

August 5, 2004 Steering/Technical Committee Meeting Discussion Notes

A. Watershed Planning Phase 4 (Implementation)

General comments and questions:

- Have any CBP members come out against pursuing phase 4? [Grays Harbor County and Thurston County have expressed some concern about the resources and time available under Phase 4.]
- Are the objections that have been expressed general or philosophical in nature, or are they specific?
- The Partnership is not eligible to accept funding directly, it must designate a lead agency with authority to accept funding and incur obligations.
- There needs to be more and better coordination between Department of Health, Department of Ecology and local government on Phase 4 requirements.
- If we choose not to use Phase 4 to implement the watershed plan will some members be unable to participate?

Factors favoring Phase 4

- This is the only sure source of funding for implementation.
- Phase 4 funding would provide a budget for planning unit administration and staffing.

Factors against Phase 4

- The actual requirements of Phase 4 have not been clearly spelled out so planning units can know what they are obligating to. We at least need to see a scope of work for the contract for Phase 4 work.
- Twelve months may clearly not be enough time; it depends a lot on whether or not the necessary information is readily available and accessible. If it is then twelve months may be reasonable. If not then clearly twelve months is not enough time. We don't want to take on more than we can accomplish.

The message to the CBP needs to be:

The STC can speculate and interpret Phase 4 requirements various ways, but we won't know for sure until the boilerplate scope of work is available and we can see how much negotiating room there is. **Questions the Partnership needs to answer include:**

- **Once we get enough information on Phase 4 to understand what is involved do we pursue Phase 4?**
- **What else, if anything, will the Partnership do as a group to implement the plan?**
- **What other business does the Partnership wish to pursue?**

B. Structure of the Partnership

General Comments and Questions

- Is it clear to Partnership members that the current Intergovernmental Agreement is set up so the Partnership will continue after the watershed plan is complete?
- Clearly the legislature anticipated that planning units would continue to be involved because the law states: "A planning unit may apply for a matching grant for phase 4 watershed plan implementation..." RCW 90.82.040 (2) (e)

- The mission statement in the plan was written for the planning process only; it does not apply to all aspects of what the Partnership does.
- Why does the Partnership even need to consider changing its structure? [*The current structure limits the Partnership's ability to seek and administer funding directly. The organization that agrees to serve as Lead Agency incurs a contractual obligation to complete the work. Other structures – for instance becoming a non-profit – would allow the Partnership to apply and administer any funds it receives directly.*]
- One option would be to strengthen the relationships among existing members and look for alternative funding sources to implement the plan. For example, the members of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council contribute to a fund to pay for administration and staffing.
- The members of the STC do not know enough about the various different structures to be able to recommend something different. We should invite people involved in similar efforts to come to a future Partnership meeting and explain how their organization is structured and the advantages/disadvantages.

The message to the CBP needs to be:

What does the Partnership want to do? Define your purpose; the structure follows. If you don't know what you want to do, any structure will work. Questions the Partnership needs to answer include:

- What is the status of the Intergovernmental Agreement that was used to form the Partnership?
- What role will the CBP take in implementing the watershed plan?
- Does the structure of the Partnership need to change for it to carry out that role?
- Would the Partnership like to hear from other groups with different structures?