

# Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

May 4, 2020 -- AGENDA

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

Web-Ex !

Alexa Brown, <i>GH Stream Team Coordinator</i> Anne Weckback, <i>Lewis County</i> Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis Cons. Dist.</i> Brad Murphy, <i>Thurston Co. CPED</i> Brandon Carman, <i>Recreation and Cons. Org</i> Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i> Cade Roler, <i>WDFW</i> Colleen Suter, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Emilie McKain, <i>WDFW</i> Garrett Dalan, <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> Greg Green, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Hope Rierdon, <i>Chehalis Tribe DFW</i> Jamie Glasgow, <i>Wild Fish Conservancy</i> Jan Robinson, <i>CRBLT</i> Jennifer Reidmeyer, <i>Dept Ecology</i> Jim Hill, <i>Lewis County Citizen</i>	Jonathan Bradshaw, <i>Notes</i> Josh Giuntoli, <i>WA Conservation Commission</i> Kathy Jacobson, <i>Chehalis LE Ed./Outreach</i> Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis Cons Dist</i> Kirsten Harma, <i>Coordinator</i> Kylie Smith, <i>GHC Noxious Weed Control</i> Lonnie Crumley, <i>CBFTF</i> Mara Zimmerman, <i>Coast Salmon Partne/F</i> Mark Gray, <i>CRBLT</i> Megan Tuttle, <i>WDFW</i> Miranda Plumb, <i>USFWS</i> Ned Pittman, <i>Coast Salmon Foundation/P</i> Rick Rouse, <i>Port of Chehalis</i> Ryan Williams, <i>Mason CD</i> Thom Woodruff, <i>Capitol Land Trust</i> Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.</i>
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## 1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

## 2. Review of minutes from April 2020

Anne Weckback motioned to approve April's minutes: Caprice Fasano seconded, and the motion was carried without comment.

## 3. Organizational Business

### a. Culvert Subcommittee

Cade Roler gave an update from the culvert subcommittee. The culvert model lines up well with the existing webmap. The GSUs are being incorporated, and the culverts will be queryable by ASRP-relevance and by each of the proposed ASRP scenarios.

### b. Newaukum Subcommittee/ Newaukum Pilot Project

There was no significant update to share on current work, but Ned provided an overview of the purpose and concept of a pilot watershed, for anyone who's never gotten an explicit

explanation of the project as a whole. Ned Pittman shared a brief PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview. This presentation was sent out to HWG members, and further info is available at <https://tinyurl.com/newaukpilot>

Briefly: A pilot watershed plan is a holistic, coordinated watershed-scale approach to restoration: it considers restoration as well as climate resiliency, land use, and community interests. Doing this in a comprehensive manner allows for broad coordination across interests, funding sources, and timeframes. Main products of the project will include: a written report; a webmap; and a resource which will lay out a prioritized list of potential projects, costs for those projects, and resources for funding.

*Q: How does this overlap with the ASRP scenarios and the ASRP focus in the Newaukum?*

*A: The pilot watershed project predated the development of the ASRP work, and will continue independently of the ASRP. Clearly, however there is a lot of overlap here. The pilot watershed folks are working with ASRP folks to try to figure out the best way to work together as we all go forward. The concept of watershed-scale restoration is fundamentally different from the core area, tier-approach of the ASRP. There will be obvious overlap situations, and then also situations where the pilot watershed project has different interests. Each LE has its own pilot watershed; ours happens to overlap with the ASRP scope: so this is a unique and developing relationship.*

### **c. Outreach**

Kathy Jacobson started work on the Pacific Lamprey factsheet, which is close to a final. She's started a freshwater mussel one, as well. She'll be working closely with the USFWS, with mussel monitoring. Also of interest: there is a Climate Change workshop taking place May 31. It's a panel discussion with author Joanna Macy, and a couple of local psychotherapists. It's being hosted by the Thurston Climate Action Team, and will discuss the book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*. Kathy will be attending this, and hopes to share some key elements of the workshop in the future.

### **d. Coast Salmon Partnership Update**

No new updates at this time.

