



Communities from the Bottom Up: Building Resilience and Sustainability in the Time of Extraordinary Change

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**What does community resilience & sustainability
look like to you?**

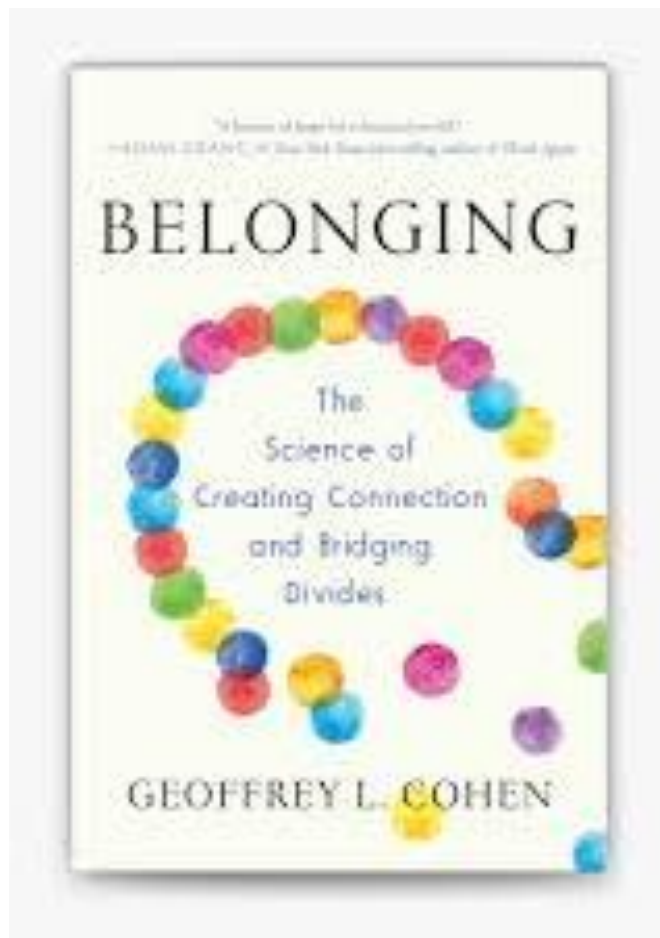


Three key themes for today

People want to contribute and belong

Your “community” may be more ready to engage than you think

We all hold the answers – and can make progress if we can listen to each other



And I think that belonging, which seems like a vague term, it kind of encompasses **a general feeling that we have when we sense that we're a valued part of a larger group.**

We feel like we matter to the group and the group matters to us. And we also feel like we can kind of be our authentic self there. So we feel like our authentic self is welcomed. And so that's what belonging is.

And I love this statement from Marina Keegan who tragically passed away. She was a Yale undergraduate. And she referred to this idea of belonging as — it was like the opposite of loneliness. - Geoffrey Cohen

<https://digitaleducation.stanford.edu/book-series/2023/Geoffrey-Cohen-belonging-science-creating-connection-bridging-divides#:~:text=And%20I%20think%20that%20belonging,be%20our%20authentic%20self%20there.>

Maslow's hierarchy



Belonging fits here too: what do we value?

One quick case study on belonging and action

Flooding in the Chehalis River Basin, Washington State



Bruce Ely, The Oregonian, Dec. 2007

Chinese Symbol for “Conflict”

