

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe “Lucky Eagle” Casino
Rochester, Washington
March 27, 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
Mark Swartout, Thurston County (Alternate)
Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia (Alternate)
Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Bob Burkle, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
Amy Iverson, WDFW
Don Loft, Grays Harbor College
Glen Connolly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Lonnie Crumley, StreamWorks Consulting
Phil Rupp, Lewis County
Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mark Burch, HDR Engineering
Brad Murphy, DOE

Mark White, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (Alternate)
Lyle Hojem, Citizen, Lewis County
Terry Harris, City of Chehalis
Terry Willis, Commissioner, Grays Harbor County
Chuck Caldwell, Port of Grays Harbor
John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions
Debbie Holden, Creative Community Solutions
Rich Carlson, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis (Alternate)
John Penberth, Citizen, Pe Ell
Marcia Heere, US Army Corps of Engineers
Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Patt Savage, Puget Sound Meeting Services

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

Welcome, Introductions and Roundtable Comments

Chair Bonnie Canaday called the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) to order at 9:33 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

Discuss and Adopt Draft Meeting Summary for February 27, 2009

Lee Napier offered a clarification related to the ranked project list for the Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program on page 5 of the minutes. The number of projects submitted exceeded the \$200,000 funding allocation. The *Drops of Water* newsletter and Chehalis Basin Education Consortium are good, solid programs submitted for funding each year. There are other good projects seeking one-time funding allocations. It's difficult to for reviewers to allocate funding when so many good projects are submitted.

The February 27, 2009 minutes were approved as submitted.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATION

Phase 4 Work Plan

Ms. Napier reported the Steering Technical Committee (STC) sought assistance from Creative Community Solutions (CCS) to update Strategy 2, *Recommend Adequate Funding Levels for Water Resource Management*, within the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). A portion of the Phase 4 grant expires at the end of June 30, 2009. The watershed plan contains approximately 56 actions. Those actions were divided into five strategic plans resulting in an ambitious work program. The intent is selecting projects that can be completed within the next year. Examples include working with USGS on

the groundwater characterization proposal as a long-term project. Developing an Education and Outreach (E&O) Plan concept could be completed this year. A component of updating the DIP is refreshing the CBP website. Interim Milestone (IM) 2.2 within Strategy 2 pertains to developing an E&O work plan to solicit funding. With the hiring of Ms. Spaulding, the IM should be updated to reflect current conditions and new opportunities.

Group Discussion Regarding the Website

John Kliem and Debbie Holden, CCS, provided a demonstration of CBP's current website and outlined potential enhancements for the important tool. Currently, the Partnership's website is accessed through Grays Harbor County's website, which could continue. Another option is obtaining an individual domain name such as www.chehalisbasinpartnership.com, www.chehalisbasinpartnership.net, or www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org. All three options are currently available. Ms. Holden reviewed general information currently available on the website. The same information can be incorporated within a user-friendly website.

A handout was distributed of an example of a banner for the web site, links along the left side, and a logo in the corner. The logo would be linked to the home page. Members viewed a demonstration of Grays Harbor County's website's link to the Marine Resources Committee site. The format for Grays Harbor County and the CBP websites would basically mirror one another. Ms. Holden reviewed the lead entity link, which is a work in progress. The color scheme and format are the same so the user feels a connection with the Grays Harbor County site. The lead entity web page contains an extensive library.

Ms. Holden presented a web page design for the Partnership website incorporating the new logo. She reviewed proposed links and documents currently found on the CBP website. Mr. Kliem emphasized that the goal is designing a website for easy management and maintenance by staff

Ms. Holden asked for feedback on links to include, suggested order for links, and other comments.

Members offered the following comments:

- Include a search feature on the web page to locate information quickly.
- Provide documents in a pdf format.
- Include information links for accessing other websites, such as the Department of Ecology (DOE) Watershed Planning, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO). Linking to the Habitat Work Schedule would be useful.

Ms. Holden and Mr. Kliem displayed the lead entity web page and demonstrated how Partnership documents can be accessed.

