



Chehalis Basin Partnership

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 4, 2000 Meeting Summary

The May 4, 2000 meeting was held at the Montesano offices of the WDFW from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Master Project List

Grays Harbor County was asked by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to identify potential flood control and environmental restoration projects in the Chehalis Basin. This is a spin-off of the Lewis County flood control project. The ACOE wants a list of site specific projects. Usually the ACOE actually does the project. This is different in that they can provide technical and financial support for projects that will be implemented by local groups. Response to a public workshop held by the ACOE was poor, as has been response to a questionnaire sent out by Grays Harbor County. The county is taking a more active role in identifying potential projects and proposals are now starting to come forward.

At the last Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) meeting the CBP recognized the advantages of having a standing project list. Today the TAC identified some potential projects:

- Start with the projects that were developed for funding by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) but not funded.
- Find out if assistance with developing a salmon recovery Plan would qualify as a “project” in the eyes of the ACOE. This is something we need very much in the Chehalis, both to be competitive for SRFB funding and to help accomplish the water planning under 2514.
- Flow gauging stations in the basin.

Lee Hansmann will start to keep a list of potential projects. The TAC also agreed that there is a need to start keeping a list of the projects that have already been done so we can demonstrate what has been accomplished.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Comments

Grays Harbor County attended the SRFB workshop and submitted comments on behalf of the CBP. As a result of the comments it has received, the SRFB developed draft “Late 2000 Grant Cycle Policies” dated 4-17-00. There are two opportunities to comment on the draft. Informal comments are being accepted now, and a formal public review/comment period will be held on a revised version.

The TAC discussed the draft Late 2000 Grant Cycle Policies and developed the following comments:

- We want individual landowners to become actively involved in developing projects so the process needs to be as easy and simple as possible.
- Land acquisition has both positive and negative aspects. The positive includes protecting high quality habitat that is being threatened. Negative aspects, depending on who actually gains ownership of the land acquired, include the loss of tax base and public access. It is important to clearly describe the threats to habitat and how a specific acquisition project will protect against those threats.
- Any review panel set up by the SRFB should only review the local priority setting process and should only have the power to decide if the local process was so flawed that the list is ineligible, or that a specific project is ineligible. The panel should not have authority to “re-shuffle” priorities established through a local process or “pick and choose” individual project from a locally developed priority list.
- Since the SRFB feels so strongly that recovery projects should be tied to a basin salmon recovery plan they should provide guidance about what should be in such a plan.
- The SRFB should consider “block” implementation grants to the planning units once the salmon recovery plan has been completed.

2514 Project Work plan

The TAC was given a revised draft of the 2514 project work plan. This work plan will describe the various activities the CBP needs to accomplish and project when they should be completed to remain on schedule. Comments are needed.

Other

Grays Harbor County is proceeding with work on the grant application to Ecology for \$500,000 of 2514 Phase 3 money. These funds are to be used for work that directly supports development of the actual water plan for the basin.

Handouts provided at meeting

1. Draft 2514 Project Work Plan
2. Newspaper articles on Caspian Terns and status of the Columbia River Salmon fishery

Next Meeting of the TAC

The next meeting of the TAC will be held Thursday June 1st, at the Montesano offices of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.