

## **Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**

### **Habitat Work Group Meeting**

**December 4, 2017**

**9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Chehalis Tribe Community Center Gathering Room  
Oakville, Washington

#### **In attendance:**

Alice Rubin, <i>RCO Grant Manager.</i>	Kathleen Berger, <i>Thurston Cons. Dist.</i>
Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis County</i>	Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis County Cons Dist.</i>
Amy Spoon, <i>WDFW</i>	Kirsten Harma, <i>Watershed Coordinator</i>
Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis County Conservation Dist.</i>	Lonnie Crumley, <i>Fisheries Task Force</i>
Cade Roler, <i>WDFW</i>	Mara Healy, <i>Thurston Conservation Dist.</i>
Eric Johnson, <i>Thurston Conservation Dist.</i>	Miranda Plumb, <i>USFWS</i>
Garrett Dalan, <i>Nature Conservancy</i>	Omroa Bhagwandin, <i>Citizen</i>
Greg Green, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i>	Rich Osborne, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i>
Jason Gillie, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Rick Rouse, <i>Port of Chehalis</i>
Jamie Glasgow, <i>Wild Fish Conservancy</i>	Steve Hallstrom, <i>Citizen</i>
Janet Strong, <i>Chehalis R. B. Land Trust</i>	Stu Trefry, <i>Washington State Conservation Commission</i>
Jess Helsley, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i>	Thom Woodruff, <i>Capitol Land Trust</i>

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions.**

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

#### **2. Organizational Business**

##### **a) Review of Minutes from November 2017**

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

##### **b) Vote on Bylaws**

Over the past year, the Bylaw Subcommittee has been working on updating the Lead Entity bylaws. The Habitat Work Group was presented with the draft bylaws at the previous meeting and in advance of this meeting. The existing bylaws call for a “two thirds majority” to vote on the bylaws. Thirteen voting members were present at the time of the vote. Two members unable to make the meeting had submitted a “support” vote via e-mail prior to the

meeting. Steve made a motion to adopt the new bylaws. All in favor.

**c) 2018 Member List**

An addendum to the bylaws is the Habitat Work Group membership list. Kirsten presented the list of organizations and the organizations' pick to fill the seats to the group. Steve made a motion to approve the list. Thom seconded. All in favor. Since the draft list had been sent out to the group for review, Rick Rouse put forward his name to fill one of the vacant cities/businesses/port seats. His Board will send a support letter after their regular meeting. Janet made a motion to approve Rick filling a cities/businesses/port seat. Thom seconded. All in favor.

**d) Elections Chair and Vice Chair.**

The 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. Thom made a motion to elect Bob as Chair. Lonnie seconded. All in favor. Omroa volunteered to fill the seat of Vice Chair. Thom made a motion to elect Omroa as Vice Chair. Ann seconded. All in favor.

**e) Thurston CD letter**

Kathleen Berger made a request for a letter expressing community support for the work of the Thurston Conservation District and their participation in the Habitat Work Group. Their funding ends January 1, 2018, and they do not know if they will get new funding in the new year. Kirsten had drafted a letter to be considered by the Habitat Work Group to be sent from the group. The draft was sent out to the group prior to the meeting. Kathleen handed out a written request for letters of support, as well as a sample letter.

The Habitat Work Group discussed the pros and cons of sending a letter "from the group."  
Pros: The letter is clear and expresses support for one of our members.  
Cons: It's not necessarily fair for our group to support one of our members or advocate for their funding. If we ask for support for one participant, we should ask for support for all participants. A "multiple signature" letter option was proposed so that members who don't want to sign don't have to sign. This was countered with the argument that it takes a long time for each member to go back and get their own organization to sign. Another argument was that although the bylaws of our group say that we vote by majority, if a letter isn't supported by everyone, it doesn't feel right to send it "from" the group.

The group largely agreed that each member organization could send their own letter if they wish. A possible solution could be that Kirsten give a presentation about the value the

Thurston Conservation District staff bring to the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity process.

**f) 2018 HWG Meeting Schedule**

A regular meeting time is needed for the Habitat Work Group in 2018. The group has historically met the second Friday of each month. Recently, the group has been trying the first Monday. Everyone present at the present meeting (on a Monday) was in favor of Monday meetings. The group asked Kirsten to see who couldn't do Mondays before deciding on the final schedule. The group asked that this be defined as "the first working Monday" for the instances where Monday is a holiday.

