

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

Monday, July 8, 2019

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Natural Resources Building

26 Niederman Road, Oakville, WA

Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor CD Ann Weckback, Lewis County Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District Claire Williamson, WDFW Colleen Suter, Chehalis Tribe Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe Karin Strelieff, Thurston Conservation Dist. Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator	Mara Healy, Thurston Conservation Dist. Mark Swartout, Thurston Co. Citizen (called in to vote) Omroa Bhagwandin, Lewis County Citizen Rick Rouse, Port of Chehalis Ryan Williams, Mason CD Stu Trefry, Conservation Commission
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1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

The meeting venue changed to the Chehalis Tribe Natural Resources building. Introductions were delayed as participants arrived at the new venue. Karin Strelieff was introduced as the new restoration manager for the Thurston Conservation District.

2. Organizational Business

1. Review minutes from June, 2019

A quorum was not present at this point in the meeting, so minutes were not approved. A quorum was present later but the group did not return to this agenda item.

1. Chehalis Basin Lead Entity Work Plan – Committee Guidance

July 1, 2019 marked the beginning of a new biennium, and thus the need for a new Scope of Work for the Lead Entity to be provided to RCO. RCO staff want Scopes of Work completed for the beginning of August. A quorum of voting Habitat Work Group members was present to comment on and approve the Scope of Work.

Kirsten presented the Scope of Work customized to the Chehalis Basin and asked for group input. She also presented a spreadsheet with a work plan that she had produced. The spreadsheet included all the tasks in the scope, and who and how they will be implemented.

Discussion:

The “planned project” component of the Scope of Work is new this biennium. This is effectively a request to create a “project list” above and beyond what is produced for the annual SRFB grant round. A list is being requested by August 2020. Participants noted that work would need to start early in the new year to meet that timeline. Kirsten mentioned that Habitat Work Schedule has the ability to mark whether or not a conceptual project has a sponsor or not. Rich Osborne had proposed that “up for grabs” projects be marked as “Chehalis Basin Lead Entity” in the sponsorship category.

Additional ideas were proposed for the outreach tasks. Ideas included a table in front of Walmart, presentations at Centralia College, and presentations at local high schools. Colleen has contacts at the

high schools and will look into outreach opportunities there. Also suggested were citizen science, post-project monitoring, fish counts in rivers, enforcement of fishing violations.

Bob pointed out a nuance in wording in Task 1.3. The language is “could” rather than “will.” He requested clarification on the reason for that wording prior to finalizing the Scope of Work. Kirsten will contact other Lead Entities and the grant manager to see what wording they are including.

Motion: To approve the Scope of Work for 2019-2021. Ann made the motion. Jason seconded. All in favor.

2. Subcontracting tasks in Lead Entity Work Plan

Community outreach has long been a goal of the Lead Entity, but it is challenging to accomplish. Kirsten proposed a subcontract to implement the outreach tasks in the Scope of Work. Because the contract would be for an amount greater than \$10,000, Grays Harbor County contracting procedures require that the contract go out to bid. Kirsten has advertised the contract and the bidding period ends July 29th. Omroa and Colleen volunteered to review bids to take this subcontract.

3. Coast Salmon Partnership Work Plan & Vote on Bylaws

A Coast Salmon Partnership representative was not available to discuss this agenda item so it was postponed until the August meeting.

3. Other Business

1. ASRP Update

Claire provided an update on the Early Action reaches. Projects are moving in to preliminary design. The Science Review Team liked what they saw on the South Fork Chehalis. The Newaukum reach scale project will need to be downsized to reduce cost.

Rick asked if a cost-benefit analysis has been applied to fish habitat restoration projects. Others responded that this is a good question and one that restoration practitioners need a good answer to.