

Present: Terry Willis, Ann Wicks, Kahle Jennings, Lee Napier, Chanele Holbrook, Gary Waltenburg, Tony Barret, Commissioner Beerbower, Craig Graeber, Dave Rountry, Bob Amrine, and Patrick Wiltzius.

### **Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping**

Willis asked the group to introduce themselves.

Rountry asked for 10 minutes to brief the group regarding the DIP for the Chehalis TMDL.

### **Preview and Discussion regarding the Draft Implementation Plan for the Upper Humptulips TMDL**

Graeber presented the Draft DIP for the Upper Humptulips. The study area includes the East and West Forks (WAUs) of the Humptulips for a total area of 120 square miles. The Forest Service owns 69.67% of the total area. The remaining land (30.33%) is privately owned. The majority of the private ownership is Rayonier Timberlands Operating Company (Rayonier)

Graeber shared that the TMDL study was initiated by Rayonier because they wanted to do a watershed analysis for the Humptulips River and wanted to address the temperature listing at the US Hwy 101 Bridge at the same time. The watershed is mainly owned by Rayonier and the USFS. The result is the "East-west Humptulips Watershed Analysis" and the information compiled into the temperature TMDL.

There is a history of splash dams on the Humptulips and some large fires. Both of them have an effect on sediment transport. The loading capacity, which provides a reference for calculating the amount of pollutant reduction needed to bring a stream into compliance with the standards. See Table 4, page 19, for the summary of the shade and load allocations for the Upper Humptulips.

Graeber explained that the DIP is almost ready for public review. At this time, the release date is not definite. He would like to receive some comments from the Committee and the Forest Service staff person who is the co-author for this DIP.

Wisner noted an error in the report. The EQUIP citation is a NRCS program not a GHCD program (pages 11 and 30).

Beginning on Page 5, Approach Section, does not seem to address the concerns presented during the earlier public review process by the private land owners, excluding Rayonier. Graeber responded that compliance would be voluntary for this group of private landowners. The other group (Rayonier) would be regulated under Forest and Fish regulations.

Waltenburg asked if property acquired for conservation purposes would be required to comply with this DIP? Who would be responsible? He was referring to a site above the US Hwy 101 bridge that was acquired from a private landowner by a state agency or conservation group. Graeber was not familiar with the site referenced and would further investigate.

Pages 10 and 11 discuss the Forest and Fish regulations. The group felt this section needed clarification and a better description.

The group would like to see a map included at the beginning of the document. Graeber shared a larger map with the group.

Waltenburg pointed out that the DIP included a recommendation for shade why not include a section related to obstructions and maintenance? The group would like to see this issue further explored and articulated as a watershed management plan issue paper.

If anyone wants to send comments, please direct comments to Craig at 360.407. 6299 or e-mail [Cgra461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Cgra461@ecy.wa.gov) before the end of April. The DIP is scheduled for completion by the end of June. The group will further review this document during the next meeting.

### **Water Quality Funding Program Local Review**

Jennings introduced the local process and the applications. Four projects were submitted for the Chehalis Basin; however, only three will be reviewed today. The fourth project will be rated number 1 because it's the only project in the Lower Chehalis. The remaining projects will be rated 1-3.

Each project sponsor was allocated time to present their proposal to the reviewers and time for the reviewers to ask questions.

After rating the projects, the City of Chehalis Regional Water Treatment Facility was rated number 1, followed by Lewis Conservation District's Dillenbaugh Creek Water Quality Improvement, and the City of Centralia's Wastewater Facility for WRIA 23.

The top project for WRIA 22 is Grays Harbor Conservation District's Water Quality and Assessment proposal. This list will be submitted to the Partnership for final approval.

### **Briggs Nursery Follow Up**

Willis reminded the group that the letter submitted by the citizen was forwarded on to both Departments of Ecology and Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture did follow up with a records investigation. Preliminarily the Department of Agriculture found the applications to be consistent with the regulations. Typically, Department of Agriculture does not self initiate an investigation. The landowner may initiate this request through the Department of Agriculture.

Department of Ecology's investigation might indicate additional monitoring. Jennings is attempting to locate the original SEPA review. Department of Ecology does not have permitting processes for herbicide applications beyond the application near waters of the state.

A letter will be drafted by the Committee advising the citizen what direction she might take to better address her issue(s). The Committee will present this letter to the Partnership.

### **Next steps for the Chehalis Draft DIP**

Rounry met with Public Services staff to discuss environmental health issues. Other implementation organizations also provided more information Thurston CD, Lewis CD, and City of Westport. He still needs information from Lewis and Thurston County Health Departments, City of Hoquiam and Mason Conservation District.

The next draft should be out the end of April or early May. There is also a 60- day public comment period for a new NPDES for Weyerhaeuser. Concurrently there is a review for the waste load allocation for this facility. The Committee would like to invite Randy Cox to discuss this issue during the next meeting. *Note from Staff- contacted Randy and he is available to meet with the group on May 8.*

### **Closing comments**

Holbrook announced a public meeting May 14 in Tenino to discuss the Scatter Creek Habitat Conservation Plan, which is not under the review of the Scatter Creek Watershed Council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15. The next meeting is May 8 at the Forestry Building.