April field trip, reasons for poor attendance, and what would increase participation if future field trips were to be organized. Terry Willis offered a tour of the lower Satsop restoration project on her property. A tour of Centralia's waste water treatment plant was also proposed. **2. Minutes**	9:30 am
Presentations & Discussions	
Nitrates in Water *Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia Public Works* Objective: Learn about this issue and steps Centralia made to remedy it -The city has been testing its wells since 1981 – both its production wells and in surrounding rural areas -Recently, nitrates have been increasing and getting closer to the 10 mg/L drinking water safety standard at a monitoring site at the Bob Okee Pheasant Farm -Centralia initiated additional monitoring to better understand the extent of the contamination, and find clues as to its source -A game farm in this area was suspected as a possible source, along with septic, stormwater dry wells -Lewis County public health is involved, is contacting high risk well owner, and offering public outreach, technical assistance, and education, and working with the City of Centralia and State agencies to help solve the problem	9:45 am

-There was a public meeting in December of 2024 -Mott McDonald was hired to drill new wells and test the groundwater in new locations. The results should be available in June, 2025. -Ecology was invited in to test if there were higher nitrates in the Chehalis River. There were not. Comment: Dr. Kolodziej posited that the game farm is the most likely source, since it would take a large source of nutrient waste to cause such a dramatic change in the 8-10 years monitoring has taken place. Rural residential growth (and associated septics) wouldn't have increased enough in that time to cause the spike. Comment: Someone suggested that Centralia test for fecal coliform as an indication of the source. Someone else suggested testing for phosphorus, though it was mentioned that that nutrient moves differently through the system (attaches to sediment) -If septics are identified as the problem, to get people onto sewer means expanding the UGA Kim Ashmore is willing to provide a follow-up presentation to the CBP on what the researchers are learning as to the problem's source, if he gets permission from other agencies involved.	
6PPD-Q Tire Chemical and Water Quality *Edward P. Kolodziej, Center for Urban Waters and University of Washington* Objective: Learn from the co-lead researcher who traced Coho pre-spawn mortality in urban streams to the chemical 6PPD-Q, a chemical from tires. The presentation will include an overview of this chemical's impacts, and what can be done to reduce those impacts. -Dr. Kolodziej tracks source pollution at the UW's Center for Urban Waters -His lab focuses on the chemical found in tires that is responsible for Coho pre-spawn mortality -The chemical is 6PPD-Q, which is put in tires to prevent cracking. It's actually ozone that damages the tire, and the chemical prevents access from ozone. It's been used in tires for the past 60 years! Each tire has about 1 pound of 6PPD-Q! It is lethal at concentrations 1 million times lower than nitrate! That means it takes very little of this chemical in the water to kill fish -6PPD-Q has been found to be not toxic to Chum and Chinook, but is to Coho, Bull Trout, Rainbow Trout and Searun Cutthroat -Regulatory agencies have set acute toxicity level -Any busy road that has runoff to a small stream can pose a problem. The problem was observed in creeks in Burien, which isn't a big city. They found high levels after big rain events. -The "first flush" of the wet season is the worst, but there can be high concentrations in winter and spring, as well. -Juvenile life stages are present in the winter and spring, when these concentrations are high, so researchers are looking at the impacts on them, as well. Found 80% mortality in one study -Canada and China are leading research on this topic -Evidence that stormwater treatment can work, but there need to be improvements in treatment methods (can't use same methods as for nutrients) -Crum rubber on ball fields can contribute this chemical to the awater -It will take tire companies 15-20 years to implement a replacement in tires - Their lab is looking at ceramic balls as a potential treatment -Some salmon recovery groups regreat approving restoration actions that pull in salmon to	10:15 am

streams with the chemical – it encourages them to congregate in an area that is toxic. Q) Does this toxin bioaccumulate? A) No, it breaks down in months Q) Ecology has a grant out now to support research in this chemical and treatment, what would you recommend we look into for our watershed that is "data poor" when it comes to presence of this chemical in our streams A) Dr. Kolodziej recommends starting a citizen science program to measure hotspots. Look for bridge drains, parking lots, and commercial areas. Get folks to collect samples and the UW lab may be able to test them. Q) Is there research around how to reduce introducing this chemical when replacing culverts? A) Bridge drains can be a big impact. It's better if the water filters through a wetland first, rather than going straight into a creek.	
Break	10:30 am
Scatter Creek Local Strategy *Cynthia Carlstad and Annie Dufficy, NHC, consultant to the Chehalis Basin Partnership* Objective. Hear findings from the Scatter Creek subcommittee on restoration goals and next steps for the restoration of Scatter Creek. Chehalis Basin Partnership members will be asked to provide input during this meeting. -Cynthia reminded the group why the CBP has been working on Scatter Creek. This was a focal watershed coming out of our Streamflow Restoration planning. There is synergy between that plan's goals and the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan's goals -Technical work for this project included a rough geomorphic assessment, and mapping of the active floodplain using LiDAR, and compiling information from seepage runs -The team of local and technical experts as part of the Scatter Creek subcommittee have done a lot of work for this project. -Preliminary results were presented. -The final report will speak to potential actions including: restoration of flow from the Cooke Aquiculture water right may be an interim measure; Options for upland management to protect soil and watershed conditions for flow; water conservation in areas of high densities of permit exempt wells.	10:45 am

Other Business	
Other Business *Partners share anything else they would like to discuss* *Tye Menser, Thurston County: The Deschutes watershed is close to putting together a watershed group to oversee implementation of its streamflow restoration plan, and other actions. There is an existing group of committed stakeholders> *Brian Thompson: Knoxious weed removal is underway in Lewis County *Chanele: Ecology's combined water quality grant will be accepting applications soon. There is money for septic system upgrades	11:45 am
Public Comment *Public comments are welcome at this time.*	11:55 am
Adjourn	12:00 pm