

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Habitat Work Group Meeting

November 6, 2017

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Chehalis Tribe Community Center Gathering Room
Oakville, Washington

In attendance:

Alice Rubin, *RCO Grant Manager.*
Brandon Carman, *Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.*
Brett Demond, *Citizen*
Charissa Watters, *Thurston County*
Garrett Dalan, *Nature Conservancy*
Greg Green, *Ducks Unlimited*
Jamie Glasgow, *Wild Fish Conservancy*
Janet Strong, *Chehalis R. B. Land Trust*
Jess Helsley, *Coast Salmon Partnership*
Kathleen Berger, *Thurston Cons. Dist.*
Kelly Verd, *Lewis County Cons Dist.*

Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*
Luke Kelly, *Trout Unlimited*
Mara Healy, *Thurston Conservation Dist.*
Maria Hunter, *WDFW ASRP*
Miranda Plumb, *USFWS*
Rich Osborne, *Coast Salmon Partnership*
Steve Hallstrom, *Citizen*
Stu Trefry, *Washington State Conservation Commission*
Tom Kollasch, *Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.*

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Everyone provided self-introductions. A few members provided updates.

2. Organizational Business

a) Review of Minutes from September 2017

Steve Hallstrom made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded. All in favor.

b) Elections: Chair and Vice Chair

Kirsten announced that our current bylaws state that the position of Chair and Vice Chair are up for renewal each October. Bob Amrine is interested in continuing as Chair. We will need a new Vice Chair. Anyone interested in that position may express interest and be considered for a vote to take place at the September Habitat Work Group meeting.

c) Review Draft Bylaws

Kirsten presented the nearly final draft bylaws, which had been sent out for review prior to this meeting. Tom Kollasch had suggested changes for reference to the “quorum.” He suggested that all attending members count towards meeting the quorum, and up to 2 people can abstain due to conflict of interest and have the quorum still met. Regarding membership, the group suggested combining the city, Port and business interest seats for a total of 2 seats, since these are typically hard to fill. Suggested additions for Ex Officio seats: Coast Salmon Partnership and the Conservation Commission.

Action: The group will vote on the new Bylaws at the December meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Votes can also be submitted by mail if attendance is not possible.

d) Subcommittee updates

Neither the Newaukum nor the culverts subcommittees have met recently.

3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board still needs to decide on whether or not there will be a 2018 grant round. They will make the decision on strategies and directions at their December 7th meeting. At this point there is no staff recommendation. There will be opportunities for public comment at the meeting.

4. ASRP and Chehalis Strategy

a) ASRP Updates & Discussion – Draft of Phase I

Maria Hunter gave a presentation on the first draft of the Phase I document of the ASRP. It is basically a summary of science and modeling and assessment of expected costs to achieved projected benefits. The intended audience is the Chehalis Basin Board. It is not the full ASRP and will not have many details on implementation or adaptive management. The draft will be available for review on November 30th. Feedback will be due by the end of January. The Chehalis Basin Board will make a policy decision based on the document, which will determine the direction for Phase II of the ASRP.

A few comments from the group included:

- Reconsider assumptions on the time needed for stewardship. It takes over a year to remove invasives.
- Refine your assumptions about scalars by considering landowner willingness
- Note that your program costs are in present \$ and don't account for inflation

-Be cautious about making promises about fish gain attached to a monetary value. That happened for the Intensively Monitored Watersheds – promises were made for returns and then returns weren't seen - there are lessons to learn there.

-Compare stream temperature here to the rest of the state. The Chehalis and rest of the coastal watersheds may have the only waters cool enough to support salmonids by the 2080s. If you are trying to get the Board to understand that, you should make a comparison to other watersheds in Washington.

-State whether or not the projected benefits will be to hatchery or wild salmon only

Q) How do we convey this to the public? How do we lay out what this is and when it will be more substantive and when it will be more appropriate for them to engage?

A) There are still a lot of policy discussions that need to happen. Phase II will be completed by the summer and will be of more interest to the public. This is a public document and people are welcome to read it, but it's not intended as a communication tool to the public and landowners.

b) Call for Proposals – ASRP Barrier Projects

The Call for Proposals has gone out for barrier projects. Applications are due December 13th. Language regarding assessments was mistakenly left in from the previous Call for Proposals. We still don't know how much will be available to fund these projects.

The RFQs for design consultants for the “reach scale” work are still being reviewed. A subcommittee is putting together a ranked list of candidates. No one can be selected nor can contracts be drafted until there is a budget.

c) Chehalis Basin Board meeting report

This was mostly an information sharing meeting. A decision was made about moving money from active projects to fund the remaining Chehalis Strategy efforts that need to continue through at least February 2018. \$630,000 will be available to fund efforts for the next three months, covering the priorities outlined by the Office of the Chehalis. Since this is considerably less than has been going towards these efforts thus far (circa. \$1.3 million per month) all activities will take place at a reduced level.

d) Other

There being no other business, the Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:58.

Next HWG meeting: Monday, December 4, 2017.