

Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, WA 98503
September 20, 2007
1:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary

PRESENT:

Teri Franklin, Grays Harbor Citizen
Dave Rountry, Department of Ecology
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis
Lisa Dilley, St. Martin's University (for Terry Willis)
Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District
Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia
Ann Wick, Department of Agriculture
Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County
Harry Pickernell, Confederated Tribe of the Chehalis Reservation
Randy Lehr, Grays Harbor College, Natural Resources Program Director
Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Kathy Jacobson, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium
Eric Erler, Capitol Land Trust
Peter Holm, Chehalis River Council
J Roach, Thurston County Citizen
Mark White, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Ginny Prest, Department of Agriculture
Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
Samuel Iwenofu, Quinault Indian Nation

Call to Order

Dave Rountry called the Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality (WQ) Committee meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

Updates on Work involving Water Quality Protection and Restoration Efforts throughout the Chehalis River Basin

Mr. Rountry reported the discussion will focus on water quality protection and restoration efforts/activities that have been completed or are occurring within the Chehalis River basin. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is obligated to track activities that are described in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Water Cleanup Plans, which is the purpose for distributing Table 2 to attendees and WQ members. Table 2 describes the activities of the primary partners affected by the TMDL. Within Table 2, a line item describes efforts the Chehalis Basin Partnership supports in terms of restoration/protection efforts, as well as other agencies, municipalities, and organizations.

When the TMDL DIP (plan) was developed, each entity provided information on the action(s) each entity planned to implement. Noticeably, for each group, implementation is funding-dependent.

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Mr. Rountry noted that beyond the plan, there has been other work accomplished throughout the basin. It's important to track and account for that work as well, which will be the main focus of the meeting discussion.

The baseline for water quality protection was a study completed in 1997/98. Mr. Rountry suggested using that source as the baseline and determining what implementation work has occurred since that time.

Mr. Rountry reviewed a proposed discussion outline:

- Discuss the purpose of the meeting
- Introductions
- Presentations by each stakeholder
- Review Table 2 activities and provide an update on action items
- Continue additional presentations
- Discuss outcome of discussion and future steps for improving, accelerating, or overcoming obstacles (policy, regulation, funding)

Attendees provided self-introductions and shared what they wanted to contribute and learn from the discussion.

Mr. Rountry played a video introducing the TMDL program and activities from volunteer perspectives. TMDL is a water quality management tool that accomplishes four basic elements:

1. TMDL studies helps everyone understand the potential water quality problems within a specific area.
2. TMDLs identify potential sources of pollutants of concern.
3. TMDLs assign responsibility for cleaning up the pollution to those various sources.
4. TMDLs provide a series of actions and strategies to help the sources correct the problems.

A TMDL is prepared in partnership between the DOE and the watershed community. The goal of the TMDL is to restore the water body so that uses are restored and protected into the future.

Ann Wick arrived at the meeting.

Activity Updates by Stakeholders

Mark White provided an update on efforts by the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. Current projects involve aquifer recharge projects to include construction of aquifer recharge ponds and riparian restoration involving tree plantings. The tribe is working with the Port of Centralia to restore a strip of land on port property. The tribe does not allow cows within the river and confiscates cows discovered in the river on the reservation. The tribe recently adopted conservation zoning banning timber harvest, building, and any other practices within 300 feet of the river. Zoning is extreme; however the river's condition warrants over-protection. The Port of Centralia agreed to honor a 300-foot buffer on the port's property of riparian plantings.

The tribe is actively pursuing the purchase of land for conservation, especially land along the river for natural restoration. The tribe is taking an active role in protection of natural resources.

Other efforts include eliminating community septic systems and installing membrane bioreactor systems (MBRs).

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The tribe is also working to eliminate invasive weeds on the river with a weed harvester. The tribe is a member of the Thurston County Noxious Weed Board and works with Thurston County to remove invasive weeds. New funding was obtained to purchase new equipment. The tribe built a custom barge to remove weeds from the river. The funding enables adding smaller equipment to jet boats to remove weeds from smaller areas where the barge is unable to travel. Approximately 1,300 pounds of dry material is collected a day. Other tribes have expressed interest in using the barge to remove noxious weeds.

The tribe approaches conservation efforts through regulatory actions because it's an easier process for the tribe. Rules are strict on the reservation to protect water.

