

Chehalis Basin Partnership:

*A Look at the Implementation Progress of
the Chehalis Basin Watershed
Management Plan and Detailed
Implementation Plan*



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Section 1: A Brief History of the Chehalis Basin Partnership and Watershed Planning

On April 9, 2004 the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) approved the Chehalis Basin Watershed Management Plan. The Watershed Management Plan (WMP) represented 5 years of collaborative work by elected officials, government staff, representatives of major interests and citizens from throughout the Chehalis Basin. It articulated the goals, objectives, and framework for water resource management in Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 22 and 23. Goals and objectives in the plan focus on water quantity, water quality, instream flows, and habitat. The next step in the watershed management planning process for the CBP was to begin working on the details regarding how best to bring the WMP goals to fruition. To do this, the CBP developed a 2007-2008 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). The purpose of the DIP would be to outline a comprehensive approach for accomplishing the goals of the WMP through prioritized strategies and interim milestones. Since we began implementing the WMP in 2004 and the DIP in 2007 we have accomplished much and have yet to compile a progress report, thus the creation of this document.

It is also important to give a brief history of watershed planning in Washington State to understand how we were created and where we've been. In 1998 the Washington State Legislature passed the Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82). Funding was allocated among watershed boundaries throughout the State allowing watersheds to form their own planning unit to begin work on watershed planning. Watershed planning was divided into four phases: organize planning unit, watershed assessment, develop comprehensive watershed management plan, and implementation. The CBP is currently in Phase 4 and is quickly approaching the end of the watershed planning process. Watershed planning allowed a bottoms-up approach for counties, tribal governments, water districts, cities, ports, citizens, business and industry representatives, and state agencies to work collaboratively to solve water-related problems and plan for a better future for water resources. The Chehalis Basin, being the 2nd largest watershed in the State presents many challenges smaller watersheds don't experience especially in terms of getting diverse interests to work together towards a common goal and funding needed for projects in an ecologically diverse basin. As funding from Legislature is finite, inventorying the actions and implementation progress is critical to show the importance of the watershed planning process to local watershed planning groups, especially the CBP.

It is important to inventory the progress made on actions within the WMP and DIP, assess the importance of each action and consider actions that have been implemented outside the scope of the WMP and DIP. Actions that may have seemed important 5 years ago may not be worthy of spending the public's money. We also need to consider new information or management approaches that could have a positive impact on the watershed. This document will highlight the work completed by the CBP and its partners since the beginning of watershed planning in 1998.

Section 2: A Table of Chehalis Basin Partnership Grants and Projects

Project or Grant Name	Date Completed	Funding Amount	Accomplishments
Phase 1: Organize Planning Unit	12/1/1999	\$75,000	Group formed through interlocal agreement, staff support to get planning process started
Phase 2: Watershed Assessment	12/30/2002	\$500,000	Level 1 Assessment: watershed specific technical assessment of geology, hydrology, water rights and use, water quality, fish habitat
Phase 3: Develop Watershed Management Plan	6/30/2005	\$500,000	Develop and adopted Watershed Management Plan, 2003 Chehalis Basin Water Quantity Evaluation
Phase 4, Year 1: Implementation	4/1/2007	\$125,000	Develop and adopt Detailed Implementation Plan, Contacted Group A Water Systems
Phase 4, Year 2: Implementation	6/30/2007	\$129,587	Data entry into Plan 2 Fund from BSU Environmental Finance Center, outreach to potential implementation partners (DIP IM 2.1)
Phase 4, Year 3: Implementation	6/30/2008	\$120,413	Refine DIP through workshop, prepared articles in Drops of Water, produced maps to help clarify water uses and rights (DIP IM 3.1 and WMP Action 13)
Phase 4, Year 4: Implementation	6/30/2009	\$121,262	Sponsored 1 edition of Drops of Water, updated DIP Education/Outreach Strategy #2, Watershed Pledge (DIP IM 2.2)
Phase 4, Year 5: Implementation	6/30/2010	\$62,500	Sponsored 1 edition of Drops of Water, Meeting minutes, Applied for Water Storage feasibility grant, Applied for grant to continue groundwater study, Overall project coordination (DIP IM 1.1, DIP IM 2.2, DIP IM 3.4)
2002 Chehalis Basin Instream Flow Study	6/30/2003	\$200,000	Conducted flow study, recommended instream flow rules (DIP IM 3.5a, 3.5b, 3.5c and WMP Action 54)
Water Quality Assessment	6/30/2003	\$170,000	Coordinated basin-wide water quality monitoring plan, fecal coliform monitoring by GH Conservation District (DIP IM 2.1 and WMP Action 37)
Multipurpose Water Storage Assessment	6/30/2003	\$100,000	Inventory/assessment of water storage needs, Multipurpose Water Storage Assessment Report (DIP IM 3.4 and WMP Actions 11 and 14)
Watershed Council Year 1 (Leg. Approp. 1)	9/30/2009	\$75,000	Sponsored Chehalis Watershed Festival, administrative support (DIP IM 2.2)
WRIA 22-23 Water Quality Monitoring	6/30/2007	\$112,000	Partnered with GHC and Chehalis Tribe to conduct basin wide water quality monitoring, developed water quality monitoring plan and QAPP, prepare State of the River Report (DIP IM 2.3)

