

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
Chehalis Tribe “Lucky Eagle” Casino
Rochester, Washington
June 25, 2010
9:30 a.m.
Meeting Summary

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, & GUESTS

PRESENT

Bonnie Canaday, Chair, City of Centralia
Mark White, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County
Bob Burkle, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
Julie Balmelli-Powe, Lewis County Farm Bureau
Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership
Mark Swartout, Thurston County
Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County
Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County
Bill Schulte, Lewis County

Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Art Lehman, Port of Centralia
Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Citizen, Thurston County
Ann Wick, Department of Agriculture
Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Chris Stearns, Thurston Public Utilities District
Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia
Teri Liomin, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
Miranda Plumb, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis
Jerry Louthain, Thurston County Water Conservancy Board/HDR
Tom Nogler, SEIU 1199
Charlene Green, citizen

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Meeting Summaries

Members approved by consensus meeting summaries for March 26, April 23, and May 21, 2010

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS

Welcome, Introductions and Roundtable Comments

Bonnie Canaday called the June 25, 2010 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) to order at 9:34 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions. A quorum was present.

Discuss and Adopt Draft Meeting Summaries of March 26, 2010, April 23, 2010, and May 21, 2010

Members approved the meetings summaries of March 26, April 23, and May 21, 2010 as presented.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Status Report and Discussion Regarding Organizational Restructuring – WAACO Application Update

Janel Spaulding reported she submitted an application to Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations (WAACO) for a review of the bylaws and the articles of incorporation. WAACO approved the application and the CBP is eligible for pro bono legal assistance. The organization is in the process of assigning an attorney to assist CBP in its legal review. That process should take two to three weeks. The legal review will also include addressing many of the questions raised over the last several meetings.

Lee Napier advised that the Steering Technical Committee (STC) did not meet in June and no other work has been completed on the bylaws or the articles of incorporation since the Partnership’s last review.

Watershed Festival Update

Ms. Spaulding updated members on the Watershed Festival. The Watershed Festival Committee is planning and fundraising for the fifth annual festival. The festival is scheduled on Sunday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Morris Riverfront Park and Rotary Log Pavilion. "Fin" is scheduled to visit three elementary schools to include Central Elementary School in Hoquiam as the Hoquiam Rotary Club donated some funding and requested "Fin" visit the school. There will be sailings and tours of the Tall Ships and Longboats. The festival will feature a fishing pond sponsored by the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force and hands on activities. Some artist activities will also be featured. The committee is seeking sources for musical performances. The Chehalis Tribe is hosting a salmon bake again this year.

The budget for this year's festival is \$5,800. Currently, fundraising efforts have raised \$4,200.

Bill Schulte arrived at the meeting.

The committee received a donation from Friends of Grays Harbor. The City of Centralia Stormwater Department offered to sponsor the cost of printing, and Grays Harbor County and the Grays Harbor County Lead Entity is sponsoring the cost of "Fin" and the driver. The City of Aberdeen donated the use of the Log Pavilion at no cost. Donations were received from the Land Trust, Tom Bougher on behalf of Veterans Conservation Corps, and the Hoquiam Rotary Club. The Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee may also contribute as well as the Aberdeen Rotary Club and the East County Rotary Club. This is the first year for fundraising activities. Previously, the festival was funded through grants.

Ms. Spaulding addressed questions about any potential income sources from the festival. At this point, the festival hasn't charged any vendor fees for participation. The committee discussed a potential auction as a way to raise funds for next year's festival. However, at this point there are no firm plans for an auction.

Donations are required to cover the cost of some rental items, such as the large white tent. Some of the costs are covered but approximately \$1,300 is still needed. Teri Lioman provided a contact name for a possible donation.

Stream Team Updates – Centralia Stream Team Presentation

Chair Canaday introduced Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia, and shared that the City received an award during the Association of Washington Cities annual conference on June 24, 2010, honoring the City with a Municipal Excellence Award for community service for its China Creek Restoration Program through the establishment of the Centralia Stream Team. Kahle Jennings displayed a banner the City received as part of the recognition award.

Mr. Ashmore reported he works in the Stormwater Department with the City of Centralia. In compliance with the Department of Ecology (DOE) and the under the City's new stormwater permit, there are 93 permit requirements that must be achieved prior to 2011. Part of those requirements includes education and outreach, which is a major component of the Stream Team through changing behaviors and encouraging community volunteerism.

