

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP  
STEERING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA  
October 2, 2008  
9:30 AM**

**Meeting Summary**

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**PRESENT**

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County

Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis  
Reservation

Christine Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)

Bob Burkle, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Dr. Joel Green, Grays Harbor College (GHC)

Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia

Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Janel Spaulding, Chehalis Basin Partnership/Grays  
Harbor College

**Welcome & Introductions**

Kahle Jennings called the October 2, 2008 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Steering Technical Committee (STC) to order at 9:42 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions and reviewed their respective agency roles and responsibilities.

**Agenda**

A debriefing of the Watershed Festival was added to the agenda.

**Debriefing of the Watershed Festival**

The City of Centralia won the water-tasting test during this year's Watershed Festival. Ms. Napier reported more than 500 people attended the festival.

Mr. Connelly reported the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Fisheries Committee served approximately 260 plates of salmon.

Discussion ensued on Fin and developing a display to showcase the history of the Tribe and the basin. A tribal member could help with the educational component. Mr. Connelly said tribal members have participated in canoe journeys over the past several years. One option is having canoe participants host the salmon bake as a charity event. The event could also involve information on the Tribe's cultural history.

Members considered options to promote more involvement of attendees in water-related events during next year's festival and liability issues. Mr. Jennings suggested incorporating an upper watershed link in conjunction with the City of Centralia's Summer Fest over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Mr. Jennings and Ms. Napier said the event provides another opportunity to introduce Fin, which is owned by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), to the youth in the community and outreach and educate the public on habitat strategy.

Discussion followed on concerns associated with building a Fin for the Partnership in terms of storage, maintenance, and use. Ms. Napier said the Partnership could rent NOSC's Fin for \$900 a year. Next year, additional members are needed to work in the booths as well as interact with the public.

Members shared ideas on dovetailing basin education efforts with existing events in Montesano, McCleary, and Oakville. Hands-on displays are the most popular for attendees with children.

Mr. Jennings spoke about a vision to create an environmental education center at the old wastewater treatment plant in Centralia. Fin fits into that vision and perhaps Centralia could assume storage and maintenance responsibilities.

Ms. Hempleman encouraged the STC to include building a Fin as an educational/outreach component of a larger Department of Ecology (DOE) Centennial and/or Hussman grant application.

Ms. Spaulding reported she received two Watershed Pledges following the festival.

Ms. Napier suggested providing CBP members with copies of the Watershed Pledge and habitat survey at the October meeting.

During the debriefing discussion members shared information on various aspects of the following:

- A Port of Centralia project located within the 100-year floodplain.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is not accounting for climate change cumulative impervious surface as part of the mapping for the 100-year floodplain.
- The Chehalis/Centralia Flood Damage Reduction levee project involving the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) includes a requirement for the entities to guarantee long-term effectiveness. Members also discussed the basin-wide project.
- Members discussed permit and/or license fees supporting Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and wildlife related activities rate of return to the economy and Pittman/Roberts tax revenues.
- Members discussed wetland and conservation reserve programs.

#### **Review CBP Agenda for October**

Ms. Hempleman reported DOE is hosting a water banking workshop on November 21, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., which conflicts with the Partnership's regular November meeting date. She advised that she'll forward copies of the workshop agenda to STC members.

Members discussed having the water banking workshop replace the Partnership's regular meeting, an alternate workshop location, and planning units jointly hosting the workshop. Ms. Hempleman said she'll follow up on the suggestions.

Topics for the CBP October 24, 2008 meeting were identified as follows:

- Chair and Vice Chair nominations
- Presentations:
  - Water Quality Monitoring Project – Don Loft
  - Chehalis Planning Project – Patrick Wiltzius
- Work Plan discussion
- Watershed Pledge
- Watershed Festival Debrief
- DOE's Water Banking Workshop - Mark Swartout

Members discussed the 2009 legislative session strategy and updating the current Partnership brochure with accomplishments of the past year and plans for the future.

#### **Develop STC Agenda for November**

- Presentation by Lewis County regarding the South Lewis County Subarea Plan. Members were asked to encourage CBP members to attend the presentation.
- Legislative brochure update and review.
- Discuss the role of the ecosystem project and the Flood Authority's work (tentative).

#### **Work Plan for the CBP – Discuss Accomplishments and Next Steps**

Ms. Napier distributed copies of a work plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 based on the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) strategy. A target is to develop outreach strategies and materials and/or newsletters rather than creating an outreach team. She suggested having Ms. Spaulding assist in updating the legislative brochure. The CBP and DOE are working together to share the same legislative message. The Partnership intends to support DOE funding requests.

Mr. Jennings said the brochure is intended to report accomplishments to the Legislature and identify next steps. The CBP plans to support DOE's funding request for watershed planning and is not pursuing a separate and direct appropriation.

Ms. Napier suggested developing a newsletter to serve as an outreach tool. The Legislature is one of several target audiences. The newsletter could highlight the CBP and DOE partnership, Geographic Information System (GIS) Clearinghouse, and additional funding needs for activities, such as the Coordinated Water Quality monitoring Program.