Project or Grant Name	Date Completed	Funding Amount	Accomplishments
Chehalis Basin GIS Clearinghouse	6/30/2007	\$75,000	Develop and manage a GIS data repository, develop GIS map of Chehalis Basin to distribute to schools and organizations (DIP IM 2.3)
Watershed Council Year 2 (Leg. Approp. 2)	On-going since 2007	\$430,000	Coordinated water quality monitoring program with GHC and Chehalis Tribe, GIS Clearinghouse, education and outreach to Chehalis Basin (DIP IM 2.2, 2.3, 5.2)-Ongoing
Watershed Council Year 2 (Leg. Approp. 2-USGS)	9/30/2010	\$130,000	Water resources data collection, determine elevations of monitoring well sites, publish USGS data series report (DIP IM 1.2, 2.2, 5.2)
Planning Unit Support	6/30/2010	\$54,000	Education and outreach tasks including development of Centralia and Grays Harbor Stream Teams (DIP IM 2.2, 5.2)
Water Storage Feasibility	Not yet executed	\$250,000	Refine recommendations in 2003 Water Storage Assessment, hosted workshop to select three projects for further study (DIP IM 3.4)
Lead Entity/Habitat Work Group	On-going since 2000	\$550,000	Developed Chehalis Basin Salmon Habitat Restoration and Preservation Work Plan, maintain Habitat Work Schedule, Habitat Work Group (DIP IM 5.1, 5.2 and WMP Actions 46-52)
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	On-going since 1999	Over \$9,000,000	55 habitat restoration and acquisition projects funded, identifies project sponsors, recommends SRFB applications (DIP IM 5.1, 5.2 and WMP Actions 46-52)

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Since 1998 nearly \$11.3 million has been spent on projects focused on water quality, water quantity, and habitat throughout the Chehalis Basin. Because of the formation of the Chehalis Basin Partnership through the Watershed Planning Act this money has been spent on projects that benefit both people and fish in the Chehalis Basin.

Section 3: An Outline of Chehalis Basin Partnership Grants and Projects

Watershed Planning Grants from Dept. of Ecology funded by Legislature under Watershed Planning RCW 90.82 and ESHB 2514

Phase 1: Organize Planning Unit

- \$75,000
- timeline: Aug or Sep 1998 thru Dec 1999
- projects completed/products developed:
 - bring partners together
 - execute interlocal agreement
 - staff support
 - couldn't get more money until interlocal agreement signed

Phase 2: Contract# G0000285: Watershed Assessment

- \$500,000 initially given to Lewis County as Fiscal Agent
 - \$107,597 spent on Level 1 Assessment
 - Could not receive next funding allocation without completing Level 1 Assessment
- remaining \$392,403 out of \$500,000 given in new contract to Grays Harbor County as new Fiscal Agent
- timeline: Jan 2000-Dec 2002
- projects completed/products developed:
 - **Level 1 Assessment** contracted with EnviroVision Corporation completed December 2000. "In Dec 2000 the first step in the planning process was accomplished. First task was to assemble information and begin creation of a permanent library and a master list of documents. Next, the consulting team conducted a workshop with technical experts, local agencies, and citizens to discuss issues and concerns pertaining to the Basin. The outcome of the workshop was development of a technical approach for conducting the Initial Watershed Assessment. As a consequence, from the very beginning of the process, information and opinions were collected from throughout the Basin to provide direction for the assessment process.
 - chose 5 sub-basins for detailed analysis: South Fork Chehalis, Newaukum, Cloquallum, Lower Mainstem Chehalis, Humptulips
 - each assessment focused on geology and hydrology, water rights/water use, water quality, fish habitat/channel modifications/stocks characteristics
 - projects completed/products developed:
 - **2003 Chehalis Basin Water Quantity Evaluation** contracted with Tetra Tech/KCM, Inc. This study was done to support the Partnership in developing a watershed management plan for the Chehalis Basin...". "This report addresses the magnitude and distribution of consumptive water use in the basin. Water use information represents the most significant data gap identified in previous Chehalis Basin studies. An understanding of allocated water rights and actual consumptive use, and the difference between the two, is critical in developing the watershed management plan. **Study consisted of two major tasks:**
 - 1) Prepare a rough-cut basin-wide water balance to provide a better understanding of water budget issues in the basin.