Harry Pickernell updated members on water quality testing by the reservation in conjunction with Grays Harbor Community College. Testing is occurring monthly at 83 sites from Pe Ell to Westport. The variance in weather this year is atypical.

Randy Lehr said the tribe's water quality monitoring efforts are tied to the college's GIS Clearinghouse efforts to develop an interactive web-based tool to organize and synthesize environmental data for the Chehalis basin. Currently, the college is collecting existing data and converting data to the GIS server system. Currently, there are approximately 70 data layers with approximately 9 data layers accessible on a trial basis. The goal is for the clearinghouse to become more interactive related to water quality as well as fish habitat and restoration.

Mr. Lehr commented on other indirect projects underway by the college to include a full-time watershed outreach specialist who visits schools, community functions, and other events and provides a range of presentations. A high school summer intern camp was hosted at the college during the summer. Last year, several thousand elementary school students participated in the program. This year's high school internship program involved eight high school students and approximately 40 elementary school students. The college received funding approval to conduct training and to recruit three AmeriCorps interns to do similar work as well as with working with Grays Harbor County on conservation and recycling efforts. The water quality portion helps leverage the work of Kathy Jacobson with the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium.

Samuel Iwenofu asked whether the data collected is from the Confederated Tribes of Chehalis Reservation. Mr. Lehr said the data is from both the tribe and other publicly available information from other databases as well as data generated from other groups engaged in monitoring activities.

Mr. Iwenofu asked about the criteria used for selection of data that is entered into the clearinghouse system. Mr. Lehr said data from the 83 sites are under the direction of the Quality Assurance Plan approved by the DOE and is aligned with recommendations from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Beyond that, there is a range of data available. At this time, a clear set of guidelines has not been established for what the best use of the information will be. Mr. Iwenofu asked whether the clearinghouse will be turned over to DOE. Mr. Lehr said all the data is in [Department of Ecology's Environmental Information Management \(EIM\) database](#).

Bob Amrine commented that from a conservation district standpoint, the efforts provide a good opportunity for the district to work with the tribe and Grays Harbor Community College. If some areas of concern are discovered, the district can provide some technical assistance to the landowner. The district

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would also like to know if there are areas that need monitoring that are not currently monitored. Mr. White replied that monitoring will be expanded. However, input will be needed.

Ms. Napier said she is working to have the WQ Committee become the forum for all efforts involving monitoring, data, and work underway by the college. At the monthly meetings, there will be opportunities for members to discuss and share issues.

Mr. White said his anticipation is that at the next WQ Committee meeting, the next 15 sites can be selected. The goal is to look for hot spots. At other meetings, there have been comments on problem areas but no one can provide specifics about the areas affected. Mr. Amrine referred to nonpoint sources and said the district began monitoring activities in the mid-90s. It's very difficult to pinpoint sources. Mr. White agreed and said it's not so much the source, rather it's the area. Mr. Amrine suggested other efforts within the basin should use the same equipment and labs to ensure consistency in monitoring techniques.

Mr. White asked whether Lewis County CD can work under the same quality assurance plan. Mr. Rounry said there has been some discussion about updating the plan such as providing an addendum that describes additional sites. The protocols should adhere to the assurance plan.

Mr. Iwenofu asked about the status of funding for the water quality monitoring. Mr. Lehr said the budget from the first set of contracts and agreements is coming to a close. The program is moving forward with the funding from the last legislative appropriation for the Chehalis basin. Mr. Iwenofu said the last time QIN had a meeting with DOE on the funding issue; QIN deferred funding to the Chehalis Tribe on the basis that when the next funding cycle occurs, QIN will request a share of the funding. QIN is currently monitoring approximately nine sites of the upland Chehalis basin. Funding is an issue and when the next funding cycle occurs; QIN wants to be included. Mr. Lehr suggested ensuring the sampling is not occurring at the same sites to avoid duplication of efforts. Mr. Iwenofu suggested synchronizing the monitoring and monetary process. QIN's data is not included in the EIM database at this time. Mr. Lehr suggested including the data to complement the current work underway. Mr. Iwenofu confirmed he will follow up on the request. QIN's goal is to enhance its monitoring efforts through the sharing of funding.

Discussion followed about the funding. Ms. Napier said the CBP requested the funding. To avoid administrative and other complications, the contract is between DOE and the college. Funding from DOE is required to be used for data collection efforts supporting the EIM database.