衝突

Danger

—~~Opportunity~~

Inflection point



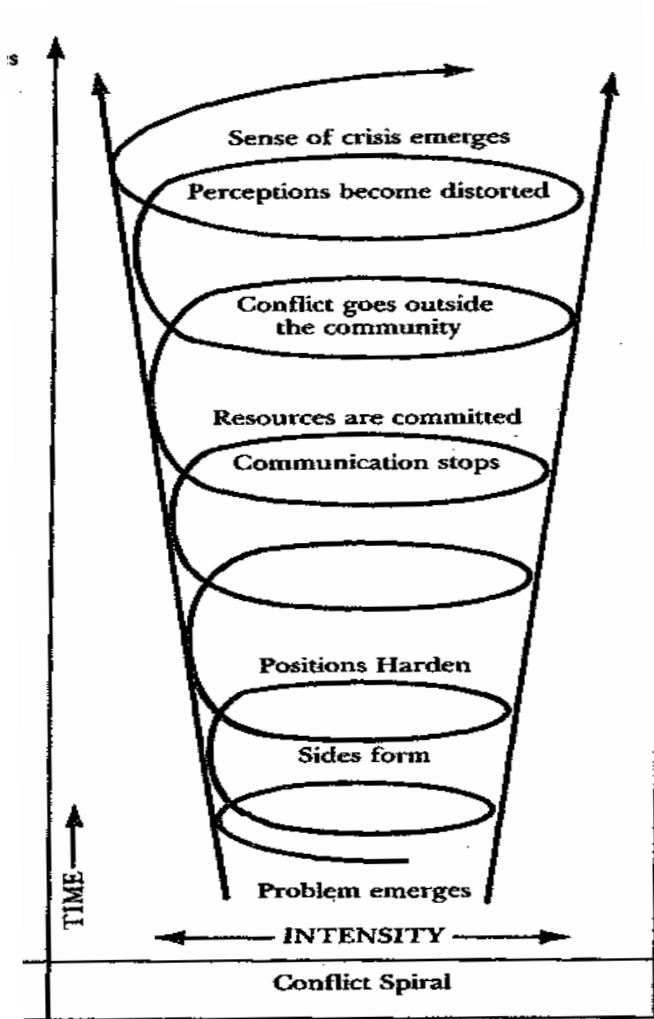
Dave Fenn (left) buys strawberries from his neighbor, farmer M. Peroni. Photo by Joshua McNichols.

Chehalis Basin Flood Hazard Mitigation Alternatives Report (2012):
<http://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/chehalis-report-12-19-121.pdf>



Chehalis Flood, 2007
Chehalis Chronicle

Spiral of unmanaged “conflict”



Carpenter & Kennedy, Managing Public Disputes (2001)

The New York Times

Anger and Blame After Deadly Flood in Northwest

By WILLIAM YARDLEY JAN. 3, 2008

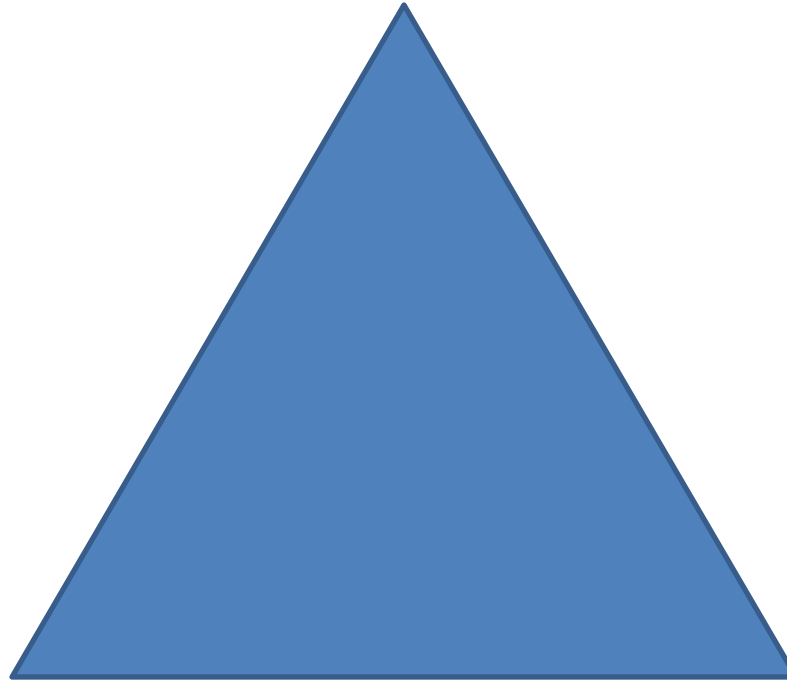


Areas of mudslides are visible along recently logged steep slopes that drain into a tributary of the Chehalis River.
Steve Ringman/The Seattle Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/03/us/03flood.html?_r=0

Underlying dynamics critical

Substance:
What are the issues?
What do you value?



