

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

AGENDA

Monday, October 7, 2019

~ 9:30 am – 12:30 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center – Gathering Room - 461 Secena Road, Oakville, WA

Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis Co.</i> Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i> Chris Dwight, <i>WDFW</i> Emilie McKain, <i>WDFW ASRP Manager</i> Jamie Glasgow, <i>Wild Fish Cons.</i> Jason Gillie, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i> Jennifer Riedmayer, <i>ECY</i> Jonathan Bradshaw, <i>HWG Minutes</i> Kathy Jacobsen, <i>LE Outreach Coordinator</i> Kirsten Harma, <i>Lead Entity Coordinator</i> Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis CD</i> Kyrre Flege, <i>WSDA-DNMP</i> Mark Gray, <i>CRBLT</i>	Mara Healy, <i>Thurston CD</i> Miranda Plumb, <i>USFWS</i> Ned Pittman, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i> Omroa Bhagwandin, <i>Lewis County Citizen</i> Rachel Bouchillon, <i>WDFW</i> Renee Mitchell, <i>WA DNR</i> Rick Rouse, <i>Port of Chehalis</i> Rickie Marion, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i> Ryan Williams, <i>Mason CD</i> Shawn Ultican, <i>ECY</i> Thom Woodruff, <i>Capitol Land Trust</i> Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i>
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1. Welcome, Introductions

2. Organizational Business

1. Review minutes from Sept, 2019:

Rick Rouse entertained a motion to approve the notes as written, Tom Kollasch seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair, Update to 2020 Member List, Conflict of Interest language:

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were opened up. Omroa Bhagwandin nominated Bob Amrine to continue as Chair, and Thom Woodruff nominated Omroa to continue as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made.

Kirsten took the group through the member list as it stands. Bylaws require annual nomination of Chair and Vice Chair, but other membership is addressed biannually, so this year is just a review of the current list. There are vacancies that could be addressed--any input or suggestions would be appreciated.

Needed are: Citizen reps for Grays Harbor, Lewis and Thurston; additional/alternate representative for two environmental NGOs (alongside Wild Fish Conservancy & The Nature Conservancy); an additional area business/port representative; and Thurston and Grays Harbor County representatives.

Other notable changes include exit of Amy Spoon and entry of Claire Williamson (WDFW biologist housed in Region 5) as a representative for WDFW. The seat representing the Department of Ecology is currently in transition as well. Additionally, Brandon Carman has left GHCD to take a position as ASRP-grant manager at RCO.

There was discussion as well regarding adding Conflict of Interest language to Chehalis Lead Entity bylaws. Conflict of interest guidelines as used by the CLT have been offered by Thom Woodruff as a template to tailor to our needs. Guidelines were immediately and cursorily reviewed, but further input/feedback before and during discussion/approval at November's meeting is encouraged.

3. Subcommittees:

i. Culvert

A draft model is live and available online. It is a versatile GIS tool and can be used to search and highlight barriers given a myriad of criteria. It is certainly a draft version, however: known issues are currently in the process of being addressed by DFW and feedback is strongly encouraged. This is a point where changes can be made relatively easily, so check it out!

ii. Newaukum

A Newaukum subcommittee meeting was held following the present meeting. One item of note mentioned was that going forward, another round of habitat surveys will be taking place by WDFW fish program within the Newaukum.

4. Outreach

i. Your favorite habitat projects to showcase:

Kathy Jacobsen, the LE's Outreach Coordinator, discussed her past and upcoming work with the Lead Entity. Her prior and current contracts employ her to promote the work of the Chehalis LE in relevant communities. She noted her work participating last year in the Ride the Willapa event, as well as at Lake Sylvia Fall Festival. She asked for feedback on two items: First, she would like group **members to send her information on their favorite, most tangible Chehalis Lead Entity projects** --she'd like to give the public an opportunity to understand where their dollars have gone. Secondly, she hopes to bring in the author of Saving Tarboo Creek to give a talk as an event or two in the basin. Any input among members re: financial resources for outreach/education would be accepted. Honorariums for such an event can range from \$500 to \$3,000 or so. The Tarboo author would probably be somewhere in the middle. The event would either be free to the public with registration or have a nominal admission.