Mr. Lehr described some of the data products that will be available. Mr. Amrine suggested providing a demonstration of the program at a future committee meeting.

Mr. White described the monitoring efforts by the Chehalis Tribe. He shared that he has attended many meetings across the state where it was conveyed that coordination of data collection and reporting is not possible. However, efforts by basin stakeholders have proved it's possible to coordinate efforts as well as share data resulting from those efforts.

J Roach commented on the good progress of the effort in such a short period of time.

Mark White left the meeting.

Mr. Iwenofu shared information about QIN's concerns regarding instream flow. Recently, there have been staffing changes and Bruce Jones is no longer representing QIN. Ms. Napier said she understands

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QIN is sending a letter regarding instream flows. Mr. Iwenofu said to his knowledge the letter has not been written. The tribe wants to become involved in the funding process and coordinate with Mr. Lehr on the monitoring efforts to ensure quality assurance standards are met as well as expanding monitoring efforts. QIN currently collects samples and sends the samples to the Grays Harbor County lab in Montesano.

Mr. Iwenofu commented on compliance with DOE requirements and monitoring protocol to ensure the tribe's efforts can be analyzed and compared against standard criteria to ascertain if there are water quality problems as alleged by some members of the tribe.

Discussion ensued on other organic sampling within the basin and several TMDL studies included in the EIM database. Mr. Iwenofu referred to tissue analysis of some fish species that found dioxin exceeded the state limit on the lower Chehalis River. Mr. Lehr said in 2002, a study was published on PCB presence in fish returning to different hatcheries.

Mr. Rountry suggested discussing mutual water quality efforts underway during a future WQ Committee meeting. It appears the tribe's concerns are focusing on sediments. It appears data is older and perhaps the committee can discuss the possibility of conducting more sediment sampling.

Mr. Roach inquired about the source of information within Table 1. Mr. Rountry reported data is from the TMDL Cleanup Plan. As with any plan, unless progress is evaluated, the plan is basically a good "dream." Text in red indicates missing information. Ms. Wick requested revising "agriculture" as the pollution source to "animal waste and nonpoint sources" as it's too generic and it singles out the agriculture industry. Mr. Rountry acknowledged the request.

Mr. Rountry referred to Mr. Roach's question and said the goal is to produce an updated table from input provided from stakeholders.

Eric Erler provided an overview of conservation efforts by Capitol Land Trust. Capitol Land Trust, a nonprofit organization, works in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties. Capitol Land Trust's mission is to further collaborative and strategic conservation in southwest Washington's essential natural areas and working lands. The mission is accomplished through building partnerships and working directly with landowners. Mr. Erler provided a slide presentation on several properties conserved through collaborative efforts. He reviewed projects involving:

- Several conservation easements on properties along Black River
- Scatter Creek – 160-acre conservation easement
- Baretich Conservation Easement along the Wishkah River
- Decker Creek wetland complex – conserve 500-acre complex

Mr. Erler addressed questions on how the Trust monitors conservation easements and enforces the legal aspect of conservation easements.

Mr. Erler described other efforts by partners, such as Thurston County, The Nature Conservancy, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as funding sources. Thirty-seven sites have been conserved with 20 of the sites located within the Natural Wildlife Refuge boundaries representing more than 4,800 acres; not including Capitol Forest. He displayed a map developed last year of the properties conserved.

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Mr. Erler referred to efforts to conserve 1,900 acres in the Chehalis River basin by applying for a forest legacy grant. The property owner, Bascom Pacific, is a willing landowner, who has been very cooperative and is willing to work with the Trust. The Black River flows more than a mile along the western boundary of the property. Most of the property is developable with the exception of 75 acres of riparian habitat. The property is threatened in terms of future development. The landowners want to retain the property in long-term forestry. The goal is to extinguish the development rights rather than acquiring the property. It will cost many millions of dollars to acquire the development rights. Mr. Erler commented about possible funding sources for conserving the property. An application for \$4 million has been applied through the Forest Legacy Program.

Janet Strong provided written information on the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust. The trust was established in 1994, which operates exclusively within the Chehalis River basin. The trust's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore ecological significant lands within the Chehalis basin. Land trusts typically protect several conservation values to include wildlife habitat and specific plant communities to benefit land that protects water quality. All conservation easements and fee simple lands include wetlands, river corridors, and riparian corridors and buffers.

