

**Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee  
Chehalis Tribe Community Center  
461 Secena Road  
Oakville, WA  
March 10, 2011  
9:30 a.m.**

**Minutes**

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**MEMBERS & OTHERS PRESENT**

Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis	Tom Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
	Janel Spaulding, CBP/Grays Harbor College

**Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda**

Patrick Wiltzius called the March 10, 2011, meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Water Quality Committee (WQC) to order at 9:36 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

**Review List of Contributors for Presentations and Articles**

Ms. Spaulding referred to a list compiled by Chanele Holbrook-Shaw. The Steering Technical Committee (STC) reviewed the list at its last meeting. STC members commented about possibly listing members of the Partnership on the list. However, because there is always an opportunity for CBP members to provide an update or article, the list is focused more as a contact list for outreaching.

Bob Amrine agreed as CBP members may be suggest articles, but not likely author an article.

**Discuss Next Drops of Water Article for the June Edition**

Ms. Spaulding said the April edition of the *Drops of Water* publication as well as the June edition are scheduled to be the last two printed editions. The publication will then convert to an on-line newsletter. Formatting of the newsletter to an electronic version hasn't been accomplished but Margaret Rader is developing a website for the publication. The intent is posting a monthly newsletter on the website. Mr. Amrine said he typically receives email links from other conservation districts, which takes him directly to the website. WSU Extensions uses the same format for agriculture publications.

Ms. Spaulding said there has been some discussion about printing some extra copies to place in libraries and other public places for people who do not have computer access.

Mr. Wiltzius acknowledged the cost associated with printing the publication. However, a printed publication has a better chance of reaching the public. It will be a substantial loss in outreach to the public if the publication is no longer printed. Chris Hempleman agreed, as she wouldn't sit at her computer to read the publication. She asked about the results of the survey. Ms. Spaulding said many people were receptive to the idea of an electronic edition. However, many survey respondents replied via email. The survey was distributed at the watershed festival with approximately 40 surveys returned. The Chehalis River Council also discussed an annual printed newsletter to recapture citizens that may not follow the electronic editions. Ms. Hempleman asked about the possibility of placing advertising in the publication to help fund the editions. Ms. Spaulding said the survey asked that question and most respondents indicated it would be acceptable to see ads in the newsletter. However, the issue is the time required to solicit advertising. Another option is placing a paid ad in local newspapers advertising the newsletter to increase exposure to the public.

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Mr. Amrine agreed that the publication will lose many readers, especially the retired who typically do not use computers. Mr. Wiltzius added that there are very few newsletters that he reads online. Ms. Hempleman said she's spends too much time on the computer at work and doesn't have any desire to read on-line newsletters on her personal computer.

Ms. Spaulding said each edition costs approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 to print.

Ms. Hempleman asked whether the website can track visitors. She suggested following up to determine if that information can be tracked. Mr. Wiltzius asked whether any attempts have been pursued for obtaining corporate sponsorships. Members offered different suggestions on possible corporate sponsors. Ms. Spaulding said she's unsure if that idea would be receptive to Ms. Rader.

Mr. Wiltzius said the concept of the publication plays a major role in the committee's pursuit of public outreach. Kim Ashmore with the City of Centralia is responsible for public outreach as part of the City's permitting requirements for stormwater management. He suggested contacting Mr. Ashmore to see if there is any interest in donating funds to sponsor one edition as part of fulfilling the city's requirement for public outreach of its stormwater program. Ms. Spaulding advised that at this time, the CBP and the Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee each pay for an edition. If other organizations could fund an edition, it may be possible to continue publishing the newsletter.

It was noted that the funding issue was reviewed with the CBP, but its primary focus has been on sustaining its own funding source.

Members discussed possible future presentations during CBP meetings. Ms. Spaulding suggested contacting Rich Greiger at the Mason Conservation District who is involved in a floodplain restoration project involving the removal of dikes on Nalley Island and returning the land to a natural estuary system. She visited the project site last month with the Grays Harbor Stream Team.

Mr. Wiltzius asked about availability on the agenda for scheduling presentations. Members discussed reviewing the proposal with the STC and scheduling the presentation by Mr. Greiger for the April CBP meeting.

Mr. Wiltzius suggested contacting Boistfort Valley Farm and Brady Engvall for articles in the next edition of the *Drops of Water*. Ms. Spaulding reported the April edition includes articles from Kim Ashmore on a car washing kit program and from the Lewis County Conservation District. Another suggestion included contacting Danielle Craig with Growing Places Farm and Energy Park for a possible article about the organization. Members discussed possibly contacting Wild Tyme Farm for an article. Another potential could be from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife on the status of fish population. Mr. Amrine referred to an article he recently received electronically about restoration activities and how it's improving fish. The information indicates that if efforts can focus restoration in one watershed, fish production improves. A presentation on the subject is planned at an upcoming salmon conference.

