

Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering/Technical Committee Meeting Summary

June 28, 2001 -- City of Montesano Forestry Building -- 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Present: Mark Swartout (Chair), Lonnie Crumley, Patrick Wiltzuis, Margaret Radar, Lee Hansmann, Sue Patnude, Chad Stussy, Kahle Jennings.

Agenda

This was a combined meeting of the Steering/Technical Committee and interested/available Citizens' Advisory Committee members to meet with Triangle Associates and discuss the scope for the Phase 3 Plan. Because of this, the meeting did not begin with a set agenda. Following the meeting with Triangle Associates the following topics were discussed:

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)

Concerns were raised that by beginning the process of holding meetings to develop the scope for the Phase 3 plan, we are initiating a process that triggers SEPA required actions. The Partnership must clarify what our responsibilities are under SEPA so we do not miss taking required actions.

SALMON RECOVERY

The schedule for the SRF Board's next salmon recovery project funding cycle was handed out at the June 22 Partnership meeting. Grays Harbor County (Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery in the Chehalis Basin) has its established project review process and committee. The Partnership's Steering/Technical Committee could have a role if a significant policy issue affecting the Partnership comes up, but otherwise its role is limited.

Now that the Limiting Factors Analysis has been completed, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) formed to assist Carol Smith with the project no longer has any mandate to keep functioning as a separate group. Since many of the TAG members are also active in the Steering/Technical committee of the Partnership it makes sense to form a salmon recovery sub-committee of the Steering/Technical committee if specific needs that will take a significant amount of time arise.

Sue Patnude (WDFW) will contact the Conservation Commission to see what plans they have to sustain salmon recovery efforts that they were tasked to support through the Limiting Factors process. She will ask them what resources are available to help us continue to fill data gaps identified in the Limiting Factors Analysis and update or to modify our salmon recovery strategy as more information becomes available. Regardless of how the Commission responds, the Steering/Technical committee and Chehalis Basin Partnership should evaluate what resources we have available in our watershed (in addition to the grant from WDFW to the salmon recovery Lead Entity) to support further development of our salmon recovery program.

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP AGENDA

Kahle Jennings (Ecology) shared a rumor that he had been contacted about and asked S/TC members if they had heard the rumor and where. The rumor is that Tom Fitzsimmons (Director of the Department of Ecology) had stated in a meeting in Eastern Washington that Ecology was going to start charging for water use. Kahle assured the group that the rumor is false, Tom Fitzsimmons never made such a statement and Ecology has no plans to charge for water. It was suggested that we add a section to the Partnership agenda that provides people with a specific time each meeting to ask about rumors they may have heard relating to Partnership interests and identify those rumors that need to be followed-up on to seek clarification.

For the special presentation portion of the July 27th Partnership meeting Kahle will try to arrange for someone from Ecology's Water Resources Program to come in and discuss recent legislation affecting the management of water. The topics would include the Governor's water bill, water metering in the 16 salmon-critical basins (the Chehalis is NOT one of the 16), additional funding available for basins that choose to address in-stream flows, etc.

CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

Changing the date for approving the changes to the existing by-laws from July 27th was discussed at the June 22nd Partnership meeting but it was never clearly agreed upon. The S/TC agreed to recommend that the date for approval of the by-law changes be moved to the September 28 Partnership meeting.

STEERING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

A general discussion was held about who should be represented on this committee, why they should be represented, how to get them to attend and how to keep them attending? A discussion about who specifically should be recruited will occur at the August 2nd meeting of this committee. The results of the discussion about committee membership should be incorporated into the draft Operating Procedures.

OTHER

J. Roach handed out the agenda and a summary of the May 10, 2001 legislative workshop on GIS/Information Management that he was asked to pull together. The workshop was broadcast on local access TV and has been well received. He has been approached about arranging a follow-up legislative workshop sometime in the future.

Salmon Data Viewer CD – J. Roach is still working with DNR on getting the type of CD developed as a pilot for the lower Chehalis Basin (WRIAA 22) done for the upper basin (WRIA 23). He has been discussing the possibility of combining the upper Chehalis with other watersheds in Thurston County such as the Deschutes and Nisqually so that it has the benefit of wider support. The S/TC agreed that this would be a good approach.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST 2ND STEERING/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

- ◆ Salmon Recovery
 - Results from the contact with the Conservation Commission
- ◆ Steering/Technical Committee membership
 - Identify individuals from Partnership participants we would like to see on the committee
- ◆ Future relationship between the Chehalis Basin Partnership and the Chehalis River Council
- ◆ The need for a GIS sub-committee