Ms. Strong reviewed the following projects:

- Galvin conservation easement of 57 acres protecting 2.25 miles of Chehalis River and Lincoln Creek riparian zone, plus tributary streams, pond and wetlands.
- Humptulips conservation easement of 26 acres protecting parts of a surge-plain wetland at mouth of Humptulips River.
- Raccoon Run conservation easement of 7 acres protecting riparian zone of tributary to Mox Chehalis Creek.
- East Hoquiam conservation easement of 10 acres protecting parts of a huge tidal wetland complex along the East Hoquiam River.
- Black River conservation easement of 15 acres protecting diverse wetland along the Black River near Littlerock.
- Black River fee ownership of 6 acres protecting wetlands along Black River slated for Canary grass removal and reforestation in 2008.
- Kimber fee ownership of 20 acres protecting 1,000 feet of Porter Creek and its diverse wetland and rearing channel.
- Porter Cree fee ownership of .3 acres protecting Chehalis River bank and small tributary stream. Was reforested with student help in 2002.
- South Fork Newaukum River consisting of 1.2 acres protecting Newaukum river bank and mouth of Kearney Creek, a large tributary.
- Partnership with City of Centralia in the reforestation of 1 mile along Chehalis River across from Galvin conservation easement. Agricultural activities have been moved 200 feet away from Chehalis River. Designed and created pamphlet for Centralia's Chehalis River Discovery Trail, running along the restore area and beyond. The project involved over 600 students involved in plantings and experiencing field studies, learning about protecting the river, salmon needs, and water quality. Ms. Strong displayed a map of the area and described the project.
- Partnership with the Nature Conservancy in combating knotweed along the entire Porter Creek outside Capitol Forest.

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- Received grant of \$1,000 to Boistfort School for their riparian reforestation project and native plant greenhouse startup, enabling the project to go forward.
- Adopted two WDFW boat access site for monthly cleanup (Black River at Route 12 and E. Hoquiam Road).
- The trust regularly participates in student restoration and field study projects, regularly contributes to *Drops of Water* publication and publishes articles relating to water in *CRBLT* newsletter.

The trust belongs to Washington Land Trust Association (WLTA) and Land Trust Alliance and adheres to all principles for land trusts.

Ms. Napier asked about costs associated with the cleanup of the boat ramps and offered funding assistance through Grays Harbor Solid Waste.

Ms. Napier inquired whether the trust has unfunded restoration needs. Ms. Strong confirmed the trust is restoring three acres infested in reed canary grass and reforesting the property by planting willows and cottonwoods. Ms. Napier advised that there is community salmon federal funding available for \$50,000 grants or less that includes a 50% match. She encouraged the trust to apply for the funds.

Ms. Strong reported the Grays Harbor Audubon Society is an organization comprised of citizens. In 1997, the organization received an offer of a grant to protect habitat, which began a large funding effort resulting in the ownership by the society of 3,000 acres of habitat in Grays Harbor County, with most of the property located within the Chehalis River basin. She displayed a map of the land. Much of the land is located within the Humptulips basin. Approximately 64% of the 3,000 acres are wetland and stream riparian zones. The purpose of acquiring the land is the protection of wildlife for infinity.

Pete Holm reported the Chehalis River Basin Council works with the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium and is the grant administrator for the consortium's work. Projects involve school students. Students are involved in sampling. The council publishes *Drops of Water* newsletter and works to develop consensus with people within the watershed in terms of decisions that all people make affecting water quality in the basin. Some members provide classroom presentations as well as monitoring with students. The council also has several WDFW sites that are cleaned on a regular basis as well as participating in two river canoe trips involving river cleanup events. The council works to ensure it's aware of activities occurring in the basin and is always eager to engage with other organizations to pursue clean water efforts. The council also tracks permits that have been issued and different ordinances under consideration for adoption by testifying at public hearings. Mr. Holm reported he testified at the Ports of Tacoma and Olympia public hearings on the proposal for property in the Maytown area that is proposed to be a logistics center for the ports. The area is important as it is near the headwaters of the Black River. The logistics center would threaten water quality.

Mr. Holm referred to the council's website, which is a good resource. The website is www.crcwater.org.