The Centralia Stream Team was established in January 2009. After the first initial meeting with Mr. Jennings, Ms. Spaulding, Mr. Ashmore, and Ms. Napier in December 2008, the vision of Mr. Jennings

and Ms. Napier was to establish a stream team in the Chehalis basin watershed. Through his and Ms. Spaulding's efforts, the first meeting was held in January with invitations to numerous partners. At that time, the focus was on China Creek and through Ms. Spaulding's efforts; a DOE Terry Hussman grant was secured of \$12,500 to initiate the Centralia Stream Team. The funds were used to purchase orange "Stream Team" T-shirts that are worn by volunteers during stream team events.

Chanele Holbrook-Shaw arrived at the meeting.

The cleanup of China Creek was the main focus of the stream team. Mr. Ashmore displayed photos of the creek taken near I-5 behind the old wastewater treatment plant and the culvert consisting of a fish barrier with a concrete slab. Some fish manage to swim up the creek.

Mr. Ashmore shared details on the naming of the creek dating back to the 1800s after Chinese laborers nicknamed "coolies" who built the railroad through Centralia and Chehalis. The laborers set up camps near a water source, which was later named after the Chinese by the railroad as "China Creek." China Creek is fed by Little Hanford, which is located in northeast Centralia. The creek dries up during the summer. Most of Centralia's stormwater drains into China Creek. The City is currently conducting tests to determine the types of pollutants draining into the creek as well as testing some filters to determine the effectiveness of the filters rather than building a new stormwater treatment facility.

The City's ordinance prohibits any domestic sewerage discharge into China Creek. There were some old sanitary sewer connections in the 1980s, which were discovered and disconnected at that time. All known connections have been disconnected. The goal is to restore flow year-round to improve the health of the creek and encourage fish species.

As the City grew and urbanized, there were efforts to straighten the creek through the downtown area. Thirty-five men were hired with picks and shovels to dig a ditch and reroute the creek. In 1997, the Lewis County Conservation District completed a flood hazard analysis. During 1996 there were several cleanups of the creek, which gradually ended. During that same year, a local contractor performed a small dredging of the creek near the freeway and the Chehalis River. From 2000 to 2007, the Centralia College Environmental Club took over cleanup of the creek. However, the effort was never successful with minimal participation.

In late 2008, the front page of the *Chronicle* featured a photograph of somebody dumping a bucket of oil into China Creek. That incident prompted the initial meeting and led to the creation of the Centralia Stream Team. The team has scheduled events each month.

The first event on May 2, 2009 included pickup and disposal of 6,080 pounds of garbage along the creek comprised of basketballs, footballs, pop cans, needles, washing machine, computer, microwave, shopping carts, a pair of cowboy boots, and other garbage.

Each year in June, the biology teacher at Centralia High School raises juvenile Coho and releases them into the creek. This year the class released approximately 1,000 juvenile Coho into China Creek.

A stream walk survey of the entire length of the stream included inspections of any illicit outfalls, establishing GPS coordinates, assessing noxious weeds, and assessing the condition of the creek bed and overhead canopies. Last year, a permit was obtained to spray canary grass in China Creek, which helped considerably.

On October 10, 2009, a fall cleanup was held resulting in 1,500 pounds of garbage. On November 8 and December 19, trees were planted behind the old wastewater treatment plant and on a City-owned property. During the December 19 tree planting, a dead, two-foot salmon was identified on the property. There have been several sightings of large salmon in the creek.

On May 8, 2010, another cleanup of the creek netted 940 pounds of garbage, which hopefully reflects an ongoing trend that people are not discarding garbage in the creek.

Mr. Ashmore displayed photos of the various stream team clean-up events on the creek, many of which involved school children.

Several signs have been installed along the creek as well as at all bridge crossings advising people not to throw garbage into the creek.

Mr. Ashmore distributed some Stream Team brochures.

There have been many presentations to elementary schools on China Creek, water quality, clean-up, and ways they can help. Many children ask how they can become involved or assist. The students were provided with Stream Team pencils and rulers.

A hydraulic flow study of China Creek is underway to determine water depth and what's necessary for to maintain flows into the Chehalis River.