Also, May 16th is World Fish Migration day. Kathy is in conversation with the City of Aberdeen, the Grays Harbor Stream Team, and others. Nice to have a series of activities throughout the basin to highlight the importance of migration. More information can be found at www.worldfishmigrationday.com.

3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) (10:20)

1. Launch of the 2020 SRFB Grant Round

Kirsten gave an overview of the upcoming 2020 grant round, which will officially start today (10/7) with a citizen-level press release. The 2020 grant round will reflect that changes of the LEAN process. Some upcoming dates follow: Conceptual Project Presentations will begin to be presented for review at HWG meetings beginning next month; Jan 27th - conceptual project forms due; two weeks before site visit

dates - complete application are due for SRFB; February through May - site visits will occur. HWG members decided to request the week of April 13th for their site visits.

The 2020 updates to Manual 18 will be coming out soon. There will be a new application and a new statewide workshop on January 14th. We will still do our local pre-app workshop at whatever HWG meeting precedes the deadline. There are also streamlining and enhancements within PRISM that should improve that process.

2. 2019 Chehalis Lead Entity project list – SRFB Review Status

Some 2019 projects came back with some issues that need resolved: Jones Road (Thurston County) and Hamilton (LCD) both are NMI- have some unresolved questions and lack some necessary information. Nothing too major. MF Hoquiam (GHCD) needs to be reviewed for its objectives. The state wants very specifically laid-out objectives. Satsop/Wynoochee (GHCD) received a POC rating as a result of its lack of site specificity given that it is requesting construction funding. GHCD is willing to pull the project from the LE list so its funding doesn't get swept--the design and planning elements of the project will go forward with secured funding. GHCD asked, though, that in future grant rounds potential concerns of this magnitude are more clearly articulated earlier in the process, when they could be addressed. Oct 22nd, the Regional Meeting of the review panel will take place. At this point, the decision will be made whether or not to sustain the POC. After that, the decision whether or not to pull it from our list would be made before Nov. 6th.

3. Planned Project List Development for SRFB

Kirsten led a discussion clarifying the vision with the "Planned Project List." It is understood that neither PCSRF funding nor the grass-roots nature of the SRFB process work well with having a list of projects in hand before funding is allocated by the legislature. However, there is a significant advantage to sending a clear articulation of funding needs to the legislature with the LE liaison. In recent decades, salmon funding has increased as a whole, but little of that increase has come to the LEs. It is hoped that developing this Planned list can provide clearer justification and more leverage to bring in more funding. By having a running planned project list that is well-maintained and robust, we can always have a list available when the legislators are working out a budget. We've made it clear that re-hauling our review process is not tenable--but if we have a meaningful list that is kept ready to go, we should be able to realize the benefits of sending a list without compromising our process. Going forward, then, its looking like the SRFB review process will be mostly unchanged--but in order to do so, some form of technical committee will need to be put together to create and maintain a robust Planned Project List. There is a lot of collaboration happening right now toward developing and fleshing out that list. Any additional information regarding completed, current or potential projects throughout the basin is welcomed.

4. ASRP

1. ASRP Update:

The Phase I document is complete! It will be released Nov. 15th. Comments can be made through mid-January on the Chehalis Strategy website. Presentations on Phase I are a standing offer--any interested parties should reach out to Emelie to request a presentation.

Regarding the ASRP process, in general, anyone with significant input can communicate with Kirsten: she is the Lead Entity's representative on the ASRP Steering Committee, a liaison to the review team and is currently working on that internal document review.

The possibility of having an ASRP representative sit in an official capacity on the HWG was floated: initial response from HWG was positive. It will be brought up for discussion and a vote in the future.

2. Small projects grant round update

Emilie McKain led a discussion on the upcoming ASRP small projects grant round. The grant round will open in Mid-November, with the release of the Phase I document. It will be an annual grant round run through RCO with a review team set by the Steering Committee. It's acknowledged that there's a lot of overlap with the HWG here, and the ASRP folks are looking at the HWG process to avoid reinventing the wheel.

DISCUSSION

Q: What is a Small Project?

A: The ASRP has two categories for projects: small projects and reach-scale projects. A "reach" is defined as more than a mile, with multiple efforts combining over a large area. A "small" project is any other individual project. We'd encourage phasing for large projects, and are not requiring match for this grant round.

Q: What are the limits re: timing, funding round?

A: This round, we are not requiring projects to be construction-ready. Designs, permit/construction, project development are all good options at this point.

