

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
STEERING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA
September 4, 2008
9:30 AM**

Meeting Summary

PRESENT

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County

Christine Hempleman, Department of Ecology

Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Reservation

Bob Burkle, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Phil Rupp, Lewis County

Mark Swartout, Thurston County

Terry Willis, Citizen, Grays Harbor County

Janel Spaulding, Watershed Facilitator

Lonnie Crumley, Stream Works Consulting

Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Welcome & Introductions

Chair Mark Swartout called the September 4, 2008 Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Steering Technical Committee (STC) meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions. A meeting agenda was reviewed.

Watershed Festival Update

Ms. Spaulding distributed copies of a poster advertising the Watershed Festival. Ms. Advised that there are also posters in Montesano advertising the farm tours.

Ms. Spaulding reported Lewis, Thurston, and Grays Harbor counties and the cities of Chehalis, Centralia, and Montesano are scheduled to adopt proclamations recognizing Watershed Week and the Watershed Festival. Ms. Napier suggested contacting the City of Aberdeen for scheduling adoption of a proclamation.

Ms. Spaulding reported the Watershed Pledge will be introduced at the Partnership's booth. Grays Harbor County reusable shopping bags will be provided to encourage the public to complete the passport/puzzle activity. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is providing a tabletop Enviroscope model. Ms. Hempleman described how the model mimics environmental conditions within a watershed. DOE is also providing sun catchers as incentives for Watershed Pledge participation.

Ms. Spaulding said the City of Centralia is hosting two tours of its stormwater retrofit project during awareness week. One of the tours will follow the September 25, 2008 CBP meeting and is scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She asked STC members to encourage Partnership members to participate in the tour. Everyone will meet at Centralia City Hall. A trolley will transport people to the stormwater facility.

Discussion ensued about concurrent Watershed Festival and Harvest Festival events and the goal to maintain separate identities while ensuring each event complements the other. Ms. Napier provided background information on the two events.

Discussion followed on how much space is available at the Partnership booth and attendance numbers from previous years. Ms. Napier indicated she wants to include a habitat display. A report on the event, including attendance, will be available following the festival.

Ms. Spaulding said an attendance goal for this year's festival is 500 people. The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is hosting a salmon bake.

Ms. Napier said the location for the event provides great visibility.

Ms. Napier said a Grays Harbor County employee is interested in constructing a "Fin" for the Partnership. Grays Harbor County is willing to house the display. Ms. Hempleman reminded members that the project could be eligible for Centennial grant funding. It was noted "Fin" could be used for a number of promotional and public outreach purposes. Ms. Napier described the 25-foot long structure and artwork. "Fin" always generates interest.

Ms. Spaulding reported a radio show in Aberdeen is also scheduled on September 15 at 9:00 a.m. Members discussed potential speakers and STC members staffing both the radio show and proclamation meetings.

Watershed Facilitator Work Plan – Explore Formation of a Stream Team

Ms. Spaulding distributed copies of information on stream team models. She reported she met with Susie Vanderberg at DOE who assisted in establishing Thurston County's Stream Team. Thurston County uses a revolving door model, which provides a variety of education and action projects for citizen participation. Citizens may help with the organization, but typically volunteer weekend hours. Other models include *Adopt-A-Stream* and *Master Gardener*.

Ms. Spaulding reviewed education activities involving workshops, field trips, tours, storm drain stenciling, and fair/festival booths. Action projects could include storm drain stenciling, riparian plantings, stream restoration, stream/river cleanup, invert/macro and water quality monitoring, and trail maintenance/repair. The goal is to utilize any data collected.

Thurston County has 1.5 employees for stream team coordination. Possible partnerships were reviewed involving the Pacific Education Institute and conservation districts. Ms. Napier suggested contacting Mike Johnson with the Pacific County Conservation District. Other potential partnerships could include the Chehalis River Council, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium, storm and surface water utilities, and Grays Harbor College.

Discussion ensued on collaborating with stormwater and surface water utilities to help supplement staffing a Chehalis basin-wide stream team.

Mr. Connelly offered an idea of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation providing some funding of a position supporting stream team and river restoration work. Additionally, the tribal community could also participate.

Members discussed the possibility of using stream team resources as a funding match for projects. Other possible partnerships suggested include Boy Scout troops, veteran volunteers, AmeriCorps, and academia.

Ms. Spaulding reported the Pacific Education Institute was awarded a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) B-WET grant to work with high schools in Grays Harbor and the basin. She

said she is considering working with high school students to help implement a stream team in the Hoquiam/Aberdeen area. There could be planting and maintenance projects along Alder Creek. Funds are available for tools and plantings. The schools would be responsible for transporting students to restoration sites. The NOAA B-WET grant is a three-year grant and Pacific Education Institute is the recipient. All Washington State high school students are required to complete a senior project to graduate. The institute recruits students interested in environmental and natural resource projects and matches students with mentors. Stream team is a project option this year for high school students. Recruiting will occur over the next two weeks. A fair is planned for next month. She asked whether allocating 20 to 30 hours of her time over the course of the school year is reasonable. Members agreed the request is reasonable.

Ms. Napier commented that high school students are probably the best target audience to implement a stream team.