- It's important that information links for the Partnership's website are user friendly for people unfamiliar with the programs. The proposal appears more focused on agency-to-agency work.
- Retain the "membership" link but change the title to "members."
- Multiple audiences will access the Partnership's website.
- Include a map of the Chehalis Basin where the user can click on a site (such as a river gauge) to obtain data or find an explanation of what a flood stage is for a specific area.
- Include a button on the left hand side of the page taking the user to topics such as flood, salmon, and watershed planning.

Ms. Holden described “drop down” and “fly out” menus. “Fly out” menus are not the best solution. She encouraged members to consider maintaining simple home page links and the basic menu for ease of use.

- Let the public know when they’re leaving the CBP’s website and/or link.
- Keep terminology user friendly.
- Consider connection to Watershed Plan when developing the topics list. Main link titles could be refined. For example, a page could be designed describing the watershed plan and its components.
- Avoid large pictures and files so dial-up users can access information timely.
- Generally, members expressed interest in including a link to flooding directing users to available resources such as the USGS gauge website or NW River Forecast Center. Links should inform users of topics not within the scope of the watershed plan.
- Consider logical progression of topic areas.
- Consider consolidating all technical reports into one area. The technical section will continue to expand as the watershed plan is implemented.
- Consider using “more information” rather than “library.”
- If possible there is a need for single portals to information.
- Include CBP meeting calendar and agendas.
- Provide contact information, a “get involved” button, and a calendar of events. Mr. Kliem advised that Ms. Spaulding will maintain a web page describing education and outreach activities. A “get involved” button could link users to the web page.
- Include specific events, such as the Watershed Festival with a picture of Fin on the home page.
- Change “Detailed Implementation Plan” to “Implementation Plan.”
- Include a “newsletter” or “in the news” heading with a link to the *Drops of Water* and other publications with a short description of the periodical. Ms. Holden suggested articles could be listed chronologically along with an archive page.

Discussion ensued on a domain name. Chair Canaday encouraged the Partnership to consider purchasing all three options. Ms. Spaulding is researching cost domain costs. Mr. White advised that all three names could be connected to the same registry.

Mr. Kliem said CCS might follow up individually with members for additional feedback on the website. Members will receive an update prior to June 30, 2009.

Review Work Plan and Proposal to Update DIP

A supplemental handout on the Watershed Education and Outreach (E&O) Plan concept was distributed.

Mr. Kliem described the purpose of the proposal:

- Develop a two-year strategic plan for Watershed E&O for Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 22/23
- Establish a working group of different E&O groups to collaborate on projects led by the WRIA E&O coordinator

The concept involves two workshops and the preparation of a strategic planning document including updates to the proposed CBP website. The purpose of workshop 1 on May 13, 2009 is inventorying E&O efforts currently underway, create a vision for E&O for WRIAs 22 and 23, and identifying gaps in E&O programs and why they exist. The second workshop scheduled for May 20, 2009 builds on the first workshop. The group will identify and plan specific projects over a two-year period.

Ms. Holden reviewed the action planning process beginning with a visioning activity, identifying what can be done, and what participants are willing to do. The group will break into teams and develop a month-to-month calendar of implementation actions steps that meet the vision for each E&O under consideration.

Mr. Kliem reported the consultants will develop a draft plan with direction from the E&O coordinator and distribute the plan for comments. A final plan will be produced. The consultants will integrate the plan into the Partnership's website. The consultants will contact the E&O community and assist Ms. Spaulding as the E&O coordinator.

In response to a question from Mr. Harris on who's involved in the E&O community, Mr. Kliem advised that the following stakeholders were identified:

- Kathy Jacobsen, ESD 113
- Solid waste
- Grays Harbor College
- Washington State University (WSU) Extension Services
- WDFW
- Veterans Conservation Group
- Chehalis Land Trust
- Sierra Club
- Nature Conservancy
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Grays Harbor Vision 2020
- Stream Teams
- Environmental Health
- Conservation Districts
- DOE
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Chehalis River Council
- Cascade Land Trust
- Audubon Society
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Pacific Education Institute
- Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

Mr. Harris proposed notifying and inviting educational leaders in all school districts within the Chehalis basin. Educational leaders can set up plans within their respective school districts and convey the information to students.

