

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP  
STEERING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA  
May 7, 2009  
9:30 AM**

**Meeting Summary**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County  
Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia  
Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis  
Reservation  
Mark Swartout, Thurston County  
Christine Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)  
Bob Burkle, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Phil Rupp, Lewis County

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College  
Joel Green, Grays Harbor College  
Jim Hill, Citizen, Lewis County  
Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Citizen, Thurston County  
Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services

**Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Mark Swartout called the meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Steering Technical Committee (STC) to order at 9:35 a.m. He reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Awareness Letter**

Ms. Spaulding presented a revised awareness letter for review. She asked about the signatory for the letter.

Mr. Burkle questioned whether the letter should be mailed to agencies updating Shoreline Master Plans (SMPs). Ms. Spaulding advised that she's developed mailing lists. Mr. Burkle said the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater's SMP technical group is meeting on May 15, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. He is a member of the technical group. He suggested including the City of Tumwater on the distribution list based on potential drainage from Black Lake and Black River systems to the Chehalis basin. Salmon Creek also flows into the Black River.

*Mr. Hill arrived.*

Members discussed the status of CBP's website. Ms. Napier advised that the domain for the Partnership has been purchased.

Members discussed the scope of the awareness letter and offered the following edits and comments:

- Revise the last sentence of the second paragraph to read, "Please consider the Partnership a party of record for land use planning and development regulations within the Chehalis basin."
- Recommend maintaining a record of reasonable use variances. The CBP should consider functioning as a clearinghouse and as a resource.

*Ms. Holbrook- Shaw arrived.*

Members and participants referred to a discussion concerning the Partnership serving as a forum to exchange information rather than submitting comments on specific development proposals.

- Revise the second sentence within the second paragraph to read, “Our hope is that your respective agency is considering the Plan’s recommendations in the development of your local policies such as land use, SMPs, critical areas ordinances, and other relevant actions and projects throughout the Chehalis basin.”

Members agreed CBP Chair Bonnie Canaday should sign the letter with Ms. Napier designated as the point of contact.

Discussion followed on responsibility for reviewing policy information submitted to the CBP and verifying the proposals are within the Chehalis basin. Members asked whether the letter could be distributed electronically.

Ms. Napier presented a color copy of the Partnership’s letterhead. Members suggested moving the logo closer to the top of the page.

Ms. Spaulding reviewed distribution lists for Mason, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston Counties. The committee provided the following feedback:

- Send the letter to community development departments and planning directors rather than planning commissions.
- Mail the letter to county commission boards.
- Conservation districts typically do not create regulations. Develop a second letter deleting “our hopes” section for outreach purposes distributed to audiences, such as conservation districts. The letter focuses on encouraging entities to learn more about the CBP and the Chehalis basin. A copy of the Partnership’s tri-fold brochure could also be included with both letters.
- The Planning Association of Washington (PAW) may have a distribution list available for review.

Ms. Napier provided additional contact names for the cities of Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Montesano, Elma, McCleary, and Oakville. Mr. Connelly suggested adding Lennea Magnus, Planning Director, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, to the distribution list.

Members agreed to send a copy of the outreach letter to the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN).

Members discussed corresponding with independent water districts involved in water system planning and periodic updates, the Department of Health (DOH), and Thurston County PUD. Ms. Napier indicated she’ll follow up on developing a supplemental mailing list.

Mr. Jennings provided additional contact information for the cities of Centralia and Chehalis, and Port of Centralia.

Members identified contacts for Napavine, Pe Ell, and the Onalaska Water District and added Kathy Martin, Mayor of Bucoda, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), the cities of Tenino and Tumwater, and Port of Olympia to the Thurston County list.

*Mr. Green arrived.*

### **Work Plan Update and Discussion**

#### ***Workshop***

Ms. Spaulding reported an email was sent to the Partnership's list for the May 13 and May 20, 2009 education and outreach (E&O) workshops scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Montesano City Hall. Approximately 25 individuals have confirmed attendance.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw said she plans to attend both sessions.

Ms. Napier said she is attending the May 13, 2009 session.

Ms. Spaulding reported that the purpose of workshop 1 is to inventory E&O efforts currently underway, create a vision for E&O for Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 22 and 23, and identify gaps in E&O programs and why they exist. The second workshop will build on the outcomes from the first workshop.

#### ***Stream Team***

Ms. Spaulding provided an overview of cleanup activities along portions of the China Creek corridor. Approximately 67 volunteers removed three tons of garbage and three trailers of blackberry vines.

Mr. Jennings reported the City of Centralia applied for a grant to remove reed canary grass and apply herbicide to new growth during the summer. Riparian planting along the channel is a long-term goal.

Ms. Spaulding said another cleanup effort is planned for the fall.

Mr. Jennings shared some historical information on China Creek.

Discussion ensued on a potential mitigation project reconnecting the Skookumchuck River to China Creek, as well as potential impacts to Centralia.

#### ***Newsletter***

Ms. Spaulding reported she and Margaret Rader with the Chehalis River Council are working to create *Drops of Water* newsletters. A section in each edition is devoted to the Partnership.

