

MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING

April 26, 2004

The Commissioners met in special session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Administration Building, Montesano, Washington, on Monday, April 26, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Bob Beerbower, Dennis Morrisette and Al Carter were present. Also in attendance was Donna Caton, Clerk of the Board. Stew Menefee, Prosecuting Attorney was not present.

Chairman Morrisette announced this meeting is reconvened from the 2:00 meeting earlier this day. He reported this hearing is to consider the following:

Chehalis Basin Partnership Draft Plan for Watershed Management in the Chehalis Basin.

The Clerk of the Board read the announcement. There was no written testimony received.

Chairman Morrisette asked for a staff report.

Lee Napier, Project Manager from Grays Harbor County Public Services, outlined the history of the Chehalis Basin Partnership that was first formed in 1997. Restructured in 1998 to respond to water issues and to guide the watershed planning effort, the Partnership became a joint planning unit. In 1999, Grays Harbor County assumed the management role from Lewis County. The partnership consists of four counties: Lewis, Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor. Four additional counties that were geographically composed of less than one-percent of the basin chose to opt out of the partnership. Lee Napier further outlined the composition of interests including the four counties, 12 cities, two tribes, two water supply utilities, The Port of Centralia, four state agencies, major interests (including agriculture, business, environmental, fisheries, and forestry), and a citizen-at-large from each of the four counties. The Partnership voluntarily undertook watershed planning to gather information, address water resource issues, and gain more local control over the water resources of the Chehalis Basin. Ms. Napier further outlined the process the Partnership undertook to develop and obtain approval of the plan. Once the Partnership approved the plan, it was then presented to the four counties for their consideration through a public process. Following the individual county public hearings, the legislative authorities for the counties will meet in joint session to consider the Plan. Lee Napier explained the composition of the Partnership included a steering/technical

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committee, water quality committee, and citizen advisory committee. The Partnership worked on a consensus basis.

Public Comment:

Brady Ingvall, speaking on behalf of Willapa/Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association, 3714 Wishkah Place East, Aberdeen, recommended adoption of this plan. Lee Napier, responding to his inquiry, stated the cost of the plan with appropriations by the legislature and grants from Department of Ecology was \$1,075,000.

Bonnie Roberts, a resident along the Chehalis River, inquired about regulation changes. Ms. Napier responded that this plan does not preempt any existing laws and focuses on voluntary response from landowners.

Action:

The Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners adjourned and will reconvene to consider the Chehalis Basin Partnership Draft Plan for Watershed Management in the Chehalis Basin during the four-county joint session on May 28, 2004.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. to Monday, May 3, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
for Grays Harbor County
This _____ day of _____, 2004

BOB BEERBOWER, Commissioner, District 1

DENNIS MORRISETTE, Chairman

AL CARTER, Commissioner, District 3

ATTEST:

Sharon Meier
Deputy Clerk of the Board