**3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)**

**a) Updates**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board is going to be meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss what to do about a 2018 grant round in light of the current lack of a budget. RCO and GSRO staff are not going to make a recommendation. SRFB will likely need to make a decision about whether or not to have a grant round, and whether or not to delay it.

**b) Pre-Application Workshop**

This was not discussed

**c) Conceptual Project Presentation**

Lewis Conservation District

Kelly Verd presented two conceptual projects. The first is on Berwick Creek and was reviewed in the 2017 grant round. She has talked with the downstream landowner about their culvert, which she cited as "not ideal" for flow conditions, but as not a fish barrier, either. The landowner is not interested in replacing the culvert.

Q) Are you working with the Port to encourage them to resubmit their project proposal (downstream on Berwick Creek)?

A) Yes.

Q) Is the culvert eligible for FFFPP?

A) Maybe. This project will be "design-only"

Q) Are there Steelhead in Berwick Creek? The 2017 project reviewers weren't sure.

A) Suitable habitat has been observed. It also shows up as suitable in the IP model. A 2000 survey by Parametrix reported observing them in the creek.

The second project is a puncheon close to Lincoln Creek, on an unnamed tributary to the Chehalis. It is currently not on the WDFW barrier map, but has a P.I. of 17.83. The project site is on land under a conservation easement with the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, who is aware of and supportive of the project.

Q) Is there a water elevation difference?

A) We will need to do a survey as part of our design.

Comment – You should add monitoring to your proposal, even if the cost is higher.

Comment – Adding “rock bands” to maintain the ponds would get rid of monitoring requirement.

### Ducks Unlimited

Greg Green of Ducks Unlimited is working on a proposal to conserve a 1,750 acre parcel with 600 acres of wetland near Grayland. An NWI grant has been secured in the amount of \$1,000,000. They are also expecting \$500,000 as part of the WCRI grant round. They still need to raise approximately \$1 million and hope to close the project by December 2018. Greg asked for ideas on next steps. He noted that they can’t commit to any specific restoration opportunities before the property is purchased and before rolling ideas out to the community.

Comment - Note if the wetlands are connected to the salt water or not. Consider a levee removal as a future project.

Comment - Consider the impacts of any change in hydrology. If there are cranberry bogs nearby and hydrologically connected, you can’t change hydrology.

Comment - You might want to talk to the Quinault about matching funds.

### Wild Fish Conservancy

The Wild Fish Conservancy is proposing a feasibility and design project to address a barrier to fish passage immediately downstream of their Carlisle Lake project, Onalaska. That barrier was not included in the original project scope. Correcting the barrier would improve fish passage, as well as allow for more natural flows downstream of the Carlisle Lake. Having a design for this crossing will allow WFC to design a better roughened channel since they will know what the downstream geomorphology is going to be.

Q) Why won’t Lewis County do this project? It is their culvert.

A) It is not a priority for the County, and would cost about \$1 million to replace. If the culvert fails, they might just not use the road anymore. There’s just a gravel storage pit on the end. Wild Fish might discuss options with the County as part of their feasibility work.

Q) Are there more barriers upstream (of the ones being corrected in the current WFC proposal)?

A) There are more partial barriers upstream.

#### **4. ASRP and Chehalis Strategy**

##### **a) ASRP Phase I – Overview and Technical Q&A**

Merri Martz from the ASRP Technical Review Team was available by phone to answer any technical questions about the ASRP. HWG members had just received the ASRP Phase I document the previous Friday and were not prepared to ask questions. Members asked that there be time at our January meeting to review the document and get questions answered. They would like to request an extension on the comment period so that they can compile comments and present them to the Chehalis Basin Board, if possible. In the meantime, Kirsten will collect any questions people have and forward them to Tim Kramer, WDFW, in order to get answers prior to the end of the comment period. She will also ask for an extension on the comment period. Members also suggested presenting our group's comments to the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Steering Committee.

Kirsten presented a Power Point with an overview of assumptions in the ASRP. She pointed out some key considerations for people to think about while reviewing the document. She will send the group the presentation as a pdf.

##### **b) ASRP Barrier Grant Round Schedule**

The Call for Proposals is out. Applications are due December 13.

##### **c) Other Business**

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:20.

Next HWG meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018.