People/Relationship:
Who is involved?
What is the dynamic between them?

Process:
What has been tried?
How can you constructively move forward?

Challenge

A) people tend to focus on positions, not interests

B) it's hard to know what you want (vs. don't want)

Position: something you've decided on

- “A dam will stop flooding”
- “Give me dynamite and I'll blow up the Mellen Street bridge”
- “I don't want a dam built”

Interests: values/concerns that motivate you

- health & safety, personal well-being
- livelihoods, economic development
- access to power, food, water, transportation
- [and many more]



Chehalis Flood, 2007, Chehalis Chronicle

Position:

- We need to stop the flooding

Reframe to interests:

- How do we address impacts?
- How do we meet other needs?
- What do we value?



Chehalis Basin Strategy:
Reducing Flood Damage and Restoring Aquatic Species

<http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/>

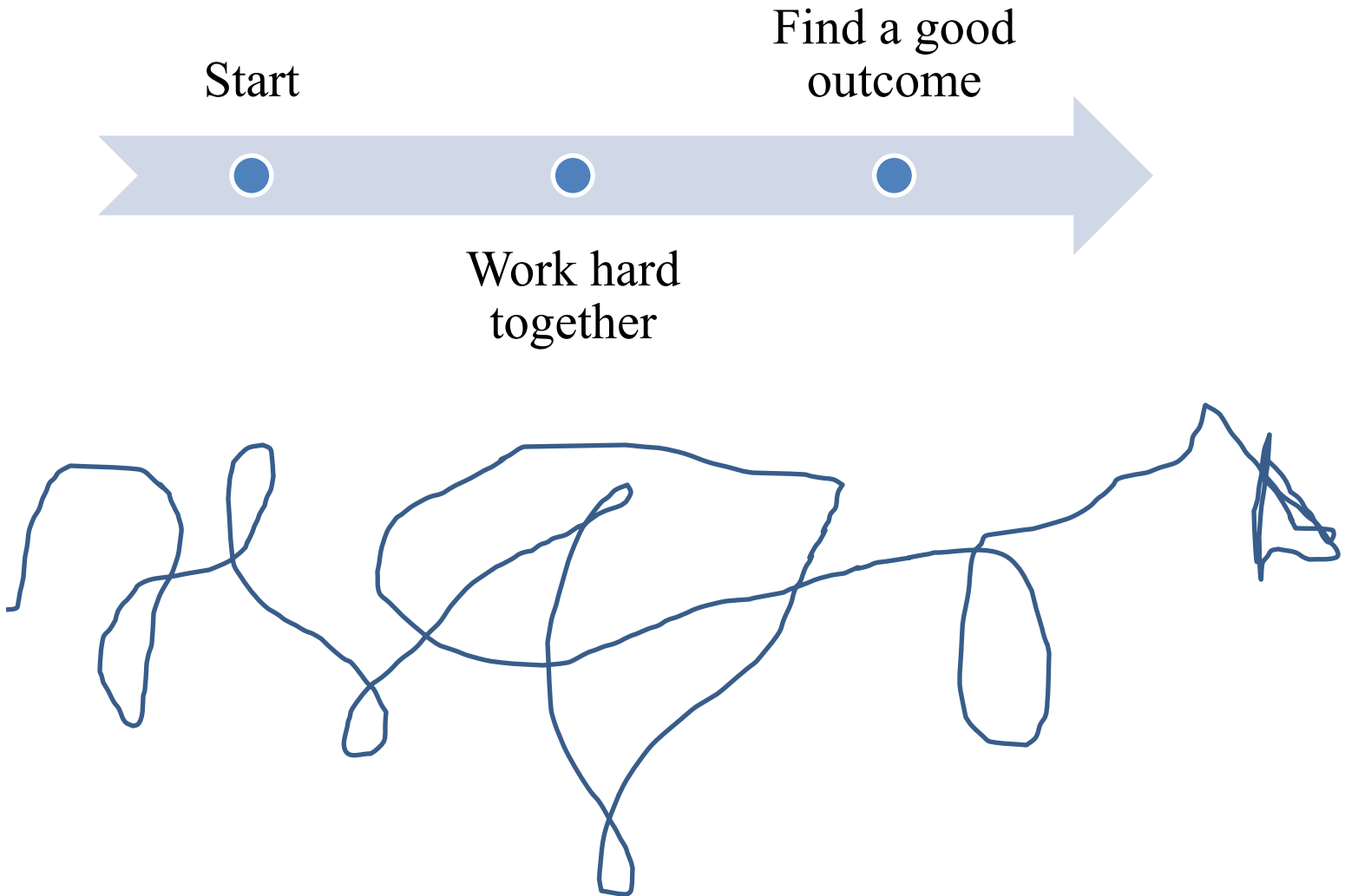
Creation of a local “flood authority” to identify, develop potential solutions