Kahle Jennings provided an update on the City of Centralia's water quality efforts.

Because of the dissolved oxygen TMDL Study, the City of Centralia constructed a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. It is a built on a former privately-owned farm owned deeded to Washington State University, which was sold to the city. The bulk of the farm is open space for application of Class

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A biosolids from the wastewater treatment process. During the last two years, the land was contracted for planting corn, which has been harvested for human consumption.

The city is subject to dissolved oxygen and temperature TMDLs. Currently, for temperature TMDL, the city is required to monitor discharge and river temperatures. At some point, the city may need to make a decision to remove effluent from the river and use land application only. Over time, Mr. Jennings said he would like to focus on the City paying for riparian restoration through tree planting for shade as it is a more effective solution for temperature control rather than entirely eliminating effluent discharge into the river.

Additionally, the city is a Phase II Stormwater community. The City of Aberdeen is the other city within the basin that is a Phase II community. The city is under an MPDS permit for stormwater that includes certain compliance timeframes. The city adopted the Western Washington Stormwater Manual and is implementing manual practices. The City recently completed a Stormwater Management Plan that is scheduled for adoption in October. Mr. Jennings said he is proposing the hiring of a Stormwater Management position in the city to oversee the implementation of the permit.

Mr. Jennings reported the city is cooperating with the Chehalis Tribe and the Port of Centralia on planting a 300-foot buffer on hay ground located on the north and south sides of Galvin Road near the Chehalis River. Another aspect of the project is re-creation of side-channel habitat for salmon.

The city supports the Chehalis Basin Partnership. Mayor Pro Tem Canaday is the Chair of the CBP.

Mr. Jennings reported on his discussion with Ms. Napier regarding the housing of the Watershed Coordinator position. There is a location at the old wastewater treatment plant if the CBP approves.

Mr. Jennings reported he and Mr. White have discussed the potential for identifying additional properties along the Chehalis River where there might be interest in additional tree plantings for riparian shade.

Patrick Wiltzius updated members on the efforts by the City of Chehalis.

The city recently completed its new wastewater facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for October 2, 2007. All sewage from the city has been treated at the new plant since the end of April. The state-of-the-art facility includes infrastructure to produce reclaimed water, which will be used to irrigate a tree plantation. The plantation was developed four years ago. The system is ready to go online. The plantation is 176 acres of trees in varying hybrid varieties with extensive groundwater monitoring. A million gallons of effluent will be discharged to the plantation during the dry season. Some of the trees are close to 20-feet tall without irrigation. With irrigation, the trees will grow approximately six to twelve feet a year. He noted the city also provides sewer connection service to the City of Napavine and several homes in the county. West Farm Foods were also part of the TMDL consent decree and also must eliminate discharge into the river. The farm was planning to irrigate a hay crop east of the plantation, but instead, will transfer effluent to the city during dry weather to produce reclaimed water for the plantation site.

Although the city is not required to meet the requirements under Phase 2 Stormwater, the city has had a stormwater utility for the last 20 years and actively maintains storm lines and ditches.

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Mr. Wiltzius said the old wastewater treatment plant is located in the floodway. He offered the opportunity to partnering with city to demolish the site and pursue restoration activities.

Bob Amrine reviewed Lewis County Conservation District activities. One program administered by the district in Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor counties is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The program leases properties from landowners for 10 to 15 years and pays 100% site prep for planting of trees as well as five years of maintenance paid by the state to ensure trees are established. In Lewis County, the district has 28 contracts representing 595.7 acres with most of the buffers at 180 feet. Livestock exclusion fencing can also be completed if livestock is involved. The district has completed 41,401 feet of livestock fencing representing 33.75 miles in the Chehalis basin.

In Thurston County, the district has five projects representing 27.1 acres and 5,272 feet of fencing representing 1.6 miles.

The district also sponsors some workshop, attends the Chehalis Watershed Festival, as well as conducting meetings at local granges.

Mr. Amrine distributed information on the district's cost-share and conservation planning programs since 1997 in the Chehalis basin. The district has completed 52 plans in the basin for a total of 6,014 acres. The plans include riparian exclusion fencing totaling 5.85 miles. All dairies in the upper basin include long-term storage, which affords better conditions for the farm for water quality prevention as well as forage production to reduce the need to purchase feed. The district has replaced approximately 16 culverts this year to open up fish habitat.

