



Chehalis Basin Partnership

Meeting Summary – July 23, 1999

Introduction

Mayor Spahr welcomed members and opened the meeting. A quorum of 15 members was present (see attached sign up sheet).

I. 2514 Level 1 Assessment

The Focus of the Level 1 assessment is gathering and assembling existing data into a form that can be used by the Partnership to make decisions about what additional data must be collected during a Level 2 assessment.

Marc Duboiski led a discussion of the process used to select the consulting team for the Level 1 Assessment. The selection panel reviewed all nine proposals and met to identify the top four candidates. The selection panel then interviewed each of the four candidate teams on Wednesday July 23. All the consultant teams interviewed were qualified to perform the Level 1 assessment. At the end of the day, the panel met and after lengthy consideration was able to reach consensus on recommending that the CBP enter into negotiations with the Envirovision Team for the Level 1 assessment.

Marc requested that the CBP confirm the selection panels recommendation, which was done. He then introduced Joy Michaud, President of Envirovision Corp. who will serve as the Project Manager. Joy provided a brief overview of the process the Envirovision Team would use to carry out the assessment and reviewed the qualifications of the team. A copy of the Envirovision Team organization chart is attached to this summary. Joy also reviewed the proposed schedule.

It was agreed that Lewis County would take the lead in working with Envirovision to develop a draft contract scope of work. The CBP “Scoping/Technical Advisory Committee” would review the draft and provide comment. Joy suggested that the contract negotiations could be split into two phases to expedite the process and get work started. The first phase would cover the initial gathering of data and the workshop that will identify the quality assurance criteria that should be applied to all the criteria to decide which date would be most important and most useful. The second phase would cover the work that follows the workshop.

A question was raised about the role of the “Scoping/Technical Advisory Committee” and whether it is to heavily weighed towards “agencies?” There is a lot of local expertise represented on the Partnership that should be recognized and taken advantage of. There needs to be a balance between agency and local representation. This will be looked into and a recommendation brought to a future Partnership meeting.

II. 2496 Salmon Recovery Grant

Marc announced that the Partnership had been selected to receive a salmon recovery grant. We did not receive the whole amount requested (\$146,000) but we did receive an offer of \$126,000. This grant is targeted to Fish recovery and fish habitat restoration. The grant will fund one FTE for two years to help Carol Smith complete Limiting Factor Analysis (LFAs) for as many sub-basins of the Chehalis Basin as possible. Completing LFAs is the key to competing for future salmon recovery funding. The process of finding the staff to work on LFAs under the grant must still be worked out.

The work completed under the 2496 Salmon Recovery Grant will be coordinated and integrated with the work done under the 2514 Level 1 assessment.

III. Governor’s Salmon Recovery Board

Phil Miller updated the Partnership on this issue. Governor Locke approved Senate Bill 5595 and has appointed the members of the Salmon Recovery Board. William Ruckleshaus is the Chair. Several issues related to the level of federal salmon recovery funding that will be available and how the funding will be allocated must still be decided.

A limited amount of funds have been made available for “fast track” projects that can be completed by May 2000. This is a transition program that will last for one year only. State guidance describing how future Salmon Recovery Funds will be awarded and administered should be out sometime in October. The due date for calendar year 2000 salmon recovery projects is expected to be near the end of 1999. Phil stated that the work being done by the Partnership is a good step towards being prepared to receive salmon recovery funding.

A question was raised about whether all salmon recovery projects would be funneled through local lead entities or if groups not associated with the Partnership would be eligible? The Partnership encourages all agencies and representatives of the state to be consistent in supporting the legitimacy of the Chehalis Basin Partnership for all programs where it has been designated as the lead local entity.

IV. Update on Chehalis Flood Project

A supplemental agreement for \$300,000 worth of additional work has been signed with Pacific International Engineering (PIE). This is in addition to the \$600,000 worth of work under the original contract. An additional \$800,000 is

being held up due to negotiations with the state Department of Transportation. Several questions were asked: How is the additional \$300,000 being spent? How strong a role is DOT playing in the local effort on flood control? What is the reason for the delay on the additional \$800,000? The Partnership will request that the appropriate representatives of DOT attend a future meeting to update us on these issues.

V. Report from Citizens

At its July meeting, the Citizen Advisory Committee was briefed on a local development project and the concerns being raised by local residents about the project's affect on limited ground water resources. This project shows just how much isn't known about groundwater in the Chehalis Basin. This is an example of the type of information gap exists and what might be identified as a priority for a detailed study under the 2514 Level 1 and Level 2 assessments.

VI. Recommended Future Agenda Topics

- DOT discussion of Flood control
- Update on the Partnership Budget
- 2496 Salmon Recovery Project and coordination with 2514 Level 1 assessment.
- A presentation on the "S.T.E.P." program that can assist small communities meet requirements for wastewater treatment.
- Discuss what process to put into motion so that the Partnership is prepared to prioritize Salmon Recovery Projects before the anticipated deadline in December.

VII. Other

It was suggested that at the next meeting the tables for the Partnership Members be modified so that they are arranged in a "U" shape facing the audience rather than the current box shape. This would ensure that all discussion is directed towards the audience and will hopefully improve the ability of the audience to hear what is being said. This suggestion was accepted.

It was suggested that at the end of each meeting an "open comment" period be set aside for comments from citizens. This suggestion was also accepted.

VIII. Wrap Up/Adjourn

The next Chehalis Basin Partnership meeting will be held on **August 27, 1999 at the Chehalis Tribal Center starting at 9:00.**

Enclosures

- Attendance list for July 23, 1999 meeting
- Envirovision Organization Chart and proposed schedule for Level 1 assessment
- Summary of Citizen Advisory Committee meeting.
- NOTE: The Calendar of Salmon Recovery Board meetings is not available at this time. The schedule is a Salmon Recovery Board agenda topic for its August 20, 1999 meeting and may be available at the August 27 meeting of the Partnership.