

**Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee
Chehalis Regional Water Reclamation Facility
420 N.W. Louisiana Avenue
Chehalis, Washington
June 11, 2009
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Summary

MEMBERS & OTHERS PRESENT

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County	Ron Schillinger, City of Montesano
Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis	Joel Green, Grays Harbor College
Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College	Jim Hill, Citizen, Lewis County
Christine Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)	Don Loft, Grays Harbor College
Dave Rountry, DOE	Cheri Lindgren, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Patrick Wiltzius provided a guided tour of the City of Chehalis' Poplar Tree Plantation from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The plantation consists of 250 acres and 11 management units including a prohibited planting area and/or oak tree preserve.

Members traveled from the Poplar Tree Plantation to the Chehalis Regional Water Reclamation Facility (CRWRF) from 9:31 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. for the regular meeting. Mr. Wiltzius provided a tour of the CRWRF facility from 10:41 a.m. to 11:51 a.m.

Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda

Patrick Wiltzius called the June 11, 2009, meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Water Quality Committee (WQC) to order at 11:52 a.m.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Members acknowledged Janel Spaulding's one-year anniversary as the Watershed Coordinator.

Continue Discussion of Water Quality Monitoring Program and Funding Needs

Discussion of the Water Quality Monitoring Program and funding needs was deferred to the next meeting.

Review List of Future Agenda Topics

Ms. Spaulding proposed having future agenda topics include field trips to the City of Centralia's stormwater retrofit project and the Wildcat Creek aquifer near McCleary. Ms. Hempleman expressed interest in learning more about the Wildcat Creek aquifer.

Ron Schillinger reported on a PBS documentary regarding "Poisoned waters". The documentary covered how development standards and land use are placed higher than environmental considerations and protecting aquifers. Wetlands, creeks, and storm drains are being filled in. One attitude is that land is not useable unless it's filled and paved. At some point, people have to step up and accept the challenge of not doing business as usual. He suggested the Flood Authority should discuss what beneficial actions are occurring within the Chehalis basin, what can be done better, and why.

Mr. Hill pointed out that the study by Earth Economics to determine a dollar value for environmental elements is a step in the right direction.

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Ms. Hempleman agreed with Mr. Schillinger's observation. In terms of economy and environment, it's not possible to have one without the other.

Discussion ensued on determining costs to maintain ecosystem services. Members generally agreed to continue discussions concerning the Earth Economics study at a future meeting.

Mr. Schillinger said he'd like to learn more about the City of McCleary's groundwater issues, studies, and decisions.

Mr. Hill and Ms. Spaulding reported David Batker with Earth Economics will brief the Partnership at the June meeting.

Members commented on "ditch and drain" and "fill and build" tactics.

Ms. Spaulding said that agenda topics proposed at the last meeting included discussing the role of the WQC, developing a work plan, creating a strategy to disseminate information to the public, and organizing information and data collected over the last several years to achieve initial goals in developing the GIS Clearinghouse database. Mr. Rountry said he'd like a better understanding of the different approaches to record geographic information with varying tools such as the clearinghouse and the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) Model, which could inform whether all the tools and investments are appropriate, and whether there are opportunities to connect resources.

Mr. Rountry referred to the oversight role of the WQC and whether it might be convenient to store water quality monitoring data in DOE's Environmental Information Management (EIM) system database, which could provide convenient access to the public and the Partnership. DOE is required to administer data acquired through state funding. The data must be stored in the EIM system. It makes sense to access and view all data from one common clearinghouse.

Mr. Wiltzius acknowledged that there's an issue regarding the future of the clearinghouse and that the CBP's grant for funding that project is winding down.

Discussion ensued on potential agencies possessing an ArcGIS server and the joint July 9 meeting between the Steering Technical Committee (STC) and the WQC. Agenda topics could include a report on water quality monitoring data and analysis by Mr. Loft, future funding for Partnership activities, and the role of the CBP and subcommittees if funding is not obtained.

Mr. Rountry advised that he'll be out of town on July 9.

Ms. Hempleman advised that the issue of funding is also a discussion topic for the CBP.

Ms. Hempleman suggested DOE staff could provide a presentation on the EIM system at a future meeting.

Members discussed future storage options for clearinghouse data. DOE was prepared to propose legislation to extend funding for another four years for the Chehalis Watershed Planning Unit. Ms. Hempleman said DOE was advised that there will be ongoing budget cuts for watershed planning units. The Legislature is interested in empowering locals to pursue actions and ultimately wants to phase out state funding for watershed planning units.

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Mr. Schillinger referred to an article concerning the federal government appropriating \$50 million to clean up Puget Sound.

Ms. Hempleman said DOE could sponsor a meeting with watershed planning unit leads to discuss funding issues and share ideas. Members expressed interest in that option. Ms. Hempleman agreed to follow up on the idea.

Mr. Schillinger referred to the importance of documenting processes and executing recommendations within the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) and the Watershed Plan.

Mr. Hill offered that it might be time for the Partnership to reflect on the past and future of the organization and identify accomplishments.

Mr. Loft agreed that showcasing tangibles, such as cleanup activity along China Creek, is beneficial to educate the public and the Legislature on the Partnership's achievements.

Ms. Hempleman added that the brochure is an important piece of information.

Mr. Rounry proposed developing a summary of water quality improvements, identifying investments, determining the cash value of those investments within the basin, and updating the summary periodically. Ms. Spaulding suggested an option of surveying CBP, STC, WQC, and Habitat Work Group (HWG) members for feedback on accomplishments.

Ms. Spaulding indicated that she'll distribute a July 9, 2009 joint meeting announcement and circulate a list of potential field trips and future agenda topics.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Mr. Wiltzius adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Prepared by Cheri Lindgren, Recording Secretary
Puget Sound Meeting Services