

**Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee
City of Centralia
Centralia, Washington
September 10, 2009
9:30 a.m.**

Minutes

MEMBERS & OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis	William Gow II, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College	Eric Schlorff, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Dave Rountry, Department of Ecology (DOE)	
Kim Ashmore, City of Centralia	

Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda

Patrick Wiltzius called the September 10, 2009, meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Water Quality Committee (WQC) to order at 9:40 a.m.

Tour of Centralia's Stormwater Retro-fit Project

Kim Ashmore described the tour route of Centralia's Stormwater Retro-fit Project. Some of the catch basins connect directly to China Creek rather than the stormwater system. One catch basin is located in Logan, the northeastern section of the City. Another catch basin is located behind the City's bus garage. When the City submitted its application, areas for catch basins were selected near the headwaters of China Creek, in the middle of China Creek, and another downstream near the old wastewater treatment plant. The Department of Ecology approved of the idea of using three different parts of China Creek with the ultimate goal of sampling the creek in several different locations to determine pH levels and whether the levels are affected by stormwater pollutants or other reasons. The City budgeted for a flow study of China Creek; however the engineer's cost estimate was too high for funding.

Mr. Ashmore provided a guided tour by trolley of Centralia's Stormwater Retro-fit project from 9:43 to 11:30 p.m.

Update on Chehalis Watershed Festival

Ms. Spaulding provided an update on planning activities for the Chehalis Watershed Festival. To date, the Partnership has five volunteers to staff the Partnership's table during the festival.

Revisit WQ Monitoring Program Funding Discussion from Outcomes at CBP Meeting August 25, 2009

Dave Rountry commented on the water quality monitoring budget issue. He said he initially was resigned to the fact that there wasn't any budget available. However, there is a good body of data to review. He agreed with Joel Green's assertion of having more data to develop a statistically valid understanding of real water quality conditions and how they relate to the different monitoring stations. Over two years worth of a body of data is a tremendous asset that will make it possible for some assessment on water conditions. Although the project has no money or staff for a specific level of review of data, DOE will be undertaking some of the work within the next year. Fortunately, data have been entered into the EIM system and accessible to staff from the Environmental Assessment Program who are technically capable of conducting a review. He said he's unsure of what suggestions or recommendations may be presented in the final report of that review. However, DOE has requested some assistance by the program for data review and reporting. Part of the project involves receiving recommendations on the next steps or the adaptive management phase.

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Mr. Wiltzius said data are available to help support an application for some grant funding or further study. Some data reveals some areas are more impacted than other areas, as well as reflecting what some of the primary pollutants could be. Data can help other projects in the future as well as other organizations, such as a conservation district or a city. The effort is not wasted at this point.

Mr. Rountry said any partner within the organization could use the data as it has much value.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2009 at Montesano. One agenda topic includes a possible presentation by Mason County on its mycoremediation project.

Mr. Wiltzius expressed disappointment with the small turnout of members for the tour.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Mr. Wiltzius adjourned the meeting at 11:40 p.m.

Prepared by Valerie Gow, Recording Secretary/President
Puget Sound Meeting Services