

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Chehalis Tribe Community Center
Gathering Room
461 Secena Road
Oakville, WA**

**April 14, 2011
9:30 AM**

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, AND GUESTS PRESENT

Janel Spaulding, CBP/Grays Harbor College
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis
Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Reservation

Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Tom Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Welcome & Introductions

Patrick Wiltzius called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Discuss June Drops of Water Article

Janel Spaulding reported the deadline for the June edition of the *Drops of Water* is in early May. At last month's meeting there were several suggestions for articles. She asked if the committee is interested in submitting an article. Some of the possible articles from last month's meeting included an article on organic farming by Boistfort Valley Farm, contacting Brady Engvall to write an article on oysters and how water quality affects the oyster business, contacting Danielle Craig with Growing Places Farm and Energy Park to consider writing an article about the organization, and contacting Wild Tyme Farm for an article. She offered to contact those individuals.

Mr. Wiltzius said he is preparing bill stuffers focusing on water quality and water quantity. Those two publications could be merged as an article for the publication.

Chris Hempleman suggested having the *Drops of Water* publication focus on the bill stuffers so readers can view the same message in two different publications.

Mr. Wiltzius referred members to the draft bill stuffers he prepared on water quantity and water quality. The focus for water quantity is actions people can take to increase water quantity highlighted in a bulleted format. If there is agreement to use the draft as a bill stuffer, he suggested possibly reviewing the draft with the Steering Technical Committee. It's likely possible to double-side the bill stuffer focusing on water quantity and water quality. The water quality draft ties into the Partnership as well and features bulleted items on ways to improve water quality. The drafts could be merged as an article for the *Drops of Water* newsletter.

Members discussed available space for articles, possible articles, and agreed to include one of the water articles in the newsletter. Mr. Wiltzius offered to send the articles to Ms. Hempleman for any potential changes.

Mr. Wiltzius referred to a website call *Rural Water* in Minnesota that includes draft bill stuffers that can be used by anyone. Graphics are included in the information. There is information from the website that could be cut and pasted and developed as tips and posted on the website. It might be possible to have a student

from Grays Harbor College or The Evergreen State College who has some experience in graphic design work on developing a bill stuffer with graphics.

Ms. Spaulding agreed to contact Boistfort Valley Farms for a possible article and will work with Ms. Hempleman on using some of the drafts on water quality and water quantity for a possible article.

Review List of Cities and Contacts for Bill Stuffers

Ms. Spaulding referred to the list she created of cities and public utility/water providers in the Chehalis basin. Members reviewed the list and suggested several deletions but then decided to retain all the names even if some of the companies provide only electrical service. Mr. Wiltzius suggested including counties and tribes.

Discuss Chehalis Watershed Signage Possibilities

Ms. Spaulding reported she obtained a list of all current creek and river signs currently installed from Linda Orgel with Friends of Grays Harbor (FOGH). All of the signs are located in Grays Harbor County. FOGH is willing to partner with the committee to install signs. However, the organization may not have funding. The signs were made by Bob Graham from Union. FOGH partnered with the Chehalis River Council on the signs. Logos of the Chehalis River Council, FOGH, and DOE are included on the signs.

Other locations for signs suggested by members included:

- Newaukum River
- Scatter Creek
- Skookumchuck near Schaffer Park
- Chehalis River at Highway 6 (bridge)
- China Creek
- Coffee Creek
- Jackson Highway Bridge over the Newaukum River
- Chehalis River at Mellon Street Bridge
- Newaukum Road at the outskirts of Chehalis

Ms. Hempleman offered to contact the Department of Corrections to obtain pricing on signs.

Contacts and Organizations for Chehalis Basin Watershed Studies Inventory

Ms. Spaulding reminded members of the request by Bob Amrine to forward any studies completed in the Chehalis basin. Ms. Hempleman said she forwarded a link to Mr. Amrine. Additionally, the U.S. Corps of Engineers began the basin-wide study in 2002 and compiled all information completed to date. In recent years, the Flood Authority is another source of studies.

Mr. Wiltzius reported he can provide a study on the Water Effects Ratio Study on the Chehalis River, which was the first study in the state. The study is about wastewater discharge and affluent concentrations in the river. The study is site specific but includes a broad range of testing parameters. He will forward the information to Mr. Amrine.

Water Quality Monitoring

Ms. Spaulding reported she received information from Lee Napier that Anchor, which was hired to complete a study for the Flood Authority has tidbit data loggers that collect water quality data installed at several locations in the river. The company is willing to leave the monitors in place if data can be downloaded and collected. She asked Harry Pickernell if the Tribe would have any interest.

Ms. Hempleman said temperature is a parameter that DOE is interested in monitoring and according to Paul Pickett at DOE; it would be beneficial if the monitors could be left until the end of summer because the fish study is ending in June. He is checking to determine if the department has any funds that could be contributed. Ms. Hempleman said she's not hopeful given the status of the agency's budget.

Ms. Spaulding said the batteries will last for approximately five years. Anchor is willing to provide the GPS information and accompany someone to the sites. She offered to forward the email to Mr. Pickernell. Ms. Hempleman advised that she'll notify Mr. Pickernell if the department can provide any funding support. She will also send information to Ms. Spaulding on the location of the probes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on May 12, 2011. The agenda will include a follow-up discussion on the signs.

Mr. Pickernell suggested including Lincoln and Garrard Creeks on the sign list.

Mr. Wiltzius asked Ms. Spaulding to follow up at Grays Harbor College for possible graphic support. Mr. Pickernell added that he will include the information on water quantity and quality in the Tribe's newsletter.

Ms. Spaulding reviewed upcoming presentations scheduled for the Partnership meeting. She offered a suggestion of inviting the owner of Boistfort Valley Farm to provide information to the committee about organic farming. Members discussed other local farms that might be interested in attending a meeting and sharing information about their particular operation. Ms. Hempleman commented on the possibility of considering what the Partnership could be doing to help ag stay in production. Keeping ag is an important objective. Mr. Wiltzius said a new shop opened in Chehalis called "Veggies" that sells fresh produce. Ms. Spaulding commented on the potential of inviting representatives from Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to a future meeting where people purchase shares from local farms and receive fresh produce.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.