

# Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

## AGENDA

Monday, February 3, 2020

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center – Gathering Room

Alissa Ferrell, RCO Ann Weckback, Lewis Co. Bob Amrine, Lewis CD Brandon Carman, RCO Caprice Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation Charissa Waters, Thurston Co. Planning Claire Williamson, WDFW Greg Green, Ducks Ultd Garrett Dalan, TNC Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy	Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe Jonathan Bradshaw, HWG Minutes Kathy Jacobson, LE Outreach Coordinator Kelly Verd, Lewis CD Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator Mark Gray, CRBLT Megan Tuttle, WDFW Ned Pittman, Coast Salmon Partnership/Fdn Omroa Bhagwandin, LC Citizen Rep Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor CD
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### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

### 2. Organizational Business

#### a. Review minutes from January

Mark Gray moved to accept January's minutes, which Tom Kollasch seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### b. Subcommittees – Updates

##### i. Newaukum (subcommittee followed present meeting)

The subcommittee will be meeting today. A presentation was expected by the WDFW team surveying the Newaukum, but they were unable to make it. As such, the meeting will still be held, but its focus will be instead on reviewing and discussing the model that Ned has assembled. At a later date, the subcommittee will discuss the work of the WDFW team.

##### ii. Culvert

No current updates were shared from the culvert committee.

##### iii. Outreach

World Fish Migration Day is coming Saturday, May 16th. This event consists of a variety of grassroots, individually-sponsored activities that are held nationally and internationally. More information can be found at [worldfishmigrationday.com](http://worldfishmigrationday.com). Next month, Kathy will bring a sign-in sheet for any HWG groups who would like to sponsor an event/activity. Events can take place Saturday the 16th, or the preceding Friday, and can range from boat launch cleanups to plantings, poetry readings, nature walks, etc. This year's theme is Connecting Fish, Rivers, and People. This event takes place every two years, and has many national and international sponsors, including TNC, USFW, WWF and NOAA.

Scott Freeman's *Saving Tarboo Creek* presentation is coming up March 6th. Kathy passed around a

variety of fliers and posters for outreach.

Kathy also offered to provide to the HWG a training she received on presentation skills. While working with the DNR, she received training from educators from Neah Bay which focused on communication of scientific information to non-science audiences. She anticipates the training would last for about 2.5 hours, and would likely take place immediately following a HWG meeting. The date will be shared later.

The Centralia Stream Team will be holding a planting on the Chehalis Discovery Trail Planting on February 15th.

### **c. Washington Salmon Coalition Update**

Kirsten attended the recent Washington Salmon Coalition retreat and training.

**SRFB:** Relevant PRISM changes: PRISM is optimized for use with Google Chrome--don't use Internet Explorer. If *necessary*, Word can be used to fill out a SRFB application, but this is discouraged. Please fill it out online if at all possible. This year, after site visits, there will be an established window for comments to be made in PRISM itself. Also of note: while design-only projects are exempt from the match-requirement, PRISM still won't allow apps to be submitted without this requirement met. Call your grant manager to override that feature of PRISM.

New to the process this year will be a conference call with the Review Panel. This will take place the first week of June, and will be an opportunity to discuss NMI and POC issues.

The LEs also discussed possibilities for improving the grant-round process. The group also was able to receive feedback from a State Review Panel member, Tom Slocum. Some key points from that discussion include: the importance of establishing how grants will achieve SMART objectives; including how projects link up with the LE's strategy; making it clear how projects are a high priority within their specific basin. Monitoring around projects is also helpful for them to see.

#### **Statewide Salmon Strategy:**

The State Salmon Recovery Strategy is being updated. This is a state-wide, policy-level approach to salmon recovery. LEs workshopped it, and for anyone with comments or interest: workshops will be held in Olympia.

### **d. CSP Updates:**

The CSP website has been updated. General interface and functionality has been fine-tuned. The events page is particularly useful, and includes conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

A "Funding" page has been added: it lists a variety of resources for restoration funding throughout the basin, along with each resource's opening/closing dates.

The RCO website now has a dedicated WCRRI page. This page hosts all the tools for WCRRI application. The manual is located here, and the application can be started directly from the page.

### **e. Conflict of Interest form - signing**

The HWG Conflict of Interest form was sent home with members for review and members were asked to submit signed forms at today's meeting.

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

### **a. Conceptual Project Presentations**

#### **i. Middle Fork Hoquiam (Tom Kollasch, GHCD)**

Tom Kollasch presented on a request by the GHCD and the CRBLT for implementation funding at the Middle Fork Hoquiam Tidal Restoration Project. The present request is a follow-up to previous funding from both WCCRI and SRFB, for a total of about \$2 million. Tom gave a recap and updates of where the project stands, and how it is coming together. Very briefly: GHCD has worked with both the CRBLT and with NSD to develop the project. It involves targeted breaches of a bermed railroad grade that impounds significant tidal habitat on the Middle Fork Hoquiam. Most impounded areas will be restored through this work; one small wetland will be left as is. Spoils will be used to rebuild ridge noses that were dug out in the original construction of the railroad. This request for funding comes from some concerns about uncertainty regarding costs for specific removal work involved in the project. The team is currently asking for 250K in additional funding--but this budget is preliminary at the moment. By April, they will have more clarity.