Chehalis Basin Flood Authority Meeting (Chehalis [Chronicle Photo](#))

- Support for local process
 - Direction from Gov. Christine Gregoire to identify, develop local solutions
 - Funding from state legislature for flood authority, facilitation
 - Process adapted to meet local needs: meeting rotations, tours, workshops
 - Reinforcement for local processes
- Engagement of a broad cross section of people
 - Decision makers: cities, counties, state, federal
 - Other key stakeholders: citizens, local press, NGOs, Tribes
 - Public outreach

What you want in a process vs. what it looks like



Not fast, but eventually rewarding: thirteen years from fighting to cooperation

Locals 'Frozen Out' of New Flood Group

April 21, 2011

The Chronicle
SERVING THE GREATER LEWIS COUNTY, WASH., AREA SINCE 1889

Posted: Thursday, April 21, 2011 10:50 am | Updated: 11:02 am, Thu Apr 21, 2011.

By Marqise Allen and Adam ...
0 comments

Call it a secession, coup but a "splinter group" of the Authority sent a loud message. Lewis County leadership b alternative to the three-year dedicated to solving the ca Chehalis River basin.

Lewis County officials bl saying creation of the new end-run to grab \$1.32 million funding for the flood author on the cusp of a major mee

designed to repair tattered relationships among Chehalis Basin leaders.

Crucial Flood Policy Workshop to be Held This Week

■ Outside Perspective: Conclusions Will be Included in Report to Legislature

Posted: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 7:47 am | Updated: 10:13 am, Tue Jun 12, 2012.

By Bianca Fortis bfortis@chronline.com | 0 comments

A critical workshop regarding strategies to mitigate flooding in the Chehalis River Basin will take place this Thursday and Friday at the Great Wolf Lodge.

The two-day workshop is sponsored by the Ruckelshaus Center, a nonprofit organization working to compile

Inslee Budget Allocates \$28.2 Million to Flood Relief in the Chehalis Basin

Posted: Friday, March 29, 2013 8:51 am

The Chronicle
SERVING THE GREATER LEWIS COUNTY, WASH., AREA SINCE 1889

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'Historic Step Forward' Marks Milestone in Flood Efforts

