

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe “Lucky Eagle” Casino
Rochester, Washington
December 18, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES & GUESTS PRESENT

Bonnie Canaday, Chair, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Centralia
Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County (Alternate)
Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia (Alternate)
Julie Balmelli-Powe, Lewis County Farm Bureau
Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College
Chanele Holbrook Shaw, Citizen, Thurston County
Christine Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Art Lehman, Port of Centralia
Chuck Caldwell, Port of Grays Harbor
Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Reservation
Terry Harris, City of Chehalis

Bob Burkle, Washington Department of Fish &
Wildlife (WDFW)
Amy Iverson, WDFW
Teri Liomin, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
Lyle Hojem, Citizen, Lewis County
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis (Alternate)
Mark Swartout, Thurston County (Alternate)
Bill Schulte, Lewis County
Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mark White, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Reservation
Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Meeting Summary

Approved November 20, 2009 meeting summary as presented.

Election of Officers

Elected Bonnie Canaday as Chair for 2010.
Elected Mark White as Vice Chair for 2010.

Meeting Summary Format

Moved “Summary of Action Items” to the beginning of the meeting minutes.

Updates to the Website

Added links to the Watershed Planning Act on the Watershed Plan page, Flood Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a PowerPoint presentation developed by Brian Walsh.

Fiscal Report and Introduce Outcome Report Card

Directed the posting of the report on the Partnership’s website. Refined the legislative brochure to elaborate on accomplishments and create a fact sheet for public outreach purposes.

Budget Discussion

Moved forward on forming a nonprofit corporation.
Directed the STC to develop strategies for approaching the Legislature for funding.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

Welcome, Introductions, and Roundtable Comments

Chair Bonnie Canaday called the December 18, 2009, meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) to order at 9:37 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

Christine Hempleman arrived at the meeting.

Discuss and Adopt November 20, 2009 Meeting Summary

The November 20, 2009 meeting summary was approved by consensus.

Election of Officers

Bonnie Canaday was elected as Chair for 2010 by consensus.

Mark White was elected as Vice Chair for 2010 by consensus.

Changes to Agenda

The Henderson Watershed pilot project was deferred to a future meeting. A discussion on budget was added to the agenda following "Fiscal Report and Introduce Outcome Report Card."

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Review Updates to the Website – www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org

Janel Spaulding provided an interactive update on additions and changes to the Partnership's website currently hosted by Grays Harbor County:

- Additional water quality reports can be found in the Technical Assessment Reports section.
- Tributary assessments and the salmon habitat preservation, conservation, and restoration work plan were added.
- The Watershed Plan page includes the plan and supplement section. The updated Detail Implementation Plan (DIP) was added.
- Information on the Stream Team and getting involved can be accessed.
- The Calendar of Events section is updated monthly with meeting information.
- CBP meeting minutes from 1998 to present were added.

Ms. Spaulding encouraged members to explore the website and forward comments to her.

Members discussed costs associated with the website domain and the GIS Clearinghouse hosted at Satsop Public Development Authority.

Mark Swartout suggested adding a link to the Watershed Planning Act on the Watershed Plan page.

Members commented on easier ways to access key decisions of the Partnership, such as approving the management plan and updating the record of decisions report.

Terry Liomin arrived at the meeting.

Chair Canaday suggested moving the “Summary of Action Items” to the beginning of the meeting minutes beginning with the December 2009 minutes. There were no objections. Other suggestions included adding hyperlinks to the Flood Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and a PowerPoint presentation developed by Brian Walsh.

Miranda Plumb arrived at the meeting.

Chehalis Basin-wide General Investigation Project Update

Ms. Napier provided an update on the Chehalis Basin-wide General Investigation (GI) Study. Members and stakeholders are working on updating the Project Management Plan (PMP). Copies of work notes from the November 20 and December 3 meetings were distributed. The Board Advisory Committee (BAC) forwarded the work notes to the Corps. Edits have been proposed for the first three chapters, Chapter 5, and Chapter 10 of the PMP. The Corps is releasing an updated PMP on January 28, 2010.

Bill Schulte arrived at the meeting.

