

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

July 13, 2020 -- MINUTES

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

Web-Ex !

Ann Weckback, Lewis Co. Public Works Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District Brad Murphy, Thurston County, CPED Brandon Carman, Recreation & Conservation Caprice Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation DNR Cindy Wilson, Thurston Co. Citizen Rep Emilie McKain, WDFW/ASRP Greg Green, Ducks Ultd. Hope Rieden, Chehalis Tribe DNR Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe DNR Jennifer Reidmeyer, WA Ecology Jonathan Bradshaw, Minutes/LC Citizen Rep	Josh Giuntoli, WA Conservation Commission Kathy Jacobson, LE Outreach/Ed. Coordinator Kelly Verd, Lewis Conservation District Lee First, Twin Harbors Waterkeeper Mara Healey, Thurston Conservation District Mara Zimmerman, CSP/CSF Miranda Plumb, USFWS Nick Vera, NRCS Rick Rouse, Port of Chehalis Rickie Marion, Chehalis Tribe Water Quality Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Conservation D. Thom Woodruff, Capitol Land Trust
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1. **Welcome, Introductions**

2. **Review of minutes from June 2020**

Tom Kollasch moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes without comment; Thom Woodruff seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

3. **Organizational Business**

a. **Appointing New Citizen Members**

Two new citizen members were put forward for approval:

Jonathan Bradshaw, who has been keeping minutes for the HWG, is an all-but life long Lewis County citizen with interest in local community, agriculture, and conservation. He looks forward to deepening his knowledge of conservation work in the Chehalis Basin.

Cindy Wilson, who will be stepping in to Mark Swartout's Thurston County representative role, a retired wetlands biologist and Thurston County Planner who has worked with the HWG through the years. She looks forward to leaning into this role as she begins her retirement.

Caprice Fasano motioned to vote to approve both new citizen members together, which Ann

Weckback seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

b. Newaukum Subcommittee/Newaukum Pilot Project

Mara shared that Ned has been working on a model that will help with the selection of reaches for wood treatment projects. The effort has been a collaboration of his modeling and WDFW field data. He's also been working with other partners at WDFW, as well as the Wild Fish Conservancy. He'll be sharing more information at the next Newaukum subcommittee meeting.

Secondly, the CSP has begun to think more directly about how to develop a comprehensive list of projects in the Newaukum pilot project to more comprehensively cover the work being done there. Look for more information in the subcommittee on this topic, as well.

c. Outreach

i. Annual Report from Kathy Jacobson

Kathy gave an overview of the year's outreach work. Highlights include: sharing the stories of local watershed heroes Robert and Lecia Criswell, and Kenna Fosnacht; the development of fact sheets on native aquatic species and conservation issues (available on the LE website); a presentation to the group on effective public communication and education on scientific issues; and river table outreach that reached 700 local students. Covid-19 has made further outreach challenging, but there's still been a lot of good work going on.

ii. Berwick Creek educational posters

Ann Weckback put together an educational poster to share with the public on the Berwick Creek projects. She solicited feedback during the meeting, and will send a copy of the poster to the group for more feedback.

iii. Hamilton/Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site

Lee First, of Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, gave an update on the Hamilton/Labree PCE contamination superfund site. She shared an overview and presentation on the site's history, information about its effects, and a description of EPA cleanup plans, which are now underway.

She also noted that there are additional contamination sites throughout the area, and that these sites also need attention. Anyone who would like to help support those efforts or be provided with more information are encouraged to reach out.

d. Chehalis Basin Lead Entity 2019-2020 Work Plan Progress Update

By way of an update, Kirsten shared a spreadsheet laying out the various elements of the Chehalis Lead Entity's scope of work, as well as listed those responsible for carrying them out. She sought feedback or suggested changes for the coming year, and beyond updating some details, discussion was brief.

Notable is the possible impact of state cuts to the LE's operating budget - which in our case, only includes outreach, and so the future of Kathy's work is contingent on this funding.

e. Chehalis: A Watershed Moment

A screening of the recently released documentary, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers, is being considered by Mara and Kirsten. They polled the group for interest, as the film has already been widely shared. They don't want to be redundant, but the Q&A with the filmmakers could be valuable.

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Discussion/Decision on 2019 "Return Funds"

The group discussed the use of Gronberg Acquisition 2019 return funds that came back to the LE after the purchase fell through.

Conversations with interested project sponsors had brought forward the following uses for the funding:

\$8,000 to complete work begun by the CLT's Land owner Outreach Survey

\$12,000 to wrap up the CLT's Holm Farm project

\$9,678.50 to pay for half of a cost increase faced by Lewis Co.'s Berwick Creek Barrier Removal and Alignment project.

These costs came within \$92 of the return funds available; a quick discussion among the involved sponsors determined that this remainder be apportioned to the CLT LO project.

A vote was taken to approve this planned use of the 2019 return funds. The vote passed with no opposition.

In the coming week, Kirsten will write up a memo detailing these decisions to be presented for approval by the RCO.

b. SRFB – Next steps

Within the CSP region, Willapa Bay is the only LE that will not be using their full funding. As such, there is \$60K in extra funds that can be distributed to projects in the remaining 3 LEs. All three have projects that could use the funding.