Discussion:

Q: Do you know what construction timing will look like?

A: We're shooting for 2021. We'll be going out to bid late this year, or early next year.

**ii. Scammon Creek Hamilton Fish Passage Construction** (*Kelly Verd, Lewis CD*)

The LCD is requesting the remaining funding for a barrier correction on Scammon Creek. Partial funding was received, with which the preliminary design has been completed. The correction will install a 44' long concrete bridge, and will open up .79 miles to the next barrier. The CD has \$147K secured, and is requesting 30K to complete the project. The project will hopefully be completed this summer.

**iii. Berwick Creek at Hogue Fish Passage Construction** (*Kelly Verd, Lewis CD*)

This is a re-application for a project that has been in process since 2017: there is some landowner fatigue developing here. Last SRFB round, it received partial funding. The work would open up 3.2 miles of nice habitat. Prelim designs, permits, cultural resources are all complete. The project replaces two private Berwick Creek culverts (only one of which is passable) with one crossing, and allows for better stream flow. Currently, winter flooding causes severe problems for the owner.

## **4. ASRP**

### **a. ASRP Updates**

#### **i. Phase 1 Draft Comments**

Kirsten provided an update on ASRP Phase 1 comments. They have been collated by WDFW staff, and there are a lot of common themes.

-Issues re: consideration of headwaters, the harbor, and hatcheries in the plan.

-Concerns about governance issues: not including enough voices in planning process

-A general preference for Scenario 3.

Many comments were received by NGOs, Tribes, State Agencies etc., and there were 17 private citizen comments.

#### **ii. Starting Implementation Planning**

Implementation planning is beginning, and an implementation group is being formed. It will include folks from the SRT, but will also reach out to other individuals who have done restoration of work.

### iii. Grant round update

Applications are due February 5th

#### b. Early Action Reach Updates

LCD is working to keep LOs interested through the process, which has involved some challenging conversations on the ground, and a lot of work with individual LOs. Running into some of these realities is emphasizing the need for patience as we go forward. The process takes a long time because when work is proposed for a wide area, each LO is an individual project: “We have a 12-LO-area and that is like doing 12 projects.”

Additional of note: LCD was contacted by QIN, who will be sponsoring Chinook fry trapping in the basin. They’re looking to do tissue samples to understand spring/fall runs, and their overlap. They’re hiring West Fork Environmental to do the work. Eight locations will have traps put in twice a week. They’ll be taking tissue samples from Chinook fry, and doing counts for all other species caught: each trap has a capacity of up to 50/trap. They’re shooting for up to 4,000 samples to determine the populations across the runs. The study will run through mid-May, and data would come on the other side of that, but timing isn’t certain yet. Samples will be sent to Cal Poly as well as Fish and Wildlife.

GHCD hosted a Montesano outreach event, which had 50 attendees. Discussion ranged widely, and felt like a productive community discussion. They’re working on moving forward with a structural engineer on a house move on the Wynoochee. Land trusts are working on land-boundary issues with river channel migration: straightening out agreements with landowners.

Skookumchuck is coming along. This reach is the priority for the Early Action Reach implementation at this point: they’re waiting on permits to come through. They’ve done a final red-line review of the plan and at the end of this week, that final review will be done. LO acknowledgements can then be signed, and the process can move forward.

## 5. Chehalis Lead Entity Strategy Chapter Review

### a. South Bay:

Caprice presented on the Strategy’s coverage of the South Bay subbasin. This includes the Charlie, Newkah, Chapin, O’leary, Johns and Elk subbasins. A short summary of her comments follow: Agriculture legacies have led to a lot of diking as a significant factor in this area. There is a significant amount of aquaculture, cranberry production/processing, and logging (current and historical). DNR has a Natural Resource Conservation Area, and WDFW has two wildlife preserves. Fish use includes Coho (lots of smolt use, as well as spawning), Chinook (status was unknown at the time of the strategy), and Winter Steelhead (which is the only native stock with wild production here). There is a lack of information about Chum in the basin.

Tier 1 concerns: Fish passage, sediment, riparian zone.

Tier 2 concerns: LWD (headwaters are steep with lots of blowdown: possibly too much?), floodplains, channel incision.

Improvements to Strategy:

Incorporate more current salmonid use data/info: there is a lot of data available from work done by Ducks Ultd, WFC, etc. Tier concerns would do well to be updated with current watershed health information and work that’s been done: update with the best available science.

Upcoming: Humptulips (Luke); South Bay (Caprice); Skookumchuck (Devin)

## 6. Closing