Highlights –Water Quality Committee Meeting - June 2015

What do people want to know about the quality of our surface water?

*Has it been improving over time?
*Is there more or less bacteria in the water than 10 years ago?
*What projects might have led to improvement in water quality?
*What can we do with reclaimed waste water?
*What are we all doing to monitor water quality? How can we better integrate our efforts?
*Where are the "hot spots" for pollution?
*How will climate change affect water quality in the basin?

What do people want to know about regulations?

*Are there going to be regulations that regulate "emerging contaminants" (PCBs and other endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals, etc.)
*Will stormwater and wastewater treatment regulations change?
*Will regulations change to account for the impacts of climate change?
*How can we increase equity of the regulatory burden between point and non-point sources?
*How can we promote policies that support sustainable agriculture in our watershed?

What about the Watershed Management Plan?

*Where are we at in terms of implementing the recommendations in the Plan? Which (if any) actions from the Plan have been undertaken by Partnership members, or other stakeholders?
*We could measure the success of the Watershed Management Plan, and then improve it, if we had an inventory of the activities that improve water quality to compare to water monitoring data.

What could the Chehalis Basin Partnership Water Quality Committee do?

*Generate and compile water quality improvement project ideas, and then develop and refine proposals
*Conduct outreach on available public funding sources
*Solicit water quality monitoring data from entities in the basin
*Determine where water quality improvement projects in the basin have taken place (BMPs, actions taken by municipalities, landowners, etc.) and then determine if those actions have been successful
*Communicate successes in water quality improvement in the Chehalis Basin to the public
*Encourage residents and municipalities of the watershed to adopt these successful practices
*Use existing data to identify sub-watersheds of greatest concern

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