### **e. Salmon Recovery Portal & Planned Project List**

*Salmon Recovery Portal:*

Kirsten and Mara updated the group on work being done to update the Habitat Work Schedule, which has been renamed the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP). The SRP includes largely SRFB projects, but also a great number of FFFPP projects, as well as RMAP. The CSP has funding to cleanup this portal, and ensure that information is accurate and as complete as can reasonably be expected. Across the coast region, which has used the SRP more extensively than other regions of the state, this is a pretty comprehensive list of conservation work that has been done in the basin. The CSP would like to get this information together and cleaned up to the end of producing a report that can accurately characterize what has been done: how many miles restored; how many acres of wetland; how many culverts replaced; how much money has been spent on salmon restoration in the CSP region. The info in the SRP has being sought out

and entered by the staff at the Olympic Natural Resource Center through a contract with CSP. Since the members of the Habitat Work Group have immediate or close knowledge of the projects the ONRC has compiled, the CSP is asking for the relevant groups to cross-check what the ONRC staff has found. If you notice an entire group of projects or funding source that is missing: don't go out of your way to assemble and submit that info; simply make us aware of that gap, and we will work on filling these holes next year. At this point, the CSP is looking to ensure that what it has compiled at this point is accurate and that it is a reasonably representative resource for showcasing what has been done in the basin. In the years to come, with the established foundation of information, it will be a much more approachable task to fill in gaps in that set of data.

Any corrections are asked to be shared by the next HWG meeting.

*Q: Will there be a public document made widely available?*

A: Yes. We will do an annual report across the 4 LEs, and then individual LEs can take this info and put it together into a localized, public document.

*Planned Project List:*

We have a few different strategy type efforts: Prioritized culvert work, Newaukum LWD coordination, the Satsop/Wynoochee Instream-wood restoration effort. In addition to listing individual projects, let's also think about strategized work that's being done. It would be a worthy effort to use top projects from those assorted strategies to populate a robust and representative planned project list. We need to have that list by August 2020, and this would be an easy way of assembling a tangible, good-faith representation of possible projects that legislators can imagine and work with. We'll finalize that list in about two months at that August meeting.

*Outreach: Ecological Diversity Region Fact sheets and Fish Barrier Viewer*

We have fact sheets with basic information for all the Lead Entity management units. Alexa put together fact sheets for the new ASRP Ecological Diversity Regions which are much more accessibly laid-out. Alexa is putting together outreach fact sheets every other week. She's just finished a Willapa Hills Ecological Region factsheet,

In a couple weeks Alexa will be putting out a factsheet that guides the public through a fish passage viewer tour: providing an introduction to the passage barrier tool, and helping the public to be aware of it, and see it. It's an opportunity to engage the public, encouraging their interaction with the sites: go visit it in the fall and winter and see if fish are making it past the culvert - let us know. She'll also be putting together a handout about what to remove if you see it in your backyard and how. The PDF version of these are also linked to local conservation resources.

#### **f. Open Public Meeting's Act**

Concern has been raised with regards to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act: How do these web meetings reconcile with those regulations? The crux of the law mainly requires public advertising of and access to the meetings. A small gatekeeping element is necessary to prevent meetings from being hacked - but meetings are still accessible in that they

are publicized, and anyone who would like to attend simply needs to get in touch with Kirsten for an invite.

#### **4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

##### **a. Virtual Site Visit Summary**

Kirsten led a discussion from reviewers and sponsors on how the virtual site reviews went: general consensus was that they worked well, all things considered, but they were certainly not the preferred option. We'll look forward to returning to in person, onsite site visits.

*Q: How long do sponsors have to respond to reviewer comments?*

*A: Until May 14th. Also of note, Initial Review from the SRFB panel won't be available until after the May 20th team review.*

##### **b. SRFB – Next Steps and other items**

Next, we'll do a virtual ranking with the Review team and May 14th. State Reviewers will be meeting May 20th. This year, there will be a call with the State Reviewers on June 9th (10:15AM) for NMI or POCs. This should give more opportunity to discuss issues before the rubber meets the road. Applications are due in PRISM June 29th.

Brandon noted that while in a typical year, this batch of SRFB projects may have easily passed NMI and POC thresholds. This year, however, due to the limited nature of virtual site visits, we would do well to anticipate that there may be NMIs and POCs handed down for these projects.

##### **c. RCO Updates**

No current updates. Anyone who is not receiving RCO executive team emails re: Covid-19 response should reach out to Brandon.

##### **d. Targeted Investment Program – Summary**

A policy is being implemented with interest in what to do with statewide surplus SRFB funding. The SRFB is looking statewide to identify priorities. So far, possible priorities include: delisting of endangered species (“recovery homestretch”); Orca recovery; emergency response, at-risk populations.