The Steering Technical Committee (STC) and the BAC will meet on February 4 at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to discuss the PMP. The goal is collecting feedback on substance, context, and content. Spencer Easton, ESA Adolphson and Ms. Napier will collect and forward comments to the Corps the week of February 8. A workshop will be scheduled in the future. A meeting with the STC, BAC, and the Corps is tentatively planned for the February 25. The Corps is also interesting in organizing a meeting to discuss in-kind services. Ms. Napier said a 50% match is required to participate in the Corps GI Study.

The STC will hold its regular meeting on January 7 at 9:30 a.m. at WDFW. A calendar of meeting dates for the CBP and standing committees will be handed out next month.

Fiscal Report and Introduce Outcome Report Card

Ms. Spaulding distributed a supplemental document on the “Chehalis Basin Partnership: A Look at the Implementation Progress of the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan.” She provided an overview of the sections contained in the report:

- **Section 1:** A Brief History of the Chehalis Basin Partnership and Watershed Planning. It was pointed out that the Chehalis Basin is the second largest watershed in the state.
- **Section 2:** A Table of Chehalis Basin Partnership Grants and Projects. Ms. Spaulding reviewed accomplishments associated with the following projects or grants contained in the table:
 - Phase 1: Organize Planning Unit
 - Phase 2: Watershed Assessment
 - Phase 3: Develop Watershed Management Plan
 - Phase 4, Year 1: Implementation
 - Phase 4, Year 2: Implementation
 - Phase 4, Year 3: Implementation
 - Phase 4, Year 4: Implementation
 - Phase 4, Year 5: Implementation
 - 2002 Chehalis Basin Instream Flow Study
 - Water Quality Assessment
 - Multi-purpose Water Storage Assessment
 - Watershed Council Year 1 (Legislative appropriation 1)

- WRIA 22-23 Water Quality Monitoring
- Chehalis Basin GIS Clearinghouse
- Watershed Council Year 2 (Legislative appropriation 2)
- Watershed Council Year 2 (Legislative appropriation 2 – USGS)
- Planning Unit Support
- Water Storage Feasibility
- Lead Entity/Habitat Work Group
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Since 1998, nearing \$11.3 million has been spent on projects focused on water quality, water quantity, and habitat throughout the Chehalis Basin.

- **Section 3:** An Outline of Chehalis Basin Partnership Grants and Projects. The outline provides additional details for each of the grants contained in the table in Section 2.
- **Section 4:** Implementation Priorities. The section highlights five strategies identified in the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) bringing several of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) goals to fruition.

Members commented on the amount of funds remaining from the grants and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding allocations. Ms. Spaulding confirmed most of the grant funds have been expended and closed out with the exception of Phase 4, Year 5, Watershed Council Year 2, and Planning Unit Support.

Lyle Hojem referred to a recent article published in *The Olympian* on, “South Sound Gets \$4.7 million in Salmon Grants.” The article also states the SRFB awarded more than \$400 million statewide since 2000. He asked why the CBP spent \$7.6 million while South Sound is spending \$4.7 million on salmon. Ms. Napier noted Grays Harbor County is not included in the South Sound and is a completely different lead entity group. South Sound and Grays Harbor County are two different geographic areas.

Patrick Wiltzius asked whether salmon recovery has been successful. Bob Burkle replied that in the last 10 years, average escapement numbers have been achieved within the Chehalis system.

Mr. Hojem said he would like to see the Partnership’s accomplishments recognized.

Christine Hempleman commented that the legislative appropriations clearly recognize the success of the CBP. The Legislature would not appropriate additional funding if the organization’s work was not effective.

Mr. Burkle reported the SRFB developed a list of the seven most impressive and important projects in the state, two of which are within the Chehalis Basin watershed-Preachers Slough restoration and the Hoquiam surge plain acquisition.

Mr. Jennings provided his perspective on the article published in *The Olympian*.

Members discussed salmon recovery, natural conditions including higher ocean temperatures, and Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation.

Mark Swartout provided additional information on the requirement of all cities and counties within Puget Sound having to file a report with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) documenting all permits issued within a floodplain. Of the 53 permits Thurston County issued, none were for new

construction. Thurston County can issue remodeling permits as long as the footprint does not increase more than 10%.

Ms. Hempleman emphasized that the data collection and water quality monitoring projects are important foundational work for managing the Chehalis watershed as growth occurs in the future.

Mr. Swartout noted that each of the five strategies contained in the DIP includes a number of interim milestones attached to implementation.