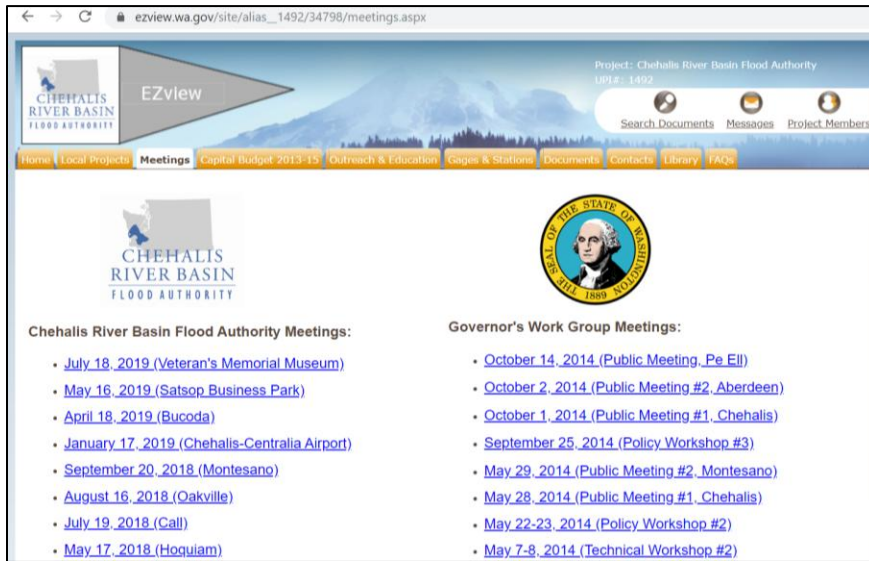
Posted: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 10:2



Floods and Fish: Proponents of Chehalis Basin Flood Protections and Fish Enhancement Joining Forces

The Chronicle · 12 hours ago

This represents a lot of time talking (and time spent creating time to talk)



Constructive engagement:

- Ground rules
- Use of consensus
- Work to build relationships & conversation (food helps!)
- Work to understand issues, concerns, fears, emotions
- Address each issue as it arose, and help people move forward constructively
- Small successes led to more progress
- Addressing uncertainty & unknowns
- Active listening = key



Hope is a critical element

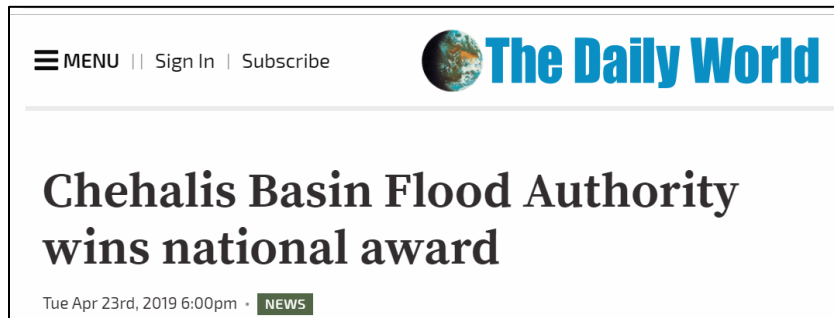


“Today, finally, we hold hope and see, for the first time, real efforts to mitigate the flooding that is sure to inundate the Chehalis River Basin again in the not-so-distant future.”

– Lewis County Chronicle Editorial

Photo courtesy of Pete Caster, *The Chronicle*

Hard work has led to recognition and – more importantly– flood risk reduction

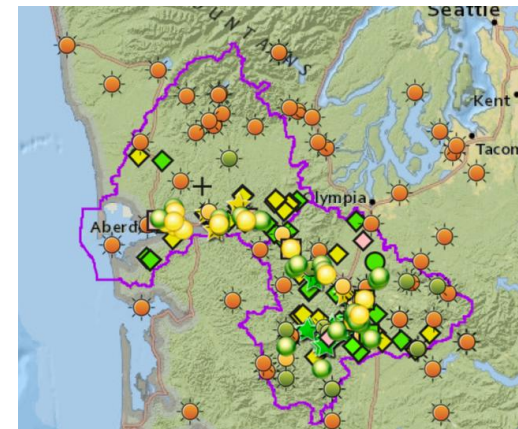


One of the Flood Authority's highlights is the small projects it's taken on, which now number more than 100 and have drawn funding totaling more than \$40 million. The group's close relationships with local municipalities has allowed it to do effective, small-scale work that has an immediate impact, said board member Ron Averill.

