

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Habitat Work Group Meeting

January 8, 2018

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Chehalis Tribe Community Center Gathering Room
Oakville, Washington

In attendance:

Ann Weckback, *Lewis County Public Works*
Amy Spoon, *WDFW, Region 6 Habitat*
Bob Amrine, *Lewis County Conservation Dist.*
Cade Roler, *WDFW, Habitat Program*
Caprice Fasano, *Quinault Indian Nation*
Darric Lowery, *WDFW, Region 6 Wildlife*
Garrett Dalan, *Nature Conservancy*
Hope Riedan, *Chehalis Tribe F&W.*
Jason Gillie, *Chehalis Tribe, DNR*
Julie Tyson, *WDFW, Habitat Sciences*
Kelly Verd, *Lewis County Cons Dist.*
Keith Douville, *WDFW, Habitat Sciences*
Kirsten Harma, *Watershed Coordinator*

Lonnie Crumley, *C.B. Fisheries Task Force*
Luke Kelly, *Trout Unlimited*
Michelle Cramer, *WDFW, Habitat Engineer*
Mike Scharpf, *WDFW, Region 6*
Omroa Bhagwandin, *Citizen*
Rich Osborne, *Coast Salmon Partnership*
Rod Lakey, *Lewis County Public Works*
Shaun Hamilton, *Western Rivers C'servancy.*
Stu Trefry, *Washington State Cons. Commiss.*
Terry Harris, *City of Chehalis*
Thom Woodruff, *Capitol Land Trust*
Tim Kramer, *WDFW, Chehalis Strategy*
Tom Kollasch, *Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.*

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Everyone provided self-introductions.

2. Organizational Business

a) Review of Minutes from December 2017

Bob made two spelling corrections to the minutes. Omroa made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jason seconded. All in favor.

b) Updates

Bob Amrine announced that the Conservation Commission will be hosting a tour of Lewis County Conservation District project sites in Lewis County on January 17th. The tour will be followed by a dinner, which costs \$25, and a regular Conservation Commission meeting on

January 18th . Everyone is welcome.

3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

a) Updates

Kirsten provided an update.

b) 2018 Grant Round

Kirsten read the message from Tara Galuska: “The SRFB approved a 2018 Grant Round Schedule and approved moving forward with a grant round, at least until the next SRFB meeting in March, in order for project sponsors and lead entities to plan for their local processes and dates, including the Review Panel site visits scheduling. Of most importance regarding the 2018 grant round is that if no capital budget is adopted then the Board may be making other decisions regarding the round (including postponing or cancelling the round). In addition to a capital budget, for salmon funding, - there needs to be an approval of a bonds bill which requires a 60% majority vote.”

Kirsten distributed a draft 2018 Chehalis Lead Entity grant round schedule. The application timeline parallels those of past years. New this year is the addition of a pre-application workshop. The site visit schedule has not yet been confirmed by RCO. No one had any comments on the draft schedule.

c) Pre-Application Workshop

Kirsten and Alice are working on a pre-application workshop that will be mandatory for all SRFB grant applicants. The workshop will include standard material from RCO, and will include guidance on answering questions specific to the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity. The meeting will be held March 5, after the Habitat Work Group meeting, and will be timed after the official announcement of the 2018 Grant Round, hopefully with a capital budget in place.

d) Conceptual Project Presentations

Lewis County

Ann Weckback and Rod Lakey presented Lewis County’s plans for restoration of barriers on Frase Creek and Prairie Creek. They have applied for ASRP Barrier funding, and are looking at a variety of other funding sources. Public Works is presently out of funding for fish projects due to increased funding for the Sherriff’s office in the County budget.

Frase Creek:

The Frase Creek project is a high priority basin-wide and in Lewis County. The County's plans for the project include re-routing the stream so that it has a better alignment with the culvert. The design will be a box-culvert, 20' wide and 11.5' high. Construction of the project will occur during the fish window and will involve using a farm access road during construction, and building a 12' retaining wall in order to keep the work out of the South Fork Newaukum's 100-year floodplain. They may need to do mitigation for the retaining wall, in line with a "zero-rise" policy. The mill pond is in the new stream alignment and will become part of the creek. Lewis County asked the landowner about the history of the pond in order to determine if it might contain any contaminated sediment from past logging practices. The landowner said it was used for "pre-soak" only, so is therefore unlikely to contain contaminants. The project will cost over \$922,000 to construct.

Prairie Creek:

This project is also a high priority for the basin and Lewis County. Prairie Creek flows into Bunker Creek. All structures in the Bunker Creek mainstem have been made fish, passable, increasing the benefit that will come from this project. The replacement structure will be a 18' by 10' box culvert. The plans include planting willows and evergreens in the areas disturbed by construction. There will be one set of woody debris placed upstream, and one downstream. The consultant who did the design proposes to embed and barrier the wood, as opposed to anchoring it, as they don't think flows will get high enough to move the wood. The design includes and assumed 8% increase in flows due to climate change.

4. Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB)

Cade Roler provided an update on the Fish Barrier Removal Board. The FBRB will release a call for proposals in February 2018. Successful projects would be funded in the 2019-2021 biennium. Projects will be funded via two pathways – a Watershed Pathway and Coordinated Pathway. Cade asked the group if the Priority 1 for the Watershed Pathway is still the same as it was during the roll out of this program in the last biennium. The Newaukum is still the priority watershed from the FBRB's perspective. The Lead Entity can select 4 barriers in one subwatershed within the Newaukum. Cade recommended continuing to work on the Middle Fork Newaukum and address barriers with good habitat upstream, known coho use downstream, landowner willingness, and with any barriers upstream with other committed funding sources. Other options for priorities include barriers on Gheer Creek and Lost Creek. Members expressed interest in continuing with the Middle Fork as the priority area. The habitat is good, barriers are the primary limiting factor in the system, and there is a chance to completely open up the habitat in this system in a short timeframe.

5. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) & Chehalis Strategy

a) ASRP Phase I – Compiling group comments

Phase 1 of the ASRP was released in November. The Chehalis Basin Board is expecting to see any comments by their February meeting. Comments are being solicited on the estimated outcomes for aquatic species, costs, magnitude of actions needed, and recommendations for implementation. Tim Kramer, Chehalis Strategy lead for WDFW, was present at the meeting to answer questions. Kirsten attempted to guide the group through a facilitated discussion to compile comments from the overall Habitat Work Group perspective.

Members had questions about the status of the early action reach projects. Tim shared that WDFW and the Chehalis Strategy Team have plans to discuss a process for selecting early action reaches soon.

Comments addressed the assumptions about fish passage barriers, the lack of mention of bank protection, the need to prioritize planning for implementation, concern about the large influence of EDT in the plan, the role of harvest on expected outcomes and the lack of addressing activities in large forest lands. Members recommended creating a scientifically sound plan that is useful to the basin even if not funded as part of the Chehalis Strategy, and that the plan not be used as mitigation for a dam.

Kirsten will compose a comment letter in memo format to submit to the Chehalis Basin Board. Individual groups participating in the Habitat Work Group are welcome to submit comment letters to be included with this packet, or separately, by February 2, 2018.

b) ASRP Barrier Grant Round Update

There was not time for this agenda item.

c) Other Chehalis Strategy Updates

There was not time for this agenda item.

d) Other Business

Shaun Hamilton of the Western Rivers Conservancy introduced himself and his organization. He will be working with the Department of Natural Resources on getting additional lands added to protected status in the Chehalis Surge Plain.

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:30.

Next HWG meeting: Monday, February 5, 2018.