Mr. Ashmore acknowledged Ms. Napier and Mr. Jennings for their vision in creating a stream team for the basin. He and Ms. Spaulding are the co-leads of the team. DOE provided funding, which helped to initiate the team. Materials and supplies purchased with the funds can be reused countless of times. The first cleanup on May 2 involved over 70 volunteers. Volunteers are the heart of the process as well as providing the educational outreach to the community and to the schools.

Mr. Jennings commented that the initial discussion between him and Ms. Napier pertained to an implementation activity within the Chehalis Basin Watershed Plan. It takes communities to individually implement the plan and the Stream Team is a good example of how an element of the plan can be pursued. The City of Centralia enables funding from the stormwater utility to cover Mr. Ashmore's time and efforts to ensure the team was established. Mr. Ashmore added that the creation of the team and its efforts has led to involvement of students from Grays Harbor County who have since been active in the formation of a stream team in Grays Harbor County. Grays Harbor Stream Team began meeting in October 2009 and has sponsored several clean-up events.

Patrick Wiltzius reported the Chehalis City Council's goal list includes establishing a local stream team as well.

Members participated in a quiz on the presentation and received Stream Team water bottles for correct answers.

Mr. Ashmore reported that "Fin" will be featured in the City of Centralia's annual 4th of July parade along with stormwater messages as part of Centralia's Summer Fest event.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Cycle

Overview of Lead Entity Program

Ms. Napier distributed a project list for the 2010 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant cycle. The SRFB annually awards grants to Lead Entities for salmon recovery projects. The applications are reviewed against the Partnership's strategy.

The SRFB was created in 1998 by the Legislature to provide funding for salmon projects. Since then, the SRFB has evolved and also funds different types of projects, such as assessment projects and other projects supporting salmon.

In the beginning, each Lead Entity developed a list of projects and presented the projects to the SRFB during a very competitive process involving other state Lead Entities. The SRFB changed the process and now awards grants to each region.

Counties, cities, and tribal governments jointly designate by resolution the Lead Entity area and the designated Lead Entity. In 1999-2000, Lewis County was the lead agency for watershed planning and the Lead Entity for salmon recovery. With a change in staff, Lewis County relinquished that responsibility to Grays Harbor County. The Lead Entity area is a boundary created for submittal of projects within that boundary. Through the creation of a local review team, the projects are forwarded to the SRFB for consideration.

The Habitat Work Group (HWG) is a subcommittee of the Partnership. The HWG forms a subcommittee of a local review group comprised of technical experts to review and rank projects submitted within the Grays Harbor County Lead Entity.

The application process is structured and begins with a call for early applications. In early February, the grant cycle is reviewed with HWG members to include application timelines and project expectations. The call is then issued for early applications. The early application deadline this year was March 31. The local review team in conjunction with a review team from the SRFB conducts site visits of each project on May 13th and 14th. The review teams provide feedback to project sponsors to assist in improving the final application prior to submission. Final applications are due at noon, June 25. The local review team will receive a copy of the applications for final review on July 9.

Ms. Napier distributed a copy of the scoring sheet the review team uses to rank project applications. During the process, project sponsors present their respective projects to the HWG for early feedback and ways to improve the project and project application. Year-round, project sponsors can also contact members of the local review team for assistance as well. The early application process is a way to provide feedback to project sponsors to improve their projects. Those early interactions are helpful to the sponsors as well as to the overall process. The July 9 review is conducted without project sponsors in attendance.

Ms. Napier described the process for scoring project applications:

Project Scoring Sheet and Ranking Criteria:

1. Benefit to Salmon (Appendix E)	Range	Score
High Benefit	8-10	
Medium Benefit	5-7	
Low Benefit	0	
2. Certainty of Success (Appendix E)	Range	Score
High Certainty	4-6	
Medium Certainty	1-3	
Low Certainty	0	
3. Fit to Strategy	Range	Score
Project addresses issue specifically identified as a high priority	8-10	
Project is consistent with a high priority	5-7	
Project not consistent with priority area or action, but would be high/medium benefit and certainty action	1-4	
Other activities	0	
TOTAL		

4. Partnerships/Outreach	Range	Score
Project includes education component related to watershed health and salmon recovery	0-3	
Project incorporates volunteer labor	0-3	
Project involves partnerships between public/private entities and/or multiple jurisdictions or agencies.	0-3	
Does project support known economic, social, cultural values in area?	0-3	
Does the project have greater than minimum match?	0-3	
TOTAL		

The project review team will receive all project applications prior to the July 9 meeting. Once the projects are ranked, Ms. Napier prepares a summary of the process that is forwarded to Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

Ms. Napier reported that although the process is intense, after the projects are submitted to RCO, the projects are clear and the project proposals include all necessary information.

