



# *Chehalis Basin Partnership*

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Meeting Summary – May 26, 2006

## **A. GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS**

### *Introductions*

Chair Bonnie Canaday welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. Nine of the Partnership's twenty-eight member organizations had a representative or an alternate at the meeting. Twenty one additional citizens, alternates, or visitors were at the meeting. See attendance list on the last page of this summary.

### *Chehalis Basin Watershed Festival*

Kahle reported on the planning progress for the festival. Yesterday, a small group met with the coordinator Ginger, on-site. The group is ready to settle on the final details for festival. This includes activities and site planning/layout.

The Chehalis Tribe was contacted to request their participation. They have agreed to participate.

FINN, the salmon was reserved. Kahle hopes to share FINN with some of the schools in the upper Chehalis before the festival.

Due to a printing error, Lewis County republished their festival and events schedule for 2006. Because of this error, Kahle was able to get the festival included in the recent publication. He distributed copies for the group.

Commissioner Macleod suggested someone make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for Thurston County the week before the hearing. Their meetings are broadcast on local access TV. Kahle reminded the group that CBP members would be asked to request their respective agency to consider a declaration of watershed awareness.

Lyle suggested the group check with the Puyallup Fair if they need additional ideas or resources. He has a contact.

### *Monthly River Flow Report*

Jennings reviewed the flow charts he created for this month's report. The graphs describe real time data from the USGS gage sites at the Newaukum River near Chehalis, Skookumchuck near Bucoda, Chehalis River near Grand Mound, Chehalis at Porter, Satsop River near Satsop, Wynoochee River above Save Creek near Aberdeen, and Humptulips River below Highway 10 near Humptulips. The graphs show the regulatory flow, the actual flow, and the median flows for the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month, measured the flow in cubic feet and described discharge.

He noted that for this month, the May 15<sup>th</sup> actual flow in most cases was below the minimum flow. Jim Hill added that he checked this morning and even with the recent rain, the flows were still

below the minimum. It was also noted that the area is 2 inches above normal rain fall for this time of year. Terry Willis commented that several farmers, including her operation, are using their irrigation wells. This is the earliest time of use any of her neighbors can recall. Bruce Jones asked if the CBP had a response to the low flow situation discussed today? He wondered if Ecology would ask junior water right holders to shut off their use. He believes the CBP should discuss this issue in at a future meeting to avoid a knee jerk response.

## **B. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### *Watershed Planning-Phase IV*

Napier reported on the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) workshops. She noted for the group that the products from the first two workshops were included in the monthly mailing. The first workshop, recommend adequate funding levels for water resource management, work product discussed a work plan that would help to facilitate the funding necessary to implement the watershed plan. The attendees at that session regrouped the interim milestones into four categories and added a few interim milestones to clarify the work. During the second workshop, develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land, participants also added interim milestones. The third workshop produced similar results by adding new tasks, but also suggested the creation of a water quantity supply workgroup. Terry mentioned that she heard through a well driller that they can drill about 2 wells per day. She was also told that the demand for exempt wells is keeping this industry busy. She is concerned about the impacts to group water due drilling exempt wells at such a high rate. The group discussed the need to become more involved in land use decisions or establish a stronger connection with the local Planning Departments.

Napier announced two more workshops on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Partnership can expect to see the draft DIP at the June meeting.

### *Presentation*

The students from Onalaska and Peter G. Schmidt presented their water quality work to the group.

The students from Peter G. Schmidt shared their water quality work that included: sampling at Millersylvania State Park, macroinvertebrae sampling at Cispus, researching the source of arsenic, the pucker effect, and the transmission of cholera. In closing the students shared poems written about the places they visited while conducting their investigations.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Onalaska's Science Club also shared their monitoring of water quality and macroinvertebrates. Each student shared their respective monitoring findings. The presenters thanked the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium because without their support, the school district would not be able to take any field trips.

### *Salmon Recovery*

Napier circulated a letter to the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) as part of her briefing. The letter was an outcome/assignment from the first meeting of the coastal region. In summary, the letter requests assistance from the GSRO, WDFW, and IAC for technical assistance to help with facilitation of further discussions between the coastal region representatives. The discussions may result in a request to the legislators to fund work on a regional scale. The letter will be sent by Napier with the support of several coastal representatives.

### C. Open Comment

Kahle asked about the salmon runs. Are they abundant or depleted this year? Bruce added that the Quinault Indian Nation is concerned about the low returns. Kahle asked if we could get a report run. Chad will follow up on this request. Chad will try to meet with Curt Holt to develop a presentation for future meetings.

Ann Wick share several brochures collected by Department of Agriculture. This included a 2006 Thurston County Farm Map, a 2006 Farming Source book, a guide to Farmer's Markets, and a link to the WSDA website for Small Farm and Direct Marketing.

**The next meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership will be held on June 23, 2006 and begins at 9:30 AM at the Lucky Eagle Casino near Oakville.**

### Decisions

- None requested

Chehalis Basin Partnership Attendance Record	
Commissioner Bob Beerbower	Grays Harbor County
Lee Napier	Grays Harbor County
Kernen Lien	Lewis County
Bob Macleod	Thurston County
Mark Swartout	Thurston County
Bob Fink	Mason County
Art Lehman	Port of Centralia
Charles Caldwell	Port of Grays Harbor
Terry Harris	City of Chehalis
Bonnie Canaday	City of Centralia
Kahle Jennings	City of Centralia
Patrick Wiltzius	City of Chehalis
Ron Schillinger	City of Montesano
Terry Willis	Grays Harbor County CAC member
Lyle Hojem	Lewis County CAC member
Jim Hill	Lewis County CAC member
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture
Chad Stussy	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bruce Jones	Quinault Indian Nation
Dave Rountry	Department of Ecology
Lew Pumphrey	Vidette
Jerry Louthain	HDR Engineering
Kathy Jacobson	Chehalis Basin Education Consortium
Jan Lindsell	OSD
Lisa Jackson	OSD
Shannon McDermit	OSD

Chehalis Basin Partnership Attendance Record	
Patrick Miess	OSD
Michaela Hegen	OSD
Ty Shepherd	OSD
Terysa Tripp	OSD
Erica Baker	Tumwater School District