Mr. Swartout suggested adding Capitol Land Trust to the list.

Discuss Revised Logo

Ms. Napier presented a revised logo. Members provided the following feedback:

- Justified spacing for "Basin" is distracting. Spacing should be similar to "Chehalis."
- Fonts should be the same.
- River alignment is not quite right.
- Include a person in the logo. A goal is to include people as part of the basin as well as fish.
- Incorporate the harbor rather than the river into the logo perhaps with the jetty and a fishing boat in the harbor. Another option is illustrating a river traveling to the harbor.
- First reaction is the logo is not pleasant. The banner is too big.
- The logo shape is odd. An oval or circle shape is more professional.
- Combine the three lines of text to two with "Chehalis Basin" on the first line followed by "Partnership" on the second line.
- Consider how color logos reproduce as black and white copies. A light yellow color appears clear when copied black and white.

- A block print font would be easier to read rather than outlined letters.
- Remove the ribbons from the sides.
- The logo should be unique to the CBP.

Members asked staff to provide several logo design options.

Other Business

Ms. Napier referred to a letter sent to members from the Water Quality Committee (WQC). The WQC is seeking participation in a review of water quality protection currently underway in the Chehalis basin. CBP members interested in the status of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study are welcome to attend a meeting on Friday, April 17, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at DOE.

Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife Service, provided an update on funding for ranked project proposals for the Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program grant. Input provided from the Habitat Work Group (HWG) and the Partnership was considered. The Satsop River Knotweed Control Phase 2 project will be funded, as well as the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium project. It's likely the Inlet Creek Fish Passage and *Drops of Water* newsletter proposals will also receive funding. US Fish and Wildlife Service will know more about the status of additional funding for other projects within the next several months.

Ms. Napier reported that the Preacher's Slough project is a barrier correction proposed through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Additional funding for the fish passage element is needed. Project sponsors were contacted about projects that are shovel ready for possible eligibility for stimulus funding. Three barrier corrections include the Eaton Creek, Gaddis Creek, and Preacher's Slough projects that might be shovel ready. However, the minimum funding threshold is \$500,000. The proposal is to bundle projects to meet the minimum threshold. The Preacher's Slough project has evolved into more than just a barrier correction with a funding request of \$600,000. DNR and Bertie Davenport are moving the project forward at the regional level. Grays Harbor County is not submitting barrier correction proposals. Representative Blake endorses the Preacher's Slough project, which will provide 30 local jobs, but does not include suppliers, truckers, or manufacturers.

At its last meeting, the HWG discussed upcoming stimulus projects. The Nature Conservancy spoke about working with regional partners and submitting a project focused on addressing invasive species. That project was combined with a larger Department of Agriculture funding package.

Marcia Heere, US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), advised that the Corps is seeking mitigation for the Twin Cities Flood Reduction Project. She acknowledged that the Satsop Floodplain Restoration project is included on the list.

Discussion followed on potential mitigation and flood hazard management plan projects in the Chehalis basin.

Flood Authority Update

Ms. Napier reported the Flood Authority is developing a Basin-wide Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. The STC submitted two projects for funding consideration by the Flood Authority:

- A decision support tool for watershed planning in the Chehalis River basin involving the USGS groundwater characterization proposal. The work helps implement the watershed plan. Grays

Harbor County is the project sponsor for the Corps' Ecosystem Restoration Project. Ms. Napier stated she seeking funding from the Corps for a portion of the work. USGS is contributing match funds.

- An analysis and valuation of flood protection and other ecosystem services in the Chehalis watershed. The funding request is \$75,000. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is also contributing. Another grant for \$900,000 was secured.

The Flood Authority did not render a funding decision for the two projects. However, the Flood Authority passed a resolution to fund a project and work on scoping "ripe and ready" projects.

Agenda Items for April 24, 2009 Meeting

- A presentation on the natural resources component of the Grays Harbor Vision 2020
- State of the River report for fiscal year 2008 presented by Dr. Joel Green
- Review and discuss revised logo
- Website development update

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Prepared by Cheri Lindgren, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services