Members discussed distribution methods for the newsletter. Ms. Napier recommended including outreach articles within the *Drops of Water* newsletter. The Partnership could sponsor a special edition of the publication.

Deliverables associated with Interim Milestone (IM) 2.2 (Phase 4 grant) include:

- Complete the electronic survey developed by Randy Lehr to measure local citizen values and understanding of the watershed (survey and report).
- Reinvent the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC could create a public outreach plan.
- Develop outreach materials for distribution to local communities and media (newsletter, *Drops of Water*, website [Grays Harbor County or a separate CBP web address], public service announcements [PSAs]) highlighting meeting activities and informing the public on how they can become involved.

Ms. Napier noted the CBP is publishing meeting notices in the "What's Happening" section of local newspapers rather than in the legal notice section of newspapers.

Discussion ensued on the cost of a domain name, such as cbp.org, additional fees, and information services support necessary to maintain a website.

Mr. Jennings said Ms. Spaulding could create a legislative brochure with bullet points. He offered the idea of developing an infrastructure for continuously sharing information. It's important for the public to know where and how to access supplemental information.

Ms. Hempleman suggested an attractive, succinct brochure is advantageous to share with legislators.

Ms. Napier advised that she'll work with Ms. Spaulding to update the legislative brochure. She asked for feedback on other possible outreach strategies.

Members offered the following comments:

- A dedicated website concept sounds good, as well as updating the brochure. The website should be easily accessible, informative, and user friendly. The website could contain a calendar of events, a documents library, photo galleries, and forum and/or blog options.
- There are advantages associated with both electronic and printed materials.
- Incorporate a link to the Partnership on Grays Harbor County's website.
- Approximately \$45,000 is available to develop outreach strategies and materials. The STC is obligated to complete other tasks this year. It makes sense to incorporate milestones on the work plan. Ms. Spaulding should advise the STC of decisions required between now and June 30, 2009.

Ms. Napier voiced concerns about website expectations exceeding available resources.

Mr. Jennings suggested the STC should focus its attention on completing tasks previously obligated.

Members generally agreed to focus on updating the legislative brochure, develop outreach materials such as sponsoring one *Drops of Water* edition annually, submit articles for other editions, and pursue PSA opportunities. Ms. Napier said the Phase 4 grant must be expended by the end of June 2009. Another option is drafting an article for the *Drops of Water* highlighting the Watershed Festival, which will also help advertise the event for next year. The article could include a request for volunteers for next year's event.

Mr. Kahle referred to the DIP, which states that the primary outreach medium will be articles in the *Drops of Water* newspaper highlighting activities in the basin and PSAs. The DIP doesn't address distribution of articles.

Discussion ensued on revitalizing the CAC. Citizen members might be interested in maintaining the website and reviewing existing outreach plans. Ms. Spaulding said she's unsure creating another outreach plan is necessary. She proposed allocating a portion of her time to refine the website and/or develop newsletters.

Mr. Jennings suggested the STC direct the Watershed Facilitator to focus on the survey. Mr. Lehr has volunteered to help analyze the data. The Facilitator should work with the CAC and develop a proposal for an outreach plan by the end of January 2009. He asked STC members to generate a list of possible topics that could be drafted over the next seven months. He said he knows a college student who has taken web design classes and who has developed websites. He indicated he will contact the individual to see if there is interest in volunteering his service to create and manage a CBP website. Ms. Spaulding said she will have time to maintain the website.

Mr. Jennings said the cost of a domain name is \$400.

Members agreed to include an article in the November edition of *Drops of Water* on the Watershed Festival to include pictures.

Ms. Spaulding advised that she'll update the legislative brochure and present it to the STC for review at the November meeting.

Ms. Napier explained DIP 4; "Develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land" requires organizing and scheduling workshops.

*Ms. Hempleman left the meeting.*

#### **Flood Authority Update**

Members commented on the ecosystem project discussed at last Tuesday's Corps meeting. Mr. Jennings noted the ecosystem project sponsored by Grays Harbor County was not discussed in depth. He encouraged the Corps to educate the public on the separate flood damage reduction (levee) and ecosystem (basin-wide) projects.

*Dr. Green left the meeting.*

Ms. Napier reported the ecosystem proposal is the only eligible project for a federal appropriation. She said she contacted Ms. Orr and conveyed the STC's desire to improve its understanding of the relationship between the ecosystem project and the Flood Authority's work.

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Jennings conveyed they will also follow up with Ms. Orr. They reported the Corps is seeking new mitigation projects. Mr. Jennings spoke about drafting a mitigation package including the China Creek restoration project and developing an environmental education center at the Mellon Street site.

Discussion followed on a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) storm pond at Centralia's old treatment facility and an interim Mellon Street interchange project. Mr. Jennings reported WSDOT is presenting a new plan at a workshop later in the evening between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Centralia High School. The new Mellon Street interchange plan should not affect the city's treatment facility.

#### **Adjournment**

With there being no further business, Mr. Jennings adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.