



Chehalis Basin Partnership

Meeting Summary – July 24, 1998

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dick Nichols. Dick welcomed Phil Fisher, Grays Harbor Water District #2, to the Chehalis Basin Partnership.

I. Watershed Grant Presentation



Sue Mauermann, Ecology's Regional Director for Southwest Washington, presented a facsimile of a check to Chairman Dick Nichols. The Chehalis Basin Partnership received a \$453,956 grant for Phase 1 & 2 under the recently enacted Watershed Planning bill – 2514. Sue recognized the Partnership for taking an active leadership role in this new statewide initiative. She also thanked Mike Daniels and Brian Shea for helping build support, Lewis County for serving as the lead agency, and Grays Harbor Water District # 2 and Boistfort Valley Water for joining the

effort.

II. Intergovernmental Agreement

Chairman Nichols stated that it is vital for the Chehalis Basin Partnership to become officially established via the intergovernmental agreement. Given their recent decision to join the Partnership, the Quinault Indian Nation was given additional time to review the document. Ray Lorton provided a revised draft with a number of revisions for consideration. Several areas, which generated discussion, including Section 2 – Purpose; Section 3 – Goals; Section 5 - Chehalis Basin Partnership Meetings; and Section 13 – Reservation of Rights. In Section 3, the tribe added language to require best available science in decision-making. Other members of the partnership (including Doug Fricke, Steve Kaller, Marc Duboiski, and Mayor Spahr) shared views on the whether the Partnership's purpose was decision-making or merely information sharing and coordination. Chairman Nichols stated that he has given assurances to his fellow commissioners that the Partnership will not be making decisions. Sue Mauermann pointed out that this may change over time to an advisory role as the group transitions to watershed plan development. Chairman Nichols strongly favored maintaining the original purpose statement. Mayor Spahr urged broadening Section 13 to ensure that participation in the Partnership does not bind any member's independent decision-making authority or reserved rights of the tribes. It was agreed to revise Section 13. Chairman Nichols stated that Thurston County Prosecutor's Office will revise the document based upon the decisions reached. Thurston County will then consider and adopt the agreement within the next weeks. Dick asked Brian Walsh to work with other members to get their approval. (see enclosed - Intergovernmental Agreement: Formation of the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Partnership & Designation of Lead Agency)

III. Watershed Grant/ 2496 Grant

Marc Duboiski briefed the Partnership on the recent watershed grant scoping meeting. Participants included Nancy Winters (Thurston County), Don Davidson (Ecology), Mike Kelly (USFWS), Ellen Dodds (Lewis County), Steve Kaller (WDFW), Kahle Jennings (Ecology), Barry Heid (City of Chehalis), and Brian Walsh (Ecology). Dr. Sodhi (Chehalis Tribe) and John Sims (Quinault Indian Nation) are also participants, but could not attend. Marc shared with the group the list of ideas which were generated. The partnership directed Marc and the scoping group to continue meeting and to bring a budget proposal back to the next meeting. Marc also brought the group up to date on the 2496 salmon grant application – due July 24. Lewis County submitted the grant application on behalf of the Partnership for \$100,000. Marc has been talking with Nina Carter at WA Department of Fish & Wildlife. Resolutions of support will be needed.

IV. Citizen Selection Process

Brian Shea presented the draft proposal for selecting citizen participation in the Chehalis Basin Partnership. The proposal is as follows:

- 1) Place notices in local newspapers (*Chronicle, Aberdeen Daily World, Daily Olympian, Mason County Journal*) seeking citizen representation to be involved in key watershed elements (flood reduction, fisheries, recreation, water quality, water quantity, and their relationship to economic health and sustainability)
- 2) Request that interested persons submit a letter of interest, a statement of qualifications, and references to Department of Ecology – Southwest Regional Office
- 3) Ecology sorts responses according to county location and sends to respective County Commissioners for Lewis, Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor counties
- 4) County Commissioners conduct review/selection process giving consideration to following criteria:
 - resident of the watershed
 - active or expert in watershed issues
 - geographic distribution
 - availability for monthly meetings and committee assignments
- 5) Each county submits 4 names to the Chehalis Basin Partnership for confirmation (all 4 will serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee with one designated from each county to serve on the full council)

The proposal was adopted. Brian Walsh will follow-up.

V. Lewis County Flood Control

Pete Ringen, Lewis County Public Works Director, introduced the topic of flood control. Lewis county has contracted with Pacific International Engineering (PIE) to conduct a Prefeasibility Analysis of Alternatives. Extensive modeling has been done to better understand technical options. Copies of PIE's report were distributed. Chuck Gale from PIE described the 3 components under consideration – modification to Skookumchuck Dam, Mellen Street Bridge redesign, and channel restoration between Chehalis and Centralia. A video was shown by Shirley Kook on the Napa Valley approach – known as "The Living River". The approach combines structural and non-structural solutions.

VI. Wrap-Up/ Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for August 28 at 9:00 AM at the Chehalis Indian Reservation.