**Chehalis River Alliance**

**Meeting Notes**

**October 15th, 2020**

**Attendees: Brian, Lee, Martin, Linda, R.D., Raelene, Krestine, Teri, Laurie, Janet, Cindy, Shane, Paul M., Tammy, Adam, Kris, Tom, Cindy, and Mara.**

**General Updates**

* Everyone was happy and pleased with the turnout and the comments presented at the NEPA public hearing on the 14th. Thank you, Tammy, for bringing other folks as well! Great job Alliance!
* G.O.B Restoration project and climate change event November 4-6/ January 23rd, restorative plantings, invasive removals, walk with experts.  <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ21nYmpx0ZF2CFgYiDoVqXLfKN5YvTMZ4VZLfXCtRrqJHcQ/viewform>
* The public hearing for a modification of Cosmo Mill NPDES permit will take place **Oct. 19, 2020**, starting at 4 p.m., online at <https://tinyurl.com/cosmoWaterPermitHearing>. Changes to the permit are being discussed. They want your feedback by Oct. 23, 2020

They will accept written comments on the [draft permit](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/industrial/UIPermit/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentId=552) and [fact sheet](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/industrial/UIPermit/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentId=553) (supporting document explaining the changes) from **Sept. 17 until 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2020**. They are only requesting comments on these modifications, not the entire permit. Comments should reference specific permit text when possible. How can I comment? You can submit comments: Using the [online comment form](http://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=Pb3FY) (preferred).

* Flyer attached to the “Notes” email for the Climb Training and a Workshop for Forest Defense.

**Website Update**

* Website now has news section, where relevant articles can be displayed
* If you have articles in the future, please send them to Paul M.
* Will be thinking about how to shift the language on the website from objective caution, to advocacy now that organizations have come out against the dam.
* Will include a link to the film.
* How can we get short and sweet comments from the public hearing onto the website? Send in those comments and Paul M. Brian S will work on trying to get them onto the website.

 **Film Update**

* DVDs and digital copies are now available upon request
* Just now finishing festival run.
* Will begin to promote more heavily for the Amazon download after festival run.
* Film accepted to the national library, can be shown by other stations, Shane is doing outreach to get placement.
* Please leave positive reviews on Amazon Prime.

**Report Back on Legislative Outreach Schedule**

Link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iPf4hdjemqNJv3xO1G0WZ0NMq9VX5jU91PphUqrk9aI/edit?ts=5f3af1c9#gid=397537598>

* Letter writing has been on going and groups continue to do their outreach.
* Although Dems are the initial targets, some folks want to target other legislators or members of the Republican party.
* Once we have a better understanding of what the board ends up looking for in an alternative, we may potentially want to make an informal budget request to fund the local actions alternative, or the process for the alternative.
* Operational budget will be tight. However, there may be some money for Capital budget. If a request for funds for the local action alternatives is made by the Alliance to consider this while strategizing.
* Raelene has contacts at CELP looking to set something up for the Alliance and Water Lobby Day.

**Report back from the Chehalis Basin Board Meetings**

Where to find information on board meetings:[**https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\_\_1962/37068/chehalis\_basin\_board.aspx**](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37068/chehalis_basin_board.aspx)

* Local Actions Alternative outcomes have been identified and approved.
* The Framework is approved which included the assemblage of the technical and implementation advisory groups.
* “Backgrounder” document that laid out the current and past state of the Chehalis Basin Strategy was offered for a vote to be approved and included in the response to the Governor. However, it was noted that the document did not include mention of Tribal treaty rights, or the current Tribal opposition to the dam, a vote was postponed until the November meeting.
* Local Actions Alternative Implementation Advisory liaison with Mara Zimmerman, to create pathway for sharing information.

**NEPA Release Strategy Discussion: Tactics? Action Alerts? Comments?**

* EPA rating system as guideline for NEPA comments: [https://www.epa.gov/nepa/environmental-impact-statement-rating-system-criteria\](https://www.epa.gov/nepa/environmental-impact-statement-rating-system-criteria%5C)
* Some discussion as to which document carries more weight on this project SEPA or NEPA? Folks are reaching out to experts to answer this question.
* NEPA Organizational Strategies Include: Action alerts, written comments, phone calls, telephoned comments, sending comments to local reps, engaging membership, and using educational outreach to engage the commodity (via the film).
* Most groups are going to follow a similar pathway as they followed for the SEPA process.
* Overall, a great diversity of expertise and comment types should come in through this process.
* Looking for a way to get the information about NEPA comment out to rural areas with less internet access. The Alliance will develop a Flyer to hang at the smaller grocery stores and gas station bulletin boards. Teri and Krestine Agreed to draft something up.
* Everyone loved the poster behind Krestine and many requests to use this image where heard. Kristine offered her email in the chat. If anyone else needs her email Brian can pass it along.
* Collecting talking points send them to Brian or paste them into this talking points document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Snt9Xvv5J0b5DAiLfOuUL548b7hLv8KOXAbxiorhB1k/edit>
* Can utilize talking points document to write LTEs, Op-eds and engage with media.

**Next Meeting**

Nov 12th at 10 am

CNW Zoom is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Chehalis River Alliance

Time: Nov 12, 2020 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91350103329?pwd=anZNcTBhZEdYbUhLSUUwbDdqZlJkdz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5010 3329

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