Chanele Holbrook-Shaw directed the group back to the agenda item by saying the table outlines funding amounts and accomplishments. She asked for more information focused on providing citizens with a better understanding of the Partnership's work and achievements and how they can get involved. She suggested creating a "fast facts sheet" or summary sheet.

Members commented positively on the report and indicated it's their job to interpret the information to their respective jurisdictions and agencies. Members asked for electronic copies and posting of the report on the Partnership's website.

Ms. Spaulding volunteered to develop a fact sheet using accomplishments listed in the legislative brochure. There were no objections.

Budget Discussion

Ms. Napier distributed several handouts. The first was a basic summary budget report highlighting revenues and expenditures in a format recommended by the STC. The report is specific to Watershed Planning, Phase 4. Grays Harbor County can provide up-to-date reports when requested.

Discussion ensued on total budgeted revenues and expenditures. It was noted that Grays Harbor County and the state operate under different fiscal years.

The second handout outlined the Partnership's work plan for state fiscal year 2010-2011. The matrix lists programs under contract as of July 1:

- WRIA Phase 4, Year 4 out of 5 from DOE
- Watershed Council Year 1 (Legislative appropriation 1)
- Watershed Council Year 2 (Legislative appropriation 2)
- Planning Unit Support from DOE
- Lead Entity Operation

Ms. Napier advised that circumstances may change effective July 1, 2010. A fourth document detailing the status of basic components of planning unit operations was provided. As of July 1, the Governor's budget does not fund watershed planning in the General Fund. Other technical support provided by DOE to agencies including gauges funded by the watershed program will not be funded and include some gauges in the Chehalis basin.

Ms. Napier suggested rather than focusing on projects to focus on maintaining the Partnership and determining what it will take to sustain the organization. She reviewed basic components of planning unit operations and potential budget status:

- Salary and benefits – Project Manager – Eliminated (Phase 4 expended)
- Match hours of services – Still possible
- Contracted services – Puget Sound Meeting Services – Eliminated (Phase 4 expended)
- Goods and services – facility – Still possible (it's likely the CBP could still hold meetings at the Lucky Eagle Casino), however refreshments would be eliminated.
- Work of CBP, STC, Water Quality Committee (WQC) – Transfer or change role. The work will be pending dependent upon a decision concerning available financial resources. Ms. Napier's time is currently covered to attend Partnership meetings and perform follow up tasks. The responsibility of preparing meeting summaries will be transferred from Puget Sound Meeting Services to someone else. There is the potential for Ms. Spaulding to provide support to the CBP. The work plan could change significantly.
- DIP – Transfer or change role.
- Outreach – Contributing to the cost of the *Drops of Water* publication would be eliminated. Funding for one future edition this spring of the publication is secure.
- Watershed Facilitator – Still possible/Transfer or change role. Planning unit funds and proviso funds provides the potential for Ms. Spaulding to continue work on behalf of the Partnership. The CBP will need to re-evaluate the work plan.
- Travel – Eliminated.

Ms. Napier reported that Grays Harbor County does not have the funds to sponsor her attendance to Partnership meetings. The Phase 4 grant (\$62,500) expires June 30, 2010.

Discussion ensued on the status of lead entity support. Ms. Napier explained that some of the lead entity program funds approximately one-quarter of her time supporting the Habitat Work Group (HWG), working with project sponsors, attending lead entity advisory meetings, data entry to the Habitat Work Schedule, and updating the strategy. The HWG is not impacted.

Mr. Burkle inquired about funds from DOE to merge planning units with salmon recovery. Ms. Napier responded that's it's a possibility.

Ms. Napier said another issue is the elements within the DIP that could be implemented when factoring in potential budget cuts. It's unlikely she will be able to attend STC meetings representing Grays Harbor County. She provided additional information on her responsibilities as Deputy Director of Community Development for the county.

