

**Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee
Grays Harbor County Forestry Building
Montesano, Washington
February 11, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

Minutes

MEMBERS & OTHERS PRESENT

Patrick Wiltzius, City of Chehalis
Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College

Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology (DOE)
William Gow II, Puget Sound Meeting Services

Call to Order, Introductions and Changes to the Agenda

Patrick Wiltzius called the February 11, 2010, meeting of the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Water Quality Committee (WQC) to order at 9:36 a.m.

Discussion on Water Quality Monitoring Program Sites

Mr. Wiltzius said the discussion will focus on narrowing the sampling sites for the Water Quality Monitoring Program within the basin to assist the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. He referred to Dave Rountry's email with some suggestions.

Mr. Wiltzius suggested that instead of cutting sites from monitoring, the committee could forward a recommendation based on input provided by Mr. Rountry with the Tribe making the final decision. The Tribe was invited to attend the committee's meeting to provide input. However, there has been no response to the invitation, which is disappointing.

Chris Hempleman asked the committee's opinion regarding Mr. Rountry's proposal. Mr. Wiltzius said the December discussion included the same general focus of narrowing it to some work in subbasins. That's where the committee left the discussion. However, he heard some other discussions and exchanges of emails about perhaps not pursuing that option and still continuing the monitoring program.

Janel Spaulding said she spoke with Mark White, who indicated that he didn't want to remove any sites unless it was absolutely necessary. He was okay with continuing monitoring. There are some sites that continuously meet water quality standards that may be removed to reduce the cost of monitoring for the Tribe. Mr. Hempleman acknowledged that long-term records are always beneficial. The monitoring program includes many sites within a large basin. She acknowledged the expense but offered no opinion on the next course of action.

Mr. Wiltzius said continuous monitoring of the good sites also ensures they are monitored to detect any potential problems.

Mr. Wiltzius expressed disappointment in the lack of attendance and the lack of input for the monitoring program. He recommended sending an email on a recommendation to all committee members and if there is agreement then forward an email to Mark White stating that the Water Quality Committee reviewed the sites and believes the next step is to begin working on source identification.

Members discussed monitoring in the upper basin near Humptulips and acknowledged Mr. Rountry's scoping of a summary study for the Humptulips area. Ms. Hempleman added that if the dam proposal moves forward, having long-term water quality monitoring data available will be important. She acknowledged the lack of funds in all areas.

**Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 11, 2010 Page 2 of 2**

Ms. Spaulding confirmed she will forward an email to members later in the day as well as mention the lack of attendance. Mr. Wiltzius commented that if people do not want to attend, it makes it very difficult to conduct business. Some of the work that was coordinated by the committee, such as the State of the River Report, is utilized by some people, which is encouraging.

Mr. Wiltzius inquired about any discussions concerning the Water Quality Committee. Ms. Spaulding indicated that the Steering Technical Committee hasn't discussed the status of the committee. The STC did not meet on February 4. Mr. Wiltzius suggested Ms. Spaulding convey information about the committee's attempt to pursue its work but it appears that the committee is becoming extinct. There was very good attendance at the December meeting. There was a good discussion on the State of the River Report with many people acknowledging that they are using the report. Mr. Wiltzius said he's committed to participating as long as something is accomplished.

Members discussed the lack of funding and a watershed coordinator with the recent departures of Joel Green and Don Loft, who provided updates on the Water Quality Monitoring Program. Members expressed some concern with potential impacts to water quality if monitoring and efforts are not continued, but acknowledged that with the lack of funding and disinterest by members, it's not realistic to continue scheduling meetings if no one attends.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Mr. Wiltzius adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

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