- 2) Conduct a pilot water quantity evaluation for the group of Chehalis subbasins identified as "Priority Group 1": South Fork Newaukum River, North Fork Newaukum River, Newaukum River, Salzer Creek, Skookumchuck River, Middle Chehalis River

Phase 2 and portions of Phase 3 conducted concurrently.

Phase 3: Contract #G0000285: Develop a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

- \$500,000 for Phase 3, but had \$392,000 remaining from Phase 2, so new total grant amount of \$892,000
- timeline: Dec 31, 2002-June 30, 2005
- projects completed/products developed:
 - write WMP: components include water quality, water quantity, instream flow, and habitat
 - project management, public participation, gather information, analysis, develop draft plan, review and adopt plan
- projects completed/products developed:
 - 2003 Water Quantity study mentioned in Phase 2 also fell under Task 3 in this amendment.
 - sponsored up to 2 editions in the DOW
 - public review and adoption of Watershed Management Plan in 2004
- projects completed/products developed:
 - report on proposed implementation using Plan 2 Fund, develop proposed implementation schedule with stakeholders, work with stakeholders to develop estimated budgets for objectives and tasks

Phase 4: Contract # G0600069: Watershed Plan Implementation

Phase 4, Year 1:

- \$125,000
- timeline: Oct 1, 2005-Apr 1, 2007
- projects completed/products developed:
 - developed and approved Detailed Implementation Plan
 - contacted Group A water systems

Phase 4, Year 2:

- \$125,000
- timeline: Apr 1, 2007-Jun 30, 2007
- projects completed/products developed:
 - quarterly reports to Dept. of Ecology (administration)
 - submit monthly meeting summaries to the CBP and its committees (project coordination)
 - implement and refine DIP: data entry into Plan 2 Fund, outreach to potential and committed implementation partners through activities such as workshops, continuing to identify and secure project resources

Phase 4, Year 3:

- \$125,000
- timeline: Jul 1, 2007-Jun 30, 2008

- projects completed/products developed:
 - quarterly reports to Dept. of Ecology (admin)
 - submit monthly meeting summaries to the CBP and its committees (project coordination)
 - implement and refine DIP: outreach to potential and committed implementation partners through activities such as workshops, continuing to identify and secure project resources
 - prepared 2-3 articles in DOW
 - produce maps to help clarify water uses and rights

Phase 4, Year 4:

- \$125,000
- timeline: Jul 1, 2008-Jun 30, 2009
- projects completed/products developed:
 - quarterly reports to Dept. of Ecology (admin)
 - overall project coordination and staff support, submit monthly meeting summaries to the CBP and its committees (project coordination)
 - sponsor 1 edition of DOW
 - prepare 2-3 articles in DOW
 - Watershed Pledge
 - hosted 2 E/O workshops, hired Creative Community Solutions to help plan and facilitate workshops
 - updated DIP strategy #2, created education/outreach plan that was adopted in DIP
 - sent letter to government planning entities reminding to consider CBP plan in the development of their own land use planning

Phase 4, Year 5 (level of funding decrease in Year 5):

- \$62,500
- timeline: Jul 1, 2009-Jun 30, 2010

Other Grants to Fund CBP Projects

2002 Chehalis Basin Instream Flow Study: Contract # G0200364

- \$200,000
- timeline: May 6, 2002-Jun 30, 2003
- “this project has the goal of gathering flow data in the Chehalis Basin to:
 - prepare flow exceedance probability hydrographs for minimum instream flow control sites
 - determine if existing minimum instream flows established in 1976 are being met
 - compare actual instream flows to flows recommended in several Instream Flow Incremental Methodology studies
 - recommend “Natural Resource Base Flows” for the purposes of meeting the watershed planning goals in the Watershed Planning Act”
- projects completed/products developed:
 - conducted flow study for control points established in the 1976 minimum instream flow WAC that do not have current flow data