"The small projects, they see the value," he said. "Those all start from the grassroots level. They get identified at the lower level."



"Winning an award for getting things done — in the past, it was 'you guys aren't doing anything, you're fighting, people are walking out of meetings,'" she said. **"And here we're all together, working on the projects together.** It's very gratifying." - Edna Fund, County Commissioner, Flood Authority member



<http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/accomplishments/>

Building coalitions can result in powerful results that move from individual to community and beyond

January 2022 Flooding: What We Know Now

As immediate emergency flood response has given way to longer-term recovery and data collection during this past month, we have begun to gain a more complete understanding of how this January's flood events have affected various residents, communities, and projects across the **Chehalis** Basin.



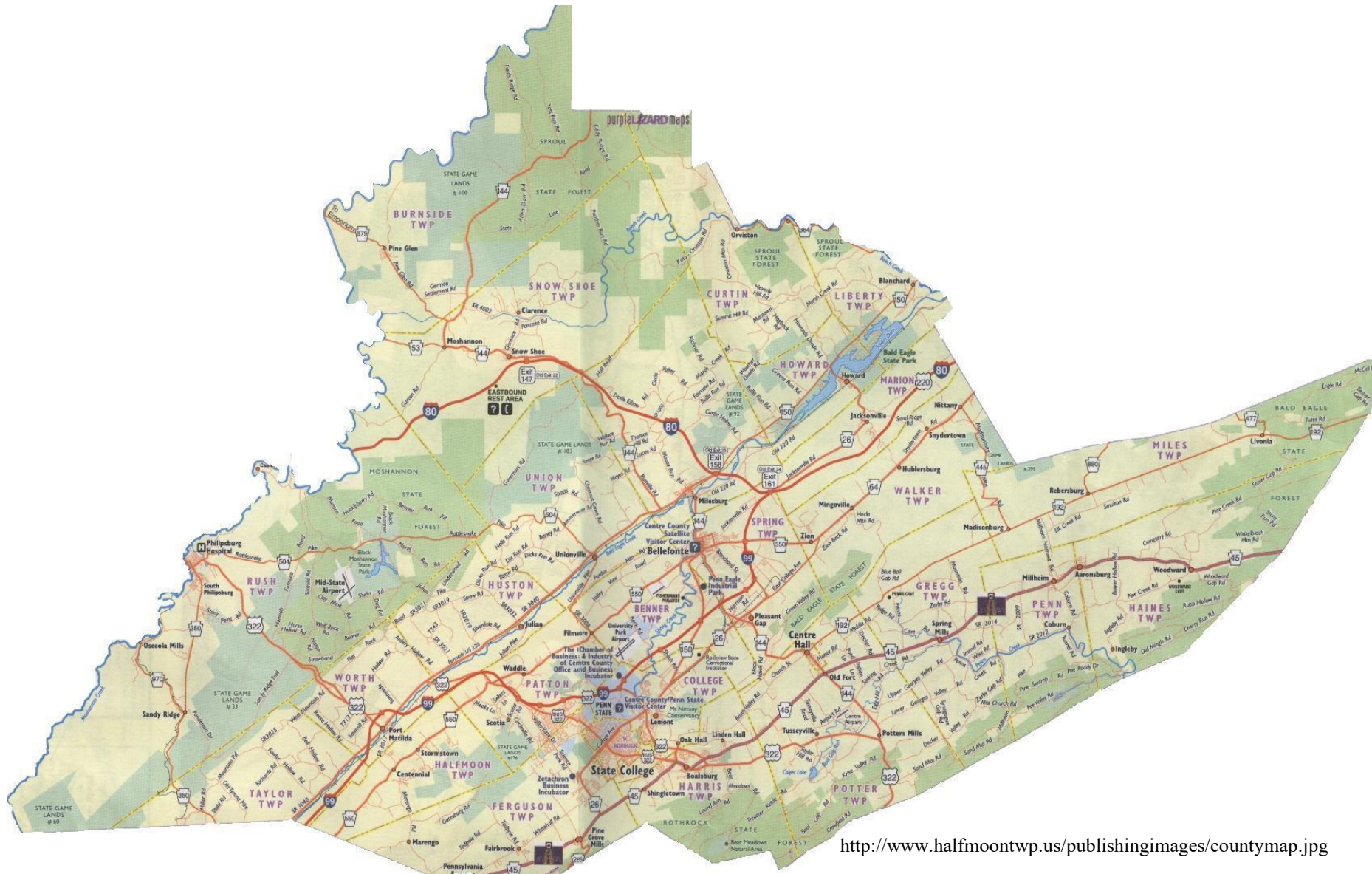
- \$13.8 million in damage
- 25k people logged onto Chehalis River Basin Flood Warning System; flood inundation maps had 75k hits
- Numerous “critter” pads used to protect livestock & farm equipment; no notable livestock loss
- Upgraded pumps in the town of Hoquiam and at the Chehalis-Centralia airport worked
- Montesano Wastewater Treatment plant worked to prevent spills; Centralia plant (not upgraded) spilled
- Various erosion, levee projects worked well, as did flood damage prevention efforts in the town of Bucoda