Introduction of Projects to be Ranked by Habitat Technical Team on July 9

Ms. Napier reported RCO tracks the projects through PRISM, which is a database program that assigns each project a unique number.

Ms. Napier reviewed the projects proposed for this funding cycle. The projects are not prioritized at this point:

PRISM#	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORGANIZATION
10-1030	Frase Creek Barrier Removal	Culvert replacement & stream simulation to restore anadromous fish access	Lewis County
10-1031	Lucas Creek Mile Post 4.2 Barrier Removal	Replace culvert to address velocity, souring, outfall drop, and restore 60' of spawning and rearing habitat	Lewis County
10-1032	Lucas Creek Mile Post 4.3 Barrier Removal	Correct barrier culvert	Lewis County
10-1234	Mill Creek Fish Passage	Remove fish passage and either install new bridge or new driveway for landowner	Lewis County Conservation District
10-1345	Davis Creek Fish Passage Correction	Correct last remaining fish barrier culvert in lower Davis Creek watershed	Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
10-1354	Mills Property Acquisition	Acquire 30 acres of habitat along Scatter Creek	Heernett Foundation
10-1401	Chehalis Basin Invasives and Education Restoration	CBEC will partner with schools to educate and remove invasive plant species in riparian habitats	The Nature Conservancy and Chehalis Basin Education Consortium
10-1402	East Fork Satsop Reach Assessment & Project Development	Reach assessment and restoration design and development project for the East Fork of the Satsop River	Wild Fish Conservancy
10-1412	Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Usage Assessment	Study nearshore habitat usage patterns of juvenile salmonids in Grays Harbor Estuary	Wild Fish Conservancy

Ms. Napier reported the SRFB requires a local match of 15% unless it's a design project, which requires no match.

Ms. Napier described the process associated with the funding allocation to the region. The SRFB allocates directly to the coast region, which will be 9% based on the total amount of SRFB funding available, which has been estimated at \$2 million. The 9% is then divided between the four Lead Entities within the coast region. The coast region is still discussing regional allocation process. It's likely the Grays Harbor Lead Entity will receive between \$450,000 and \$550,000. She said she hopes to have the funding amount available to the Partnership at its July meeting when it provide input regarding the technical/local review committee's recommendations of the projects to fund. It will also be important to designate an alternative project. It's easier to remove projects after the deadline because projects cannot

be added after the August 25 project submittal deadline to SRFB. It's likely three to four projects will be funded during this grant cycle.

Ms. Napier advised that the Partnership will receive the ranked list of projects at its July meeting.

Ms. Napier advised members of a possible change in next year's funding process. The Puget Sound Lead Entities are developing three-year work plans, similar to capital facilities plans. Each of the 16 Lead Entities in the Puget Sound Region developed work plans, which serves as the foundation for the projects that are forwarded during the early application process. Ms. Napier said she will work with the HWG on a similar process as the Lead Entity has over 10 years of experience working through the application and funding process. Beginning in August, the HWG will begin working on a work plan for the Lead Entity.

Mr. Swartout commented on the effectiveness of three-year work programs.

Chehalis Basin Ecosystem and Restoration and Flood Risk Management Project Update (Basin-wide GI)

Ms. Napier advised that the Corps of Engineers is exploring other avenues in which flood risk reduction and water retention can be evaluated against the current Twin Cities project and how it can be incorporated within that project. The Corps is considering the scope of that project if included. There haven't been any discussions other than for a briefing to the Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners. The Board received copies of the current Project Management Plan. Bruce Mackey representing the Flood Authority was available to answer questions from the Board. The Board did not take any action and is waiting for feedback from the Flood Authority and the Partnership as well as from the Corps of Engineers pending the outcome of a July 9 meeting concerning the status of in-kind credit. In-kind credit has not been reported since the completion of the Watershed Management Plan because of the amount of accumulated credit.

Agenda Items for July 23, 2010 Meeting

- Presentation of SRFB project applications
- WAACO follow-up
- Watershed Festival update

Chair Canaday requested a list of the total projects with project cost completed within the Chehalis Basin. Ms. Napier recommended scheduling a tour of some completed projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Chair Canaday adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.