**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**

**Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2014**

The October 10, 2014 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity was held at the Lewis Conservation District Office, Chehalis, Washington. Chair Bob Amrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were:

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| ~~Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District~~  ~~Celest Wilder, Centralia College work-study student with Lewis County Public Works~~  ~~Amy Spoon, WDFW~~  ~~Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy~~  ~~Miles Batchelder, WCSSP~~ | ~~Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works~~  ~~Jane Atha, LE Coordinator~~  ~~John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions~~  ~~Dustin Bilhimer, Dept. of Ecology~~  ~~Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy~~  ~~Chanele Holbrook, Creekside Conservancy~~  ~~Alice Rubin, RCO~~ |

**Agenda Items**

Welcome and Introductions

Updates and announcements

* Chehalis Watershed Festival
* Washington Salmon Coalition meeting debrief
* Flood Authority workshop debrief
* Lead entity strategy
* Others?

Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

* final list

Conceptual projects 2014-2015

* Expanding and refining conceptual projects list
* Habitat Work Schedule

SRFB post-application next steps

SRFB scheduling 2015

Lead Entity Organization Update

Agenda for next HWG meeting November 14, 2014

**Updates and Announcements**

Chehalis Watershed Festival

The 2014 Chehalis Watershed Festival was held on October 4th and was a success overall.

Washington Salmon Coalition meeting debrief

**Chehalis water quality workshop**

Dustin Bilhimer discussed an implementation workshop focused on meeting with all of the stakeholders to talk about the priority areas and the needs of the conservation districts in advance of the 319 funding cycle. Atha distributed a write-up of what the workshop would focus on and mentioned that it would weave into the lead entity strategy as well. Bilhimer said that there are ammonia, temperature, and BOD TMDLs in the upper basin. Amrine mentioned that having a habitat focus would work well as a phase 2 project to some of the restoration work being proposed. Bilhimer said that bank stabilization projects would be good to start with since they will also address water quality. The group discussed the upcoming grant workshops as a way to find out more about Ecology funding opportunities.

**Updates and announcements**

Lead entity Strategy

John Kliem put it out to the group to discuss where the lead entity should go next in the basin. Kliem reminded us that the reason we did the Humptulips was to take advantage of Forest Service funding. Batchelder recommends going to the areas where the species are most concerned. Summer chinook have a depressed stock so the estuary and the main-stem Chehalis are two options. The group talked about the possibility of breaking it up into the lower and upper main-stem. Atha wondered about starting on the upper main-stem to piggyback onto the Governor’s Work Group currently being done in that area. Kliem expressed that it will be a lot more complex to work on the upper main-stem. Chanele Holbrook thinks we need to focus on the upper watershed in order to have landowner participation, there are also bigger water quality issues, and past Porter it is all timber industry. The group thinks that focusing on the Newaukum may be the most logical place to go next. It is smaller than the main-stem, there is existing landowner participation, and it has water quality issues to be addressed. Kliem stressed the need to put together a consistent team. Bob Burkle, Bob Amrine, Kelly Verd, Caprice Fasano, Rod Lakey, and other WDFW names came out as possible committee members.

Creekside Conservancy Benefit

Chanele Holbrook is working with the landowner of Monarch Sculpture Park in Thurston County. Creekside Conservancy has just been awarded funds to acquire the property and now there is a benefit happening in order to obtain permits and fund capacity to manage the property. In addition to the existing sculpture garden and gallery there is upland forest habitat for over 6 miles. Silver Creek runs through the property, is spring-fed, and drains into the Deschutes. WDFW has monitored salmon there for a number of years, and it is one of the few areas of refugia in the area.

**Lead entity organization update**

Atha distributed the final funding allocations for the Coast Region.

**Agenda for next HWG meeting October 10, 2014**

The October HWG meeting will revisit the lead entity strategy, SRFB technical committee comments and meetings, finalized WCRI list, and other conceptual projects.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, October 10, 2014 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District, in Chehalis.