<https://www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/OCB-Flood-Response-FAQ->

Updated-Feb-2022.pdf

January 2022 flood helps answer the critical question of “does it work”? Yes.

International or nationally-important challenges often play out locally- the same is true here



Example from Pennsylvania- PA in the Balance



In March 2016, the “Pennsylvania in the Balance” Conference brought 100+ stakeholders together to discuss how to have good water quality and healthy & productive agriculture.

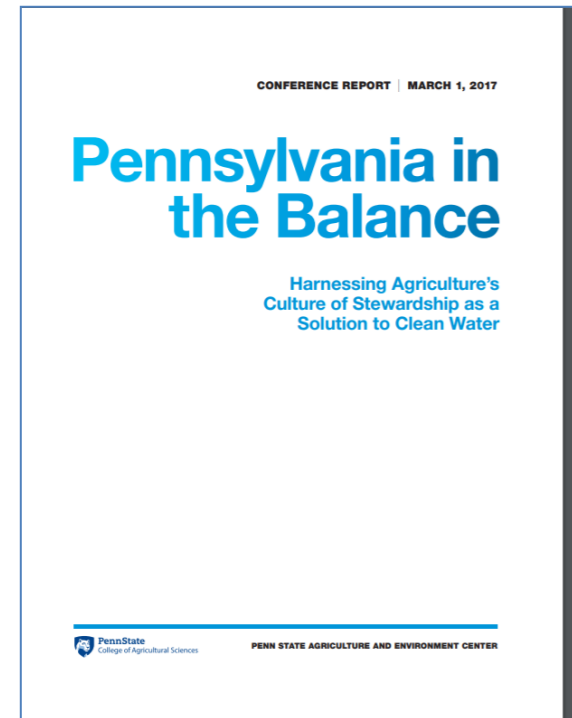
This conference feels like “we” can all try to pull together to make things better for the watershed and the Bay. It’s real lonely feeling that ag is in this alone, and to blame for what has happened.