Ms. Napier reviewed a basic operations elements/budget by category for FY July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 combining Phase 4 money (\$62,500), provisos, and planning unit funds:

- Salaries and Benefits – Project Manager, .25 full time equivalent (FTE) providing committee support and project oversight. Annual cost \$33,000 (level of service reduced from 2008).
- Contracted Services – Puget Sound Meeting Services, .15 FTE. Annual cost \$18,000. Grays Harbor College, 1 FTE (Ms. Spaulding). Annual cost \$72,000.
- Mileage – Annual cost \$1,200.
- Goods/Services:
 - Drops of Water - \$5,400
 - Facilities - \$3,000
 - Refreshments - \$600
 - Facilitation – varies

- Publications – varies

Members offered the following comments:

- The Governor's budget will work its way through the legislative process and the outcome is unknown.
- What could be restored through other budget cuts or revenues is health care and public safety. The Legislature could consider proviso monies to fund other programs.
- There may be federal money that comes to the state to address budget gaps such as health care for children.
- The CBP has been blessed over the years with financial support enabling the agency to focus on issues. A cooperative effort focused on water and fish is important and should continue.

Ms. Napier asked members to provide feedback for moving forward. Members offered the following comments:

- Approach the Legislature for funding.
- Pursue nonprofit funding and grants outside state government.
- Approach member jurisdictions for allocating funding to support the CBP.
- Acknowledge the contributions of nonprofit agency participation such as the Heernet Foundation, Cascade Land Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and Chehalis Land Trust. As an example, the Partnership is in a much better position when asking the Legislature for money when it brings substantially more to the table.
- It may be time to form a nonprofit.
- Representatives from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and Nisqually River Foundation (NRF) have made presentations to the CBP about their nonprofit models. The HCCC is a good example. The HCCC initially consisted of an interlocal agreement (ILA) with base funding support from neighboring jurisdictions. This was leveraged when applying for grants. The HCCC created a nonprofit corporation enabling the organization to apply for foundation money and additional grants. The HCCC also functioned as the board of directors for the nonprofit. The NRF is a nonprofit with a separate board of directors providing administrative support. It was proposed to elevate the nonprofit discussion and that the Partnership should be prepared to make decisions over the next several months. The CBP could report to the Legislature on its plans for sustainability when seeking bridge funding to help achieve that goal. Having a watershed planning unit will help in the future particularly when water becomes a rarer source as growth occurs. The Partnership provides a forum to address that topic.
- Approach the Legislature for funding, have the STC develop a work plan over the next six months, forward a recommendation to the Partnership on forming a nonprofit, identify required decisions, and determine the timing for creating a nonprofit.
- Pursue forming a nonprofit over the next few months while the organization still has the resources.
- A government sponsor enables the Partnership to apply for certain types of state and/or federal grants.

Mr. Jennings said members have an opportunity to showcase and assign a dollar value for their participation on the Partnership as representatives of their organizations, which would be useful when approaching the Legislature for funding.

Mr. Swartout asked that the CBP authorize Ms. Spaulding to contact the legal organization providing pro bono assistance to the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (WCSSP) on creating a

nonprofit. Next steps include creating bylaws for the nonprofit and updating the brochure to present to the Legislature.

Mr. Schulte recommended directing Ms. Spaulding to initiate the process to form a nonprofit.

Chair Canaday suggested providing the Legislature with copies of the report, "Chehalis Basin Partnership: A Look at the Implementation Progress of the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan" in advance of any presentation.

Mr. Schulte suggested including a copy of the Partnership's application to form a nonprofit with the report to the Legislature.

Ms. Napier said a cover letter could accompany the report and application informing the Legislature the agency's interested in meeting individually with legislators. The STC could develop strategies for approaching the Legislature.

Members agreed to move forward with forming a nonprofit corporation with the STC developing strategies for approaching the Legislature.

Ms. Napier advised that strategies for approaching the Legislature could include requesting funds for DOE to distribute to restore watershed planning and ways to achieve cost efficiencies through consolidation, such as combining watershed planning and salmon recovery.

Mr. Harris said it is important that no one group lose its identity with any consolidation.

Patrick Wiltzius and Terry Harris left the meeting.

Chuck Caldwell shared that the Port of Grays Harbor is conducting a legislative send off on January 5, 2010 at the Log Pavilion in Aberdeen. Members were invited to attend.

Agenda Items for January 22, 2010 and Future Meetings

- Matt Ely with USGS will report on data collection work conducted last summer (January 22)
- Don Davidson is scheduled to make a presentation on exempt wells in February
- Sue Kennedy will report on the Adna project in March.
- An update on the formation of a nonprofit and drafting bylaws (January 22)
- Input on legislative strategies developed by the STC (January 22)

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.