



# *Chehalis Basin Partnership*

---

## Meeting Summary – December 19, 2003

### **A. GENERAL PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS**

#### **Introduction**

Chairman Spahr welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Seventeen of the Partnership's thirty-one member organizations had a representative or alternate at the meeting. Eleven additional citizens, alternates, or visitors were at the meeting.

Membership changes: Jean Gale requested the meeting summary note that she is representing the Central Park Water Department (Grays Harbor Water District #2) not Phil Fisher. Arnold Samuels is no longer on the Ocean Shores City Council so this will be his last meeting in that capacity. Terry Calkins has retired from the City of Centralia.

#### **Steering/Technical Advisory Committee**

The Steering/Technical Committee met December 4th. Turnout was smaller than usual but those present accomplished a lot that will be discussed later today during the Partnership meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Water Quality Committee**

The Water Quality Committee met on December 12th. Topics of discussion included a pilot groundwater monitoring project Ecology is trying in the Chehalis Basin and development of a monitoring plan for the basin consistent with watershed plan recommendations. The next meeting of the committee will be January 8<sup>th</sup>. A presentation on the pilot groundwater project for the Partnership will be scheduled as soon as there is time on the agenda.

#### **Other Business**

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair -- At the November Partnership meeting Bob Sparr (Chehalis) was nominated to serve as Chair of the Partnership in 2004 and Jim Haslett (Napavine) was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair. The Partnership agreed by consensus today that Bob Spahr and Jim Haslett should be appointed to these positions for 2004.

### **B. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

#### **Watershed Planning under RCW 90.82**

The revised draft watershed plan (dated 12-11-2003) sent out with the packet for today's meeting was introduced. There have been some additions to the Water Quality Section on page 7. Those changes, along with the things discussed today, will be included in the updated version sent out prior to the January 23, 2004 Partnership meeting.

In the revised draft additions are underlined. Changes can be quickly located by looking for the line to the right of the text.

### General Discussion Comments on the December 11, 2003 version of the plan:

- What is the plan going to do to help the river? Does the river need any help?
- This version is a much better statement of the vision, goals and purpose.
- Suggest a small glossary for each section explaining uncommon terms – limit the glossary to terms that wouldn't be found in a dictionary.
- The Partnership still needs to develop a process for updating the plan.
- Ecology is very committed to the process and outcomes of watershed planning. It is currently the forum for local input into state actions regarding water management.

There was also a discussion about the future of the Partnership after the plan is completed. The Partnership was forming before the legislature initiated watershed planning under RCW 90.82. The Partnership will not cease to exist after the watershed plan is complete but will perhaps need to re-examine its focus and answer the question “What is it we want to do, and why?” There is no other group in the Chehalis Basin looking at things on a watershed scale and the basin needs that. A group to work on new issues that come up is needed – if the Partnership is not there to do that than what group will? The Partnership was formed initially to share information between local governments, state/federal agencies, local interest groups and citizens. It has succeeded in doing that – for example, what some jurisdictions have learned as a result of TMDLs has been shared to the benefit of others. The Partnership doesn't actually implement actions, it provides a forum for discussing and agreeing upon actions and then the individual members implement them.

### Section II of the December 11, 2003 version of the plan

- Change the Section II headings so that they don't make a negative statement but ask a question instead.

### Section III of the December 11, 2003 version of the plan

- There were some clarifying edits to Section III
- Add a section on how the plan will get approved and then implemented

### Section IV of the December 11, 2003 version of the plan

**Habitat section** – suggested action 3.3 wording is being worked on by people involved in habitat restoration.

**Instream Flows section** – the Issue Statement was accepted with changes; 4.11 is already stated in 4.1 and was eliminated; 4.12 (now section 4.11) is a new section based on comments made at the November meeting and was accepted with changes; 4.13 (now 4.12) was accepted with changes; 4.6 was incorporated into 4.13.

**Water Quantity Exempt Wells subsection** – the Issue Statement was accepted with changes; the Recommendation was accepted with changes; 9.1 was rejected; 9.2 was rejected; 9.6 was accepted with changes; 9.7 bullets were placed under 9.5 and accepted with changes; 9.8 (now 9.7) was accepted with changes; 9.10 will be eliminated but some portions will be added to the issue statement; 9.11 is redundant, it is already covered in the issue statement and will be eliminated.

**Water Quantity Conservation subsection** – the Issue Statement was accepted with changes; 17.1 was accepted; 17.6 was discussed but no agreement was reached; 17.9 was discussed at length and accepted with wording specific to Thurston County.

The Partnership discussed three options for how to present the actions the Partnership has agreed to and what actions remain unresolved at the time the plan was approved. Unresolved issues include those that no one voted either for or against. The Partnership reached agreement that Option “A” (keeping all action items under each section regardless of whether the Partnership agreed to them or not) should be used for the working document but Option “B” (putting all unresolved action items in an appendix) should be used for the final document. See page 26/27 of the December 11th draft for the two options.

### **Salmon Recovery Project**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has initiated another funding cycle. Applications are due to the SRF Board July 15, 2004. The Technical Advisory Group met December 18th to discuss how Chehalis Basin projects should be selected. Contact Lee Napier (360) 249-4222 if you have a project you are considering. Project pre-proposals need to be submitted by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Actual applications will be due the first week of June to allow time for local review and development of a priority list.

**The next meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on January 23, 2004 at the Lucky Eagle Casino.**

### **Decisions**

- Appointed Bob Spahr as Chair and Jim Haslett as Vice-Chair.
- Agreement on additional plan recommendations and suggested actions