- Conference Participant

The result? A lot of good thoughts on meeting both water quality and ensuring healthy & productive farms– and tremendous progress for PA



<https://twitter.com/agsciences/status/705529878414761984>



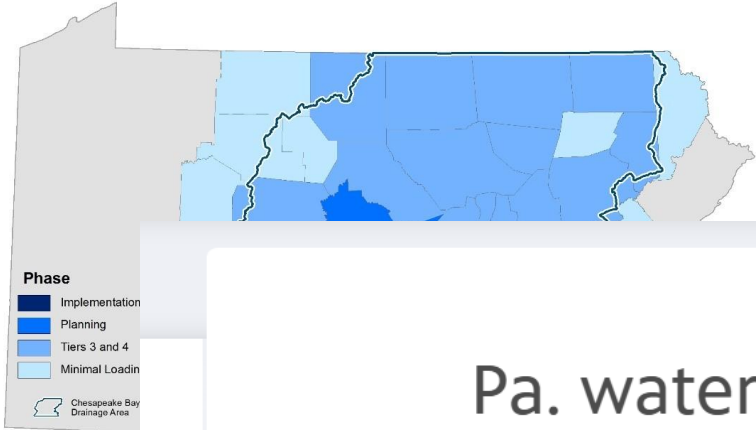
[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/Ag%20page/\(2\)%20PA%20in%20the%20Balance%20Full%20Report.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/Ag%20page/(2)%20PA%20in%20the%20Balance%20Full%20Report.pdf)

These discussions helped form the basis for PA's Watershed Implementation Plans– and good results



Potential local priorities + co-benefits:

- Clean drinking water
- Food and beverage production by farmers
- Public health
- Less erosion and flooding reducing the number of related repairs



CLIMATE & ENERGY

JULY 15, 2024 | 12:44 PM

Pa. waterways contribute to Chesapeake Bay earning its best grade in over two decades in this year's report card

wimming

Communities can, and are, working together to address issues challenging issues



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Climate



PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Working with Community-Based Organizations, we're supporting locally-driven, inclusive projects to build community resilience.

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CLIMATE SMART LOW CARBON CITIES IN CHINA

[READ MORE](#)

RESILIENT REGIONS INITIATIVE

By approaching resilience on a regional scale, individual communities can work together to withstand, respond to, and come back stronger after disruption.

[READ MORE](#)

RESILIENT VERMONT

A long-term resilience strategy developed with the input of hundreds of Vermonters.

[READ MORE](#)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS (ASAP)

Connecting and supporting the people who are building climate resilience.

[READ MORE](#)

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

We're helping the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan get

RESOURCES

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCED, PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

CHINESE AND U.S. CITIES COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE CLIMATE-SMART LOW-CARBON CITY DEVELOPMENT

LIVING BUILDING INSPIRES AT HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

AFTER COP21, WHAT ARE THE KEY ACTION STEPS FOR CITIES & THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

ACCELERATING SOLAR POWER IN ZHONGSHAN CITY

THE CLEAR SIGNAL FROM PARIS: WE'RE TURNING, TOGETHER

IMPRESSIONS FROM COP21

DAMN THE TORPEDOES – I'M HEADED FOR PARIS!

REFLECTIONS ON IRENE, FOUR YEARS LATER

BUILDING RESILIENT REGIONS

KEEPING THE FAITH IN CLIMATE ACTION

ACTING ON CLIMATE: A MORAL IMPERATIVE

IT'S ASAP TIME!

PROMOTING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH PEER LEARNING

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR INDIA TO TAKE ACTION!

**The work of addressing hard challenges can be wet,
muddy, and rewarding...
and it often starts with a few people.**



http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/DFenn-Meeting_c.jpg

What if our solutions start with something as simple as eating together, or planting trees?

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The Longest Table
is a free, community event that brings
people together for a shared meal and
conversation. It's a simple way to create
moments of joy and build stronger
neighborhoods.



Penn State Resources

- PREPARE PA – Partners for a Resilient PA
- Sustainable Communities Collaborative
- Local Climate Action Program
- Penn State Extension
- And more...



Happy to take questions, and thank you!

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