Chair Swartout commented on how public outreach activities over the last five years have helped to improve water quality in Henderson Inlet. Involving youth in public outreach makes a difference. Samples were taken following major rain events, which demonstrated restricting commercial shellfish harvesting is unnecessary. He asked whether members have considered how a stream team might fit within the Partnership organizational structure and whether worker liability is covered by Grays Harbor College or Grays Harbor County as the lead agency. The Department of Labor & Industries has an inexpensive insurance program for volunteers. He suggested Ms. Spaulding work with the appropriate risk manager. Ms. Spaulding acknowledged the information and said she'll follow up. Chair Swartout commented on the mutual benefits of both a stream team and student congress program.

Ms. Spaulding reported a Gray Harbor College work-study student is providing 16 hours of assistance.

Chair Swartout suggested the work program should include the entire basin and Lewis County in particular.

Ms. Hempleman advised riparian work is needed in the upper basin for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study that could be a component of a grant application.

Watershed Planning and the Integration of Land Use Plans

Ms. Napier provided background information on whether it's the Partnership's role to comment on regulation development within jurisdictions. An issue is how to connect land use planning and watershed planning. The CBP members conveyed a preference to act in the capacity of an outreach tool, such as hosting forums to provide additional information. At the August STC meeting, Mr. Rupp spoke about Lewis County's South County Subarea Plan, a multi-year pilot project. The lead on the project is Barb Kincaid. The intent is having Ms. Kincaid attend the STC's October meeting as well as a future meeting of the Partnership to provide a presentation.

Chair Swartout said the intent is developing a policy suggestion for the Partnership to consider. He suggested members should identify issues and frame the discussion for the CBP. The Partnership currently provides feedback on state projects.

Discussion ensued on the Water Quality Committee's (WQC) draft comment letter on Grays Harbor County's draft Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). Ms. Napier said there is a lack of coordination between the Watershed Plan and local land use plans. She described a development outside of McCleary

compromising the city's public water system and private wells. The Watershed Plan is a policy document rather than a regulating document.

Ms. Hempleman said some planning units are providing comments to local governments on development proposals and pointing out inconsistencies between watershed plans and land use regulations.

Ms. Willis said the draft letter from the WQC offered suggestions and provided helpful information, which seems to be a reasonable approach.

Ms. Napier stated the planning unit has resources available to assist local governments.

Ms. Willis supported the STC developing a policy for the Partnership's consideration.

Chair Swartout suggested framing the issue as the STC recommending the Partnership begin review and comment on local land use plans, development regulations, and/or state policies using the Watershed Plan as a framework for providing comments during the public comment period.

Ms. Spaulding asked whether the CBP will provide the comments. Chair Swartout indicated that's the intent. Ms. Spaulding reported on work underway to revise the Partnership's letterhead and updating member jurisdiction information. Chair Swartout suggested including an agenda topic for the Partnership's next meeting to review and approve a revised letterhead. The CBP could comment on the Shoreline Master Program update currently underway. The tone of the letters should be positive and reference applicable sections of the Watershed Plan.

Ms. Napier proposed having the Partnership contact local planning directors about their knowledge of the Watershed Plan and/or the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) and providing information on the plans.

Chair Swartout said the policy should refer to the Watershed Plan as the framework for comments and include examples, such as state regulations, local government land use plans, and local government land regulations rather than attempting to identify an inclusive list.

Discussion followed on the Partnership sending a courtesy letter to neighboring jurisdictions on its intent to review updates and/or land use regulations deemed important in implementing the Watershed Plan. The reviews could be accomplished by the subcommittees. Another option is familiarizing agencies with the Watershed Plan and DIP.

Ms. Napier reported the plans identify mitigation opportunities to offset impacts of a specific development.

Chair Swartout said the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) has a two-page mailing list of state agencies and Growth Management Act (GMA) reviewers for comprehensive plan amendments and development regulations. He suggested sending an informative letter to CTED as well.

Chair Swartout suggested circulating a proposed policy statement based on the discussions electronically to STC members for review.

Ms. Napier suggested introducing the concept to the Partnership at the September meeting and presenting a proposal at the October meeting. The issue is important.

Discussion ensued on updating and implementing the DIP, the list of actions initially drafted by Mr. Jennings, and incorporating the policy statement in the Watershed Plan and/or DIP after adoption by the CBP.

Flood Authority Update

Chair Swartout provided an update on Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (CRBFA) activities:

- Consultant ESA Adolphson was hired.
- The regular meeting day is the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in Lewis County.
- Ten of the 11 members have been interviewed. There is capacity to conduct ten more interviews to ascertain the scope of the landscape.
- The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) is requesting membership.

QIN's membership request will be reviewed at the CRBFA's September meeting. Chair Swartout suggested it would be helpful to know the position of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation regarding the membership request. The City of Oakville is now a member as well. Lewis County is the lead agency for the CRBFA.

CBP September Meeting Agenda

- Review and approve a revised letterhead format.
- Introduce a policy concerning the CBP review and comment on local land use plans, development regulations, and/or state policies using the Watershed Plan as a framework for providing comments.
- Presentation by David Batker, Executive Director, Earth Economics.

STC October Meeting Agenda

- A discussion on the DIP, accomplishments, and next steps.
- Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority update.
- Confirm the presentation of Lewis County's multi-year pilot project, South County Subarea Plan.
- Invite Dr. Joel Green to attend the meeting. Mr. Green replaced Mr. Lehr at Grays Harbor College.

Other Business

Ms. Hempleman reported she sent an email to Ms. Napier on DOE's water banking workshop. Ms. Napier advised that she'll forward the email to Ms. Willis.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Chair Swartout adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.