Ms. Spaulding said another possible contact to add is the Wild Fish Conservancy and its project on juvenile fish assessment in Grays Harbor. Mr. Amrine said the organization also pursues fish typing and assesses whether streams are fish-bearing based on the size, width, and slope. In some areas, the work is not popular because of conflicts with development. Ms. Spaulding said Jamie Glasgow with Wild Fish Conservancy recently completed an assessment of the Wild Cat Creek area near McCleary.

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**Review More Literature/Info on Education and Outreach Provided by Members and Develop a Monthly Work Plan**

Members discussed the link provided by Ms. Hempleman to DOE's webpage for resources on stormwater outreach materials. Mr. Wiltzius said he discovered some other information from DOE on general watershed information.

Mr. Amrine suggested promoting more publicity of the stream teams because of the importance of volunteers. He shared information on a conservation district project that includes the Centralia Stream Team for plantings along the Chehalis River.

Mr. Wiltzius suggested another step is meeting with Ms. Rader to ensure the articles are conforming to the focus of the newsletter. Ms. Spaulding said Ms. Rader is very receptive to publishing information from DOE's website. Ms. Hempleman suggested contacting potential authors and requesting an article and providing them with information on the deadline, article size, and topic. It's likely people would be receptive to offering articles on specific projects.

Tom Gow mentioned recent public outreach efforts by LOTT (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Thurston County) Clean Water Alliance. LOTT opened up a new education center in downtown Olympia. Members commented on the great work by the organization. Ms. Hempleman said LOTT might be the best treatment plant in the state because Budd Inlet has such severe water quality problems.

Discussion followed on the future management of Capital Lake. Ms. Hempleman said the studies completed on the lake point to the best solution as returning the lake to its natural system as an estuary. However, there are costs and politics associated with any long-term decision.

Ms. Spaulding asked for feedback on developing a bill stuffer to provide to cities for utility billings. Mr. Wiltzius said the information is available and it's likely a matter of cutting and pasting information to create a bill stuffer. He offered to begin working on the information. Ms. Spaulding offered to create a list of contact personnel at the cities.

**Discuss Signage Possibilities for Chehalis Basin Roadways**

Ms. Spaulding reported she spoke with Linda Orgel with Friends of Grays Harbor (FOGH) and Grays Harbor Audubon Society. FOGH initially sponsored the costs of some road signs for watersheds. The organization is interested in partnering with the WQC to continue the sign effort. However, she's unsure whether the organization has any funding. FOGH works with WSDOT to ensure the signs conform to requirements. WSDOT installed the signs as well but doesn't maintain them. She offered to follow up with a list of signs already installed.

Mr. Amrine said the district is beginning to post signage at Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP) sites to create public awareness as the work is beginning to generate interest in the program. He described the funding sources for CREP.

Another consideration for signage are the locations and possible WSDOT right-of-way requirements. Ms. Hempleman said reasonable pricing on signs can be obtained through the Department of Corrections (DOC). The Mason Conservation District obtained some signs through DOC.

**Other Business**

Ms. Hempleman asked about the status of the combining the Conservation Commission with the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Amrine said the Senate held a hearing in February and approximately

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seven people testified against the proposal. The Senate sent notification to the Governor that it would not support the proposal. The bill wasn't considered by the House. However, the proposal could be resurrected dependent upon the outcome of the budget. It appears that the Commission will likely remain an independent entity.

Mr. Amrine reported the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has requested the district begin a scoping process by gathering material on the Chehalis basin to include all publications ever produced. Edna Fund from the Flood Authority who also serves as a Trustee on the Timberland Regional Library Board suggested consolidating the information in one central location and convinced the Timberland Regional Library to become the repository. He recently met with the Library Director Michael Crose concerning the proposal. The intent is compiling all publications in one location so anyone can access the documents electronically. The request to the WQC is to provide a contact name for obtaining information from federal, state, and other agencies. The effort will be very labor intensive. Ms. Hempleman offered her name as the contact for DOE. Mr. Amrine said many of the publications were completed by consultants and those documents need to be captured as well. All documents will be electronically logged. All documents that are not digitized will be scanned. Ms. Spaulding asked Mr. Amrine to draft an email of the request so she can forward the request to the CBP email list.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2011.

**Adjournment**

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

Prepared by Valerie Gow, Recording Secretary/President  
Puget Sound Meeting Services