- flow exceedance probability hydrographs for up to 15 sub-basins where enough flow data does not currently exist
- water demand and flow recommendations in the Limiting Factors Analysis
- recommendations for voluntary natural resource base flows
- recommendations concerning closures of additional sub-basins within the Chehalis Basin to any new water allocations
- this study was the first step in establishing baseline data of low flows at locations throughout the basin and for use in evaluating regulatory minimum flows set forth in state water law

Water Quality Assessment: Contract # G0300087

- \$170,000
- timeline: Nov 1, 2002-Jun 30, 2003
- partnered with Grays Harbor CD for fecal coliform monitoring
- projects completed/products developed:
 - document existing water quality conditions, monitoring activities and TMDL's
 - identification of additional assessment work needed
 - preparation of a supplement to the Level 1 assessment
 - a comprehensive long-term monitoring plan
 - identified the regional governmental entity that oversees the Coordinated Monitoring Program
 - a coordinated basin-wide monitoring plan (this is equivalent of an Ecology QAP)
 - fecal coliform monitoring by Grays Harbor CD
 - report describing results of monitoring

Multi-Purpose Water Storage Assessment: Contract # G0300096

- \$100,000
- timeline: Nov 1, 2002-Jun 30, 2003
- concerned again about low flows in summer months and how to store water during high flows so when low flow conditions occur we have enough water to meet minimum instream flow requirements for fish and water quality
- categories of projects considered: surface water storage, wetland restoration, aquifer storage and recovery, programmatic projects, non-storage projects
- projects completed/products developed:
 - criteria for identifying and evaluating candidate storage projects
 - inventory and assessment of the water storage infrastructure needs including public and private water systems
 - candidate multipurpose water storage project list
 - feasibility analysis for 20 individual projects
 - Multipurpose Water Storage Assessment Report

Watershed Council Year 1 (Leg. Appropriation 1): Contract # G0700127

- \$75,000
- timeline: Jul 1, 2006-Sep 30, 2008
- projects completed/products developed:
 - administrative support: meeting summaries and quarterly progress reports
 - sponsored Chehalis Watershed Festival (outreach)

- grant writing to obtain further funding; activities to prioritize projects for funding and implementation; being project implementation of priority work identified in WMP and DIP (example: if we could secure funding our dream of water quality monitoring program and GIS clearinghouse could become reality)

WRIA 22-23 Water Quality Monitoring: Contract # G0700116

- \$112,000
- timeline: ?-Jun 30, 2007
- Goal: refine and implement the CBP's monitoring plan
- Partnered with GH College and the Chehalis Tribe
- projects completed/products developed:
 - developed a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan for the upper and lower Chehalis River; detailed QAPP for sample collection, processing, analysis and reporting
 - analysis of monthly water quality samples from sites throughout the Chehalis
 - developed comprehensive "State of the River" report that included synthesis and analysis of long and short-term trends in water quality; potential data gaps; recommendations for maintaining and enhancing water quality throughout the basin
 - coordinate water quality monitoring efforts among stakeholders within the basin (Water Quality Committee used as forum)
 - upload water quality data into GIS Clearinghouse and EIM database

Chehalis Basin GIS Clearinghouse: Contract # C0600362

- \$75,000
- timeline: ?-Jun 30, 2007
- projects completed/products developed:
 - coordinate GIS facility operations at GHC
 - develop and manage a GIS data repository for all surface and groundwater data within the Chehalis Basin as well as additional natural resources data and information deemed feasible
 - assist the Chehalis Basin watershed planning process by providing GIS support
 - develop GIS map of the Chehalis basin and sub-watersheds to support ongoing education programming and series of maps to support the watershed planning and recovery processes (Don Loft created the map)
 - coordinate GIS information transfer among GIS shops in the Chehalis Basin
 - a series of meetings among various GIS entities in the Chehalis Basin; creation of a protocol for GIS information transfer among GIS shops involved in natural resources management/issues in the Chehalis Basin

Watershed Council Year 2: Contract #G0800382

- \$430,000 to college (there was another amount for USGS work)
- timeline: Nov 1, 2007-Dec 31, 2009
- partnered with GH College and Chehalis Tribe
- projects completed/products developed:
 - watershed coordination (outreach). This task will be extended beyond due date
 - GIS clearinghouse: develop and manage GIS data repository for all surface and groundwater data as well as additional natural resources data and information; assist CBP by providing GIS support including salmon recovery and community-based education; coordinate GIS transfer among GIS shops within the Chehalis Basin

