

## Chehalis Basin Partnership Steering/Technical Committee Meeting Summary

May 3, 2002

### Prioritizing Level 2 Assessment Work

The focus of this meeting was selecting which sub-basins would receive priority consideration for Phase 2 Assessment funds. Prior to the meeting several individuals prepared information that was determined to be necessary at the April STC meeting. This information was organized into the following categories: Risk to Fish, Risk to Humans, Flows, Protected Lands, Land Use, and Population. For each sub-basin high, medium and low levels of risk were numerically assigned. The information was sent to Triangle Associates and combined into a spreadsheet to use at this meeting.

Today the STC reviewed all that information, and the outcome, to determine if the results would be useful. Prior to this meeting agreement was reached that we would complete the prioritization today. There is agreement that the STC members participating in this meeting recognize that even though numerical scores have been assigned based on relative priorities in each category, the relative priorities in each category still rely on the application of best professional judgment based on limited data.

Two prioritization approaches were tried. The first approach used the sum of priority scores for each category for each of the 31 sub-basins individually. The second approach 'lumped' sub-basins based on shared geographic location (for example, the East Fork Satsop, Middle Fork Satsop, Satsop main stem and Decker Creek were all 'lumped' into one system labeled 'Satsop') into sub-basin groups. This 'lumping' reduced the total number of sub-basins that needed to be prioritized from 31 to 16 including Grays Harbor itself. The scores of the individual sub-basins that were 'lumped' into sub-basin groups were averaged to come up with a priority score.

Based on findings, the group rank-ordered the following project clusters of basins for research:

<u>Sub basin #</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>Cluster 1:</b>	
5	South Fork Newaukum
6	North Fork Newaukum
7	Newaukum River
8	Saltzer Creek
9	Skookumchuck River
10	Main stem near Chehalis/Centralia
<b>Cluster 2:</b>	
21	Wishkah River
22	Hoquium

**Cluster 3:**

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 11 | Black River                   |
| 12 | Cedar Creek                   |
| 13 | Chehalis River Middle Reach 2 |

People felt additional information on Grays Harbor should be developed because so little is known about it and the growth pressures are high. This has to be balanced by the need to prioritize sub-basins with flow issues as the highest priority for the watershed plan.

Based on this recommended set of priorities some alternatives will be developed for the May 21 combined Study Area 4/Chehalis Basin Partnership business meeting that outline how Level 2 Assessment can be implemented in the highest-ranking cluster of basins.

In-Stream Flow Monitoring

Triangle Associates – TetraTech/KcM revised the scope of work for the in-stream flow monitoring and follow-up work. There are 31 regulatory control stations. Ecology has enough data to develop hydrographs at 16 sites. The original proposal would have developed data to develop hydrographs at 10 of the 15 remaining sites. The new proposal covers all 15 sites but costs more.

The group discussed the costs of using continuous flow data vs. using staff gages. Based on the need for quality data the group agreed that installing automatic recording flow gages instead of using staff gages monitored by volunteers was worth the additional cost.

It is imperative that work begin as soon as possible to collect the needed data over the summer. On behalf of Grays Harbor County acting in its role as Lead Agency will request that Ecology authorize KCM to begin this work before the contract is signed.