Would we like to request funding? This would go toward getting our partially-funded Berwick at Borovec project closer to full funding. After some discussion, the group decided to put forward a proposal for use of this funding to present to the CSP. Their second choice would be that the funds go to a project that can be put on the ground next summer. Ann will work with Kirsten in putting this together.

c. Planned Project Forecast List

Kirsten presented the Planned Project Forecast list as it currently stands. The group walked through it, discussing what missing information could be taken care of in the moment. Following this meeting, the sheet will be sent out for further completion by individual parties.

5. Coast Salmon Partnership Updates

a. WCRRI grant round

Ned Pittman provided an update on the WCRRI round in process: they've discussed the scoring and ranked list, and these results will go RCO on August 4th. Following that, RCO will reach out to sponsors, after which the recommendations for funding will be passed up to the legislature.

b. LE review of HWS/SRP Completed Projects dataset

Mara Zimmerman made a final request for continued sponsor input and review of HWS/SRP data. Anything received by the end of the month will be very appreciated. This information will be used for the first of what will be annual reporting by the CSP. In the future, this will be much less involved, as the groundwork will have been done. Future work will involve only inputting new projects and fine tuning the existing information if and as needed.

c. June board meeting summary

Mara shared briefly about the CSP's June Board meeting. Most relevantly, the CSP laid out the potential SRFB coast region project list, and the 4 LE will finalize the project list for Coast Region, voting on that list on Thursday July 30th. Anyone interested more deeply in the CSP meetings can find archives online. As well, meetings are open to whomever is interested in joining.

6. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

a. Project Grant Recipient Information-Sharing

The group discussed and shared about a number of ASRP-funded projects various members received. A few of these include: a watershed liaison position for the LCD; a Wild Fish Conservancy beaver dam analogue project-development grant which will refine a basin-wide beaver intrinsic potential model, as well as develop a BDA monitoring and evaluation plan; GHCD's Still Creek design project, which builds off of their Satsop/Wynoochee tributary strategy project; and L.O. Outreach grants for both GHCD and MCD.

Drawing from his experience with submitting ASRP projects for funding, Rick Rouse shared that it is very helpful to be touch with the cultural resources staff at QIN, to make sure they are able to do a full review. The person to contact for this is Naomi Brandenfels, who is the QIN Archaeologist/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. She can be reached at (360)276-8215 ext. 7309, as well as at naomi.brandenfels@quinault.org.

Emilie McKain also noted that similar to the kick-off orientation workshop for on-the-ground projects funded by ASRP, a workshop will also be happening for project-development funded projects. Look out for an email in the next few weeks on that development.

b. Steering Committee Update

Emilie shared that after wrapping up their grant round, the steering committee has leaned into working focusedly with the ASRP technical teams. This includes working with the monitoring and adaptive management work group; discussing the Science Review Team's work refining Phase 1 ASRP scenarios toward specific and localized implementation; and conversation with the implementation team: how do we put on the ground 450 miles of restoration?

The Steering Committee has also been working on the next biennium budget to recommend to CBB for 2021-23.

c. Implementation Team Discussion

Anthony Waldrop shared that the Implementation Team is putting together a repository to keep tabs on landowner contacts: how they have been contacted, and by whom. The idea is to work toward a central smartsheet so this effort can cultivate and lean on existing relationships, rather than overwhelming and confusing folks by coming at them from different angles as different entities.

Kirsten emphasized that this is truly a “building the track while the train is running” situation: the team is looking at models from around the state and country. Kirsten has been advocating for the group to take advantage of existing structures: for example, for the ASRP to consider using the HWG as a convening group for things happening across the basin. This could be particularly helpful as the nature of the ASRP’s future is not entirely clear - as such, the established entity that is the HWG could potentially serve as the effort’s continuous group. But there are many models being discussed. The Implementation Team will operate as a group through October.

Feel free to reach out to Kirsten, Anthony, or Emilie for more info.

d. Early Action Reach Update (CDs, LT, others)

Thom Woodruff reported: Muller acquisition: request is in! Adjacent is Green Diamond and they’d like to purchase that, as well. Both properties are along the Skookumchuck River.

TCD: Mara Healey shared that things are moving forward smoothly on the Skookumchuck: construction is starting now, beginning to take shape. Her direct role is involvement with the planting, which is moving forward, as well. A video will be produced on the project, and it will include landowner interviews. Lots of good stuff going on.

GHCD: Anthony Waldrop shared an update for the Satsop/Wynoochee reach. He’s working on the planting/invasives side, doing surveys with Kiley Smith of the Grays Harbor NWCB. She’s looking at the spatial extent of invasive species, looking to incorporate that into their next 5 year work-plan. As far as construction goes, they’re waiting on a permitting process involving some LOs, and then it’s just waiting on that permitting. Things are moving forward.

Bob: On the SF of the Newaukum, they’re getting ready to sign permit applications, either this month or the first of next month. Of note are one landowner with a property boundary dispute, and a water right issue with Stillman Creek. Should get back on track this winter.

7. Other/Closing