

Chehalis Basin / Grays Harbor Lead Entity

Habitat Work Group Meeting

January 8, 2016

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Lewis Conservation District Office - USDA Service Center
1554 Bishop Road
Chehalis, Washington

In attendance:

Alice Rubin, RCO
Amy Spoon, WDFW
Brett DeMond, *Streamworks*
Bruce Treichler, *Citizen*
Bob Amrine, *Lewis County Conservation*
Caitlin Guthrie, *Capitol Land Trust*
Dustin Bilhimer, *Ecology*
Jamie Glasgow, *Wild Fish Conservancy*
Jan Strong, *Chehalis Basin Land Trust*

Kirsten Harma, *Lead Entity Coordinator*
Lonnie Crumley, *CBFETF*
Miranda Plumb, *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
Omroa Bhagwandin, *Onalaska Citizen*
Rich Osborne, *WCSSP*
Stacy Polkowske, *WDFW*
Steve Hallstrom, *Chehalis Land Trust*

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Everyone provided self-introductions.

2. Contract / 2016 Coordinator Work Plan

Kirsten shared the news that she has been approved for funding from the Chehalis Strategy monies to increase the amount of time she puts towards the Lead Entity work over the next year, in order to accommodate increased involvement with the Chehalis Strategy work. The funding is being managed through the RCO as part of her existing contract and all tasks fit under the existing Scope of Work. She mentioned that since she hopes to still be able to put a minimal amount of time towards the Chehalis Basin Partnership work (0.2 FTE), there will be additional funds available for contracting out some of the tasks in the Lead Entity scope of work.

Jamie mentioned that using Lead Entity funds for project development would be beneficial, and there are models on how to do with in WRIAs 13/14 and 18/19 . Kirsten will work with Marilyn (Grays Harbor County) to see if similar sub-contracts can be developed through the County.

Alice suggested that additional people who have critical expertise could also ask for their own contract for participation in implementation of the Chehalis Strategy.

Rich mentioned that Miles has also requested Chehalis Strategy funds to support entering Chehalis Basin project data into the Habitat Work Schedule.

3. SRFB Updates

Alice said she doesn't know anything new about the Large Capital proposal. Alice said this proposal is currently being reviewed through the region.

Ann Weckback asked the group for feedback on the WCRI funded Scammon Creek proposal. She handed out paper information packets to meeting participants.

4. Chehalis Basin Strategy/ Aquatic Species Restoration Plan/ Habitat Restoration and Protection

a) Update on Landowner Outreach meeting

Bob reported that there will be a CRM led landowner outreach meeting on February 2nd in Onalaska Elementary, from 6:30-8:30 pm. This will be the first of two proposed meetings specifically targeted at landowners in the Newaukum. For the second meeting, agency representatives may be invited to do presentations. At that meeting there will be a smaller group of participants.

Kirsten reported on the Chehalis Strategy landowner outreach efforts being coordinated by consultant Penny Mabie with EnviroIssues. Kirsten and Bob attended the first meeting to discuss this strategy. They are currently meeting with Conservation Districts and will be setting up additional meetings and focus groups around the basin.

Response from meeting participants – Public won't want to talk to consultants. Conservation Districts should be point of contact with landowners. They want Penny to know about all of the contacts with the public through WDFW crews, and that the Conservation Districts should be the ones working with the public. They also want to caution her about interacting with landowners at the Feb 2nd meeting in the Newaukum,

since they might not like the fact that she is a consultant from Seattle. They hope she won't be at the forefront, but rather just observe.

Kirsten reported that her impression is that Penny is open to talking with people here to understand these issues. Bob will also pass on the group's comments to Penny when he meets with her on Monday.

Amy mentioned that new people will be interested in bank restoration projects this year, especially given all the new erosion and evulsions in the Satsop. It will be important that outreach be spread to those people.