Q: For those that do apply, when is funding available?

A: We're shooting for contracts ready by spring 2020 to allow construction for the next fish window. Site visits/ranking will take place over the winter. Apps will be due February, with site visits and ranking in March. Applications will then be put through approval by the end of April.

Q: How will you be factoring in priority-area status to the point value of projects?

A: We're working on that. With the ASRP, we are starting with our focus on scenario one, priority area work. This doesn't mean there's a hard "no" if a project is out of the priority areas--but those projects will be ranked against ones that do.

3. Early Action Reach Updates (CDs)

i. Grays Harbor CD:

Forterra has closed on their first acquisition within the Satsop Early Action Reach: the Sonnier property. This is a real win-win situation: it's an ideal property for restoration, and the landowner is pleased. Concrete details are being discussed between the landowners and land trusts. The conversations the CD has had with landowners have been productive. They've been able to communicate meaningfully about what the river is doing, what it needs, and the tools that are available to address issues. There is a mix of LO involvement throughout their reaches: some are leaning in as the rubber hits the road, others are starting to back off. The reality of how everything is starting to shake out is coming into focus.

ii. **Thurston CD:**

Conversations in the Skookumchuck Early Action Reach are also starting to happen on the ground in Thurston County. Mara (TCD) and Thom (CLT) have been engaging with landowners to see what kinds of acquisitions will be viable. Emilie noted that pre-project monitoring has started on these reaches. There are temperature loggers on all 5 reaches, and they are hoping for construction in 2020.

5. Chehalis Lead Entity Strategy Chapter Review

1. Chehalis Mainstem

Rickie Marion presented on the Chehalis Mainstem portion of the Chehalis Strategy document. The presentation is available on the Chehalis Lead Entity website, or by request. In general, Rickie found the document's characterization of the mainstem to be consistent with her knowledge.

2. **Upcoming** – November: Black (Thom), Lincoln (Rick), Skookcumchuck (volunteer needed); December: Cloquallum (Ryan), Humptulips (Luke); January: Wynoochee (Tom), South Bay (volunteer needed)

6. Ecology Presentation: Water Quality Findings - Stearns Creek

Jennifer Riedmayer and Shawn Ultican followed up on a presentation given at a previous HWG meeting. They had previously shared the occurrence of non-point pollution in Stearns Creek, west of Chehalis, and planned monitoring. This month, they shared their findings. Their presentation can be found on the Lead Entity website, or else by request.

Briefly, ECY was following up on concerns brought up by the Chehalis Tribe regarding high fecal coliform levels in the summers of 2017 and 2018. They worked with landowners leading up to and throughout the monitoring process, and were able to have positive relationships with them throughout. There were several potential sources of pollution in the stream basin, and their findings highlighted hotspots of pollution, but no definitive sources of pollution were nailed down. However, over the summer of 2019, notably after engagement with landowners had been established, the coliform count was significantly lower than the previous two summers. ECY sees this as at least suggestive of relationships and conversations with landowners resulting in better property management practices. Next steps include: going forward with the BMPs that some landowners voluntarily started; putting in exclusion fencing; better practices in cattle management.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is the tree farm in the basin a concern?

A: Not as regards coliform, which was the focus here.

Q: Are there tools to trace pollution sources more precisely?

A: Yes. We can take genetic fingerprints, to see what kind of sources exist. But: this is expensive, slow, and not foolproof. There's a pretty high cost/benefit barrier.

7. “Chehalis Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization” – Overview of new tool

Chris Dwight and Rachel Bouchillon (WDFW GIS specialist) ran through the newly operational Chehalis Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization tool and gave a demonstration. The purpose of this work is to provide funders, sponsors and other parties with a tool to search and determine priority projects within the basin based on a wide range of relevant information and layers. Barriers can be queried by rank, ownership, species, passability, habitat gain, etc. WDFW has funding to work out known and yet-to-be found issues, and so that is the focus going forward. WDFW is looking to keep this maintained on an annual basis.

It is available for review: <https://dev-geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/ChehalisPrioritization/index.html>

Also of note, the tool connects to the WDFW database where site photos and a site report can be accessed. The tool is optimized for Chrome.

8. Other Business

****Next month’s HWG meeting will take place at the Fairfield Marriott****

9. Closing (12:30)