##### **e. Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force Updates & Newkah Cost Increase request**

Lonnie Crumley presented a request for a cost increase on Newkah project from last grant round. Bids came in for culverts at 125% of what was planned due to culvert suppliers being consolidated. Contractor bids came in higher as well, likely as a result of Covid-19 concerns. A \$29,050 increase (10% of the entire project) would enable CBFTF to complete the Newkah project. Whatever isn't spent would be returned.

Bob Amrine moved to approve the funding increase for Newkah project #18-1627. Tom Kollasch seconded the motion, which passed without comment.

Following, Lonnie talked through a summary of 2020 CBFTF completed projects.

**5. Presentation – Chehalis Basin Cooperative Weed Management– Kiley Smith, Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board Coordinator.**

Kiley Smith presented a proposal she is submitting for WCRRI funding - for informational purposes, as well as for feedback. The presentation is available upon request, but briefly, she shared the following:

Kiley is submitting a request to better-structure and better-fund the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Control Board. It consists of 5 districts, w/ Kiley as the coordinator. The board members are farmers, are connected to farmers, or are folks involved in invasive species work. The request is for \$385,880 to hire 3 full time employees, as well as annual contractors. These employees would help coordinate the management area, help landowners, conduct more surveys, and carry out outreach. A major consideration for this proposal is the need to pay and positions that encourage consistent hires: turnover of workers is a significant threat to the success of noxious weed efforts.

The GHNWCB is currently working under an assessment-funded program. They are working to build community support through successful projects, and are operating with a budget of \$48K, with an supplementary contribution of \$15K.

**DISCUSSION:**

*Q: Are you working with CNLM? One of their first WCRRI projects was knotweed on the Satsop. There should be lessons learned there.*

*A: Kiley was on one of the properties of a land owner from that project, and so she’s been made aware of that, but hasn’t been in contact with them directly. Again, this is why it’s a significant priority to understand how to make certain and make clear that this work will be done sustainably; that we’re going to stay. Turnover in this work is really high. It’s not easy work. This is why the NWCB is working to get dedicated, sustainable staff, by offering a living wage. Kylie was born and raised here, and dedicated to this work: she’s not going anywhere. Comment: Contacts for information on the previous CNLM work would be Sanders Freed or Sierra Smith.*

*Q: Are you a licensed consultant, or do you have contact for one?*

*A: I have my public operator’s license, but am not licensed as a consultant. I haven’t worked with this beyond working with contractors.*

*Comment: Check this out. LOs need licenses (NPDS permit). Often, their hands are tied by the daunting regulations.*

**6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**  
**a. Grant Round Update (Emelie)**

Emilie provided an update from the ASRP grant round. They’re in the middle of the implementation for this current biennium. This has been challenged by Covid-19, but the steering committee is back on track to meet the goal of notifying sponsors in mid-May. The diversity of project proposals is encouraging, in particular, development grants are good to see coming in.

Q: Is the May 15th date when we can anticipate knowing where ranked out?

A: We are on track to provide rankings by May 15th, and possibly sooner. But the deadline we've got in place looks good.

Q: Is the Steering Committee still hoping to see some projects to get going on the ground this summer, or has that changed re: Covid-19?

A: We're looking to the sponsors. A lot of restrictions are presenting challenges. We'll be coordinating on an updated timeline if that's needed. We won't be expecting anything, but with those projects that ranked for funding, we'll work with the sponsors to coordinate next steps within the current realities. It sounds like there is still the possibility of some projects moving forward.

#### **b. Steering Committee Update**

The Steering Committee has been working on this grant round and the technical review process to get different funding recommendations out. The past several months, that's meant prioritizing toward success, and understanding/communicating what success for the program looks like.

Looking forward, we're working on scenario refinements: optimising what was proposed in the Phase 1, and finalizing sequencing of programs.

#### **c. Early Action Reach Update**

No current updates were shared.

### **7. Other**

#### **a. Small grants program within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)**

There's a new federal small grants program within the WRDA. Luke Kelly, Trout Unlimited and Jess Helsley, Wild Salmon Center are working on creating the new program. The hope is that it will be a smaller, more nimble funding program.

Letters of support from individual members of this group would be greatly appreciated - this would be most helpful by the coming Friday, but any such support over the next month would still be helpful.