Omrah asked how to respond to a landowner who asks why all this tax money is being spent here. Bob said he usually answers – if we don't use it, some other County will. Jamie said, also stress how each project will fit into the Strategy, and that these projects will benefit all of us. Bruce said stress how projects will benefit each landowner individually.

b) Star Project request discussion

Kirsten mentioned that another project that is part of the Chehalis Strategy is to make a film featuring “Star restoration projects” in the Chehalis. A consultant from Seattle is contracted to do the film. Alice and Miranda mentioned that WaHoo films would be a good option to do films. Miranda thinks the Chehalis can benefit from videos, but if the residents are going to watch them, they need to go out on the right channels. Rich mentioned that WCSSP also has a grant for outreach that could include a film. Rich stressed that the new movie maker would need to coordinate with the WCSSP efforts.

Regarding the request for key restoration project “success stories” to promote:

- Caitlin mentioned Capitol Land Trust's acquisition projects. Bob cautioned framing and addressing issues on “tax base” and “access”
- Alice suggested highlighting corridors where full passage has been restored.
- Rich said it would be good to film a project beginning to end (so find one being constructed now)
- Lonnie said Delezenne would be a good one. Lots of landowners and partners were involved.
- Amy suggested looking at landscape scale – how were different landowners engaged along the length of the stream? Show partnerships.
- Jan want to video the Hoquiam project – should be captured beginning to end.
- Lonnie said the Wickett project would also be a good one to highlight.

c) Update on HRP Process/ Ranking

- Kirsten said the technical team has been looking at as many projects as possible as they heard of them. On the technical team are Amy, Miranda, Caprise and Michelle Cramer.
- A new tool has also been developed, a ranking matrix mostly based on the existing Lead Entity ranking, but based on percentages as opposed to additions. Miranda did a test run on old SRFB projects and they all came out in the right order.
- Next steps – 2 weeks to look at all the projects
- Technical ranking January 25th . All sponsors should be “on call” to answer questions that day.
- Kirsten asked non-sponsors to participate in the February 5th ranking session.
- Rich mentioned that it would be good to get the projects that aren’t funded into Habitat Work Schedule since they might be good “conceptual” projects.
- Alice reported that her supervisors still don’t know who will manage these grants. They will have a meeting next Tuesday to discuss this further. The Habitat Work Group members still want RCO to manage the grants.
- Alice said it’s unknown if these projects will have money for cost increases.

d) NOAA Work

Rich reported that he attended a modeling workshop. Anchor had previously made a basic “conceptual model” but it didn’t include “process”. They are now working on developing a process-based model. There will be another modeling meeting on January 15th. The overall goal is improving habitat for a whole suite of species, and also dealing with flood control.

e) Upcoming: ASRP Conceptual Model meeting January 21, 2016

This meeting will be open to anyone and will discuss progress on the ASRP work. The meeting will take place at the Lacey Community Center.

5. Fish Barrier Removal Board Update (Stacy Polkowske, WDFW)

Stacy provided an update on the barrier side of the ASRP work. This includes the culvert inventory which has the aim of filling in data gaps on barriers they don’t know anything about. The crew is working on HUC 12s. There will soon be two crews working on this. They will be working on this inventory until they run out of money, which will approximately be in May 2016. They may get an extension. WDFW has a new web-app that has the updated barrier information (more information than SalmonScape).

FBRB Update: FBRB just approved the Washington Coast focus watershed as the Newaukum. They may revise that decision to include other coastal watersheds.

There will be a “subcommittee” to focus on the Newaukum. For the work in the Newaukum, the goal is to have culvert “bundles” including of a few barriers in specific reaches to

present to the FBRB. For the subcommittee meeting on Monday, goal is to choose the top 5 focus reaches.

6. Newaukum

The Newaukum is several months ahead of the other “pilot watersheds” on the coast. May set the stage. Wants to understand what scope of work is a manageable chunk. Rich proposes using Netmap to describe the system. Bob asked Rich to describe this work as an opportunity in the Newaukum, as well.

Next HWG meeting: February 5th 2016 -- special ranking meeting – technical team and non-sponsors only