Teri Franklin said several citizens have contacted her about issues surrounding beaver dams that are affecting spawning grounds. The dams are impacting flows significantly and are impacting fish returns. There is a huge area of beaver dams. One neighbor is losing their fruit trees. Many people are questioning who to contact regarding the issue. She asked for guidance for providing residents with a source to contact. Mr. Amrine said the district contends with beaver issues. Beavers and fish coexist and interact and fish can find routes around beaver dams, but it takes significant flows. In developed areas, if the fish are not present at the right time when flows are high, they miss the opportunity. If there is a huge beaver population, a nuisance licensed trapper can be contracted to remove beavers.

Ginny Prest complimented the district for its planning work and identifying resources needing protection. It's not the district's job to implement farm plans. The Department of Agriculture follows up to ensure plans are implemented. The district does very good work.

Mr. Amrine asked how the district compares with other districts. Ms. Prest said the district is very easy to work with and that the plans the district provides are very helpful for the producer.

Ms. Prest reported on activities by the Department of Agriculture. The program works with dairies and other livestock operations. There have been some changes at federal level and subsequently not as many concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). She noted as she visits farms and livestock operations, there are many lagoons that have not been decommissioned.

Since the program has moved to the Department of Agriculture from DOE in 2003, the department is conducting the second round of inspections. All dairies and permitted livestock facilities are inspected every 22 months. Operations with visits occurring more often indicate a need for additional technical assistance to comply with water quality laws. In the fall, the department participates in lagoon sweeps

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and inspects targeted areas in the state to evaluate lagoon conditions. The department visits all lagoons in an area. This year, the inspections are occurring in western Washington in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific, and Whatcom counties. Generally, management plans in Chehalis and upper Chehalis are good. Two operators are not within compliance and have not been certified. In Grays Harbor there are 10 dairies with six having certified plans. One dairy has been out of compliance for years. A new producer recently purchased the dairy. She said she expects the new owner to fully comply with water quality practices.

Ms. Prest said overall, the number of dairies is declining. The department also pursues compliance activities.

Ms. Wick said two other activities of the department include a GIS mapping project to map all AG lands in the state. A part-time position was added to complete the project. The department also has a waste pesticide collection program. The amount of waste pesticide collected in the state is 2 million pounds of unusable pesticides. She acknowledged producers in the state who have stored the pesticide rather than dumping the pesticide. The pesticide is destroyed at a hazardous waste disposal incinerator in Utah. The volume of pesticide does not include home and garden pesticide.

Ms. Prest advised the department does not have regulatory authority to work with livestock operations that are pasture-based.

Ms. Prest acknowledged the educational efforts of the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium and Kathy Jacobson in partnering with the department in organizing and assisting with student activities.

Ms. Jacobson provided an update of activities of the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium. The consortium was established seven years ago. Funding is provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Ecology, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and through a contract with Nature Conservancy. The goal is to involve children in the Chehalis watershed by learning and doing activities in the watershed to include restoration projects. Approximately 45 core teachers are involved in the consortium.

Ms. Jacobson described training she provides to teachers. Information is also published in *Drops of Water*. All activities are culminated in a student congress that provides a chance for students to share water quality data with experts. The students learn about self-confidence and self-esteem, and public speaking, as well as knowing their voices are heard as children.

This summer, a five-week summer watershed leadership program was held at Grays Harbor College. Grays Harbor College paid a stipend to each youth and during the five weeks, students learned about riparian restoration, stormwater issues, native and invasive plants, nonpoint pollution sources, nature photography, and applied the knowledge throughout the basin. The program involved many partnerships. At the end of the five weeks, the students presented what they learned on a topic they selected. The students and their families learned how to protect water quality. The goal is that many of the students will choose natural resources careers.

Ms. Jacobson provided information on the Chehalis Basin Watershed Awareness Week and Festival. The committee elected to focus on a week-long event. She provided copies of the posters for members to post at their respective organizations. A teacher's guide on the Chehalis watershed was developed and sent to educators and the core teacher group.

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Ms. Jacobson reported the contract with Nature Conservancy involves working with landowners to restore areas to deter invasive plants and to control invasive species.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled October 11, 2007 at the Forestry Building in Montesano at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4: 22 p.m.

Prepared by: Valerie Gow, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services