Discussion followed on funding the newsletter, which is currently funded through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant until August. Future funding is uncertain. Ms. Napier said she's asked Ms. Spaulding to identify potential sources for ongoing editions of the newsletter. The Partnership is sponsoring the April edition. The Marine Resource Committee has indicated sponsorship of the June edition. She asked the STC and sponsorship groups to consider options to fund future editions.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw added that the *Drops of Water* is a critical E&O tool in the Chehalis basin.

Ms. Napier said one edition costs approximately \$4,200 to produce and distribute.

#### ***Budget and Phase IV Grant***

Ms. Napier reported the Phase 4 grant concludes on June 30, 2009. The Partnership's budget will reduce drastically from \$125,000 to \$67,500. Funding of \$67,500 is also not guaranteed. She reviewed project tasks involving her time, meeting support, costs associated with the Lucky Eagle Casino facility for

meetings, consultant services, sponsoring editions of *Drops of Water*, work on an outreach survey with the stream team, and one-time purchase of outreach materials.

Ms. Hempleman advised that she'll forward additional information to Ms. Napier as it becomes available for planning unit support funds appropriated during the last legislative session.

Ms. Napier suggested allocating some time on the next meeting agenda to discuss the budget in more detail.

Chair Swartout reported he's under contract with the Nisqually River Council to draft a paper on, "Sustainable Funding for Watershed Planning in the Nisqually Basin." The paper will be available to any watershed unit.

Ms. Napier said she'll develop a budget for the STC's June meeting.

#### **Update on the Flood Authority**

Members were provided with a copy of a draft \$75,000 contract between the CBP and Earth Economics. The Flood Authority discussed developing a contract at the last meeting. The purpose of the contract is to provide an analysis and valuation of flood protection and other ecosystem services in the Chehalis basin. Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties are scheduled to work on developing an interlocal agreements to represent the interests of the Flood Authority and the CBP. Grays Harbor will contract for services with Earth Economics.

Ms. Napier reviewed work for completion:

- Task 1 – Kick off meeting
- Task 2 – Initial data collection and analysis
- Task 3 – Conduct/complete valuation analysis and summarize results

Discussion followed on how the information could benefit watershed planning efforts, the Flood Authority, salmon recovery, and/or the Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Partnership (PSNRP). Chair Swartout commented that the outcomes could be a useful tool to inform allocation formulas and the prioritization of projects in the Chehalis basin. Ms. Napier said another potential connection is working with the Habitat Work Group (HWG).

Discussion ensued on item 5 on page 3 stating, "The broad economic justification for investing in flood control and the restoration of watersheds and Puget Sound as a basis for economic development."

Chair Swartout noted the STC will work with Mr. Batker. He suggested having members present questions, particularly involving modeling, at the kick-off meeting.

Ms. Napier reported the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation submitted a funding request to the Flood Authority for Lidar, light detection and ranging technology.

Ms. Napier reported on discussions of an amendment to General Investigation (GI) study to include flood damage reduction. Based on a meeting called by the Chair of the Flood Authority (Commissioner Averill), it was expressed that the Flood Authority had an interest in flood damage reduction and working with the Corps of Engineers through the GI process. At the meeting it was agreed the Corps and Grays

Harbor County (project sponsor) will work together to amend the scope of the GI to include flood damage. Commissioner Averill indicated the Flood Authority and Lewis County are interested in entering into an ILA establishing how Lewis and Grays Harbour Counties, Flood Authority, and the Corps will work together on the project. Another goal is for USGS and the Corps to work together. Funds are available in the GI budget for ecosystem restoration. The groundwater characterization project recently renamed as decision support tool (DST), is called out in the current project management plan

### **CBP May Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Napier and Mr. Swartout are unable to attend the Partnership's May meeting.

The agenda includes:

- Finalize comment/awareness letter
- Stream Team clean up activities report
- Letter to Grays Harbor College on behalf of Mr. Green

### **STC June Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Swartout is unable to attend. Mr. Connelly will chair the meeting.

The agenda includes:

- Discuss the budget and next year's Phase 4 grant
- Earth Economics
- Reports on the workshops and DIP
- Second version of the awareness letter for broader audiences
- Flood Authority update including a report by Mr. Jennings on the Twin City Dam Reduction Project

### **Other Business**

Mr. Green provided an update on the status of his position with Grays Harbor College.

Mr. Jennings volunteered to draft and circulate a letter of support to the STC for review and comment, which could be presented to the CBP by Mr. Connelly at the May meeting. He asked Mr. Green to develop and forward a series of bullet points to include in the letter.

*Ms. Napier left the meeting.*

Ms. Hempleman reported she contacted counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation concerning DOE removing 11 manually read staff gauges. She indicated she hasn't received a response from Thurston County. It's likely a decision concerning which gauges to remove will be made later in the day. Chair Swartout said he would like to know which gauges will be discontinued so Thurston County's stormwater utility can determine if the division wants to assume the task. Ms. Hempleman said she'll follow up.

### **Adjournment**

With there being no further business, Chair Swartout adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Prepared by Cheri Lindgren, Recording Secretary  
Puget Sound Meeting Services