- collect and analyze data from 83-95 sites within the basin on a monthly basis (Chehalis Tribe)
- collect real-time data from long term monitoring probes (Chehalis Tribe)
- work with Water Quality Committee to develop priorities and annual work plan for monitoring activity in the Chehalis Basin (GH College)
- write “State of the River” report (GH College)
- upload water quality data into GIS system (Don Loft)
- produced maps and further data analysis in GIS (Don Loft)
- EDT (no work completed)

Watershed Council Year 2: Contract with USGS

- \$130,000
- timeline: Aug 13, 2007-Sep 30, 2010
- projects completed/products developed:
 - data compilation, collection, and evaluation in support of the characterization of the water resources of the Chehalis River Basin
 - create project management tools to facilitate communication between project partners and stakeholders, and to establish consistent methods and practices among project participants for project data collection, QA/QC, and archiving
 - create project website
 - establish QA/QC Plan
 - compile and evaluate currently available data and populate databases
 - identify additional data needs
 - collect additional data
 - collect and process hydrologic data
 - determine elevations of monitoring well sites
 - publish a USGS data series report
 - archive project records

Planning Unit Support: Contract # G0800037

- \$54,000
- timeline: Jul 1, 2007-Jun 30, 2010
- projects completed/products developed:
 - survey distributed to 11,000 Centralia residents on behalf of Stream Team to determine interest and importance of streams to local community
 - created Centralia and Grays Harbor Stream Team
 - write at least one bi-monthly article for DOW
 - updated CBP website
 - distributed 750 watershed pledges to Chehalis Basin residents at events like Watershed Festival (the Pledge was developed by two AmeriCorps volunteers at the College)
 - hosted 2 education/outreach workshops in May 2009 and developed a Chehalis Basin Education/Outreach Plan for CBP and other organizations to complete projects together

Water Storage Feasibility Study Grant

- \$250,000
- timeline: not executed yet
- projects completed/products developed:

- refine the recommendations for projects and programs identified in the limited multi-purpose water storage assessment completed in 2003 to select candidate storage sites for detailed evaluation
- hosted workshop in Nov 2007 to select three projects for further feasibility analysis
- group agreed to focus on wetland restoration and aquifer storage and recovery projects

Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery Work/Habitat Work Group (RCW 77.85, ESHB 2496)

- \$550,000 awarded for Lead Entity work (receive \$110,000 every two years)
- Timeline: 2000-present and on-going
- Grays Harbor County serves as Lead Entity for WRIA's 22 and 23
- Projects completed/products developed:
 - prepared limiting factors analysis
 - identified habitat projects that sponsors are willing to undertake
 - identified how to monitor and evaluate projects
 - reviews monitoring data, evaluates project performance
 - developed Chehalis Basin Salmon Habitat Restoration and Preservation Work Plan
 - maintain Habitat Work Schedule
 - update habitat restoration and protection project strategy
 - recommends SRFB applications (CBP serves as citizen's group)
 - Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program from USFWS
 - Habitat Work Group serves as forum to share project ideas and get technical advisory input

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

- \$7,600,000 from SRFB (47 total projects)
- Timeline: 1999-present and on-going
- Projects completed/products developed:
 - 41 habitat restoration and acquisition projects funded
 - identified habitat projects that sponsors are willing to undertake
 - identified how to monitor and evaluate projects
 - recommends SRFP applications (CBP serves as Citizen's group)

Section 4: Implementation Priorities

The Chehalis Basin Partnership's Watershed Management Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan contain several strategies and recommendations for watershed planning in the Chehalis Basin. Implementing the Plans could take many years and given the current financial uncertainty of watershed planning it is important to prioritize our implementation strategies. The Detailed Implementation Plan contains five strategies and implementation priorities that bring several of the Watershed Management Plan's goals to fruition. The five strategies are:

1. The Partnership recommends that the state make it clear to water rights applicants that there are flexible strategies for meeting their water rights needs given that hydraulic continuity is an issue.
2. Recommend adequate funding levels for water resources management.
3. Identify tools available to meet the Water Quantity Goals.
4. Develop approaches to keep forestry and agriculture on the land.
5. The Partnership recommends exploring a range of approaches to improve communication, coordination, and consolidation of all habitat efforts in the Chehalis Basin.

Each of these strategies contains a series of implementing interim milestones. Each interim milestone in turn has a complete work plan that includes: Tasks, Start Date, Strategy Oversight Responsibility, Committed Project Participants, Project Resources Needed, and State or Local Approvals Needed.

As is the case with most watershed planning units in the State, we are constantly thinking ahead to our future and how we will be able to address reduced funding situations. As one of the more advanced planning units in the state, we are carefully considering the best way to progress with our Plan implementation and we see prioritization of our Plan's strategies being critical to this process.