**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**

**Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2014**

The June 13, 2014 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity was held at the Lewis Conservation District Office, Chehalis, Washington. Chair Bob Amrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were:

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| Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District  John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions  Amy Spoon, WDFW  Caitlin Guthrie, Capitol Land Trust  Rod Lakey, Lewis County Public Works  Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy | Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works  Jane Atha, LE Coordinator  Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust  Omroa Bhagwandin, Onalaska Alliance |

**Agenda Items**

Welcome and Introductions

Updates and announcements

* Habitat Work Schedule
* Lead entity strategy
* Washington Coast Restoration Initiative
* Others?

Preliminary Plans for the Tributary to Bunker Creek Barrier Removal Project

WCRI project presentations

* Capitol Land Trust
* Center for Natural Lands Management (tentative)

SRFB review and rank recap and project list

Agenda for next HWG meeting September 12, 2014

**Updates and Announcements**

Jane Atha updated the group on the use of Habitat Work Schedule. She explained that there is interest by Ecology in using HWS to track water quality effectiveness monitoring projects in the basin in addition broadening the scope of projects in the database that may have more indirect benefits to salmon.

Lead entity Strategy

John Kliem updated the group on the lead entity strategy and the progress that has been made with the Humptulips model for sub-watershed project prioritization. The group discussed the strategy, why it’s useful to have one, and how it helps to bolster projects such as assessments if they’re included. The lead entity has wrapped up the Humptulips sub-basin strategy. We’ve met with key players in the Humptulips, and found some particularly helpful conceptual projects at a meeting with Region 6. The Habitat Work Group expressed that it would be best if there was some strategy involved with determining the next sub-basin to focus on within the Chehalis.

Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

Eric Delvin updated the group on the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative. He said that the preliminary list has been made. The Initiative is asking for $15 million this year and the hope is that it will be a regular allocation in the legislative budget. It will live with an agency, possibly RCO, but that has not yet been determined. The list is intended to capture restoration projects that do not fit neatly into SRFB criteria and are not necessarily salmon recovery projects.

**Preliminary Plans for the Tributary to Bunker Creek Barrier Removal Project**

Rod Lakey and Ann Weckback distributed plans for the intended design for the SRFB funded Bunker Creek Barrier Removal Project. Lakey provided an overview of the designs and answered a couple of design-related questions. The lead entity gave the go-ahead for the design.

**WCRI Project Presentations**

Caitlin Guthrie with Capitol Land Trust presented to the group two projects that CLT is putting forward on the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative list. The first, Darlin Creek Conservation and Restoration will acquire and permanently conserve 313 ac of the Black River sub-basin and restore 100 ac of wetland and riparian habitat. This property contains 13,000 feet of fish-bearing streams and is adjacent to preserved lands. The restoration efforts will include invasive species removal, replanting riparian buffers with native plands, and restoring Oregon spotted frog habitat. This project has a total cost of $1,800,000 with $1.3 million from the WCRI. The Black River Conservation and Restoration project will acquire and conserve 54 ac along the Black River and restore 100+ ac of wetland and riparian habitat. Restoration goals for this property include improving water quality, speed success to old growth forest, create Oregon spotted frog habitat, and improve pollinator habitat. This project is funded by multiple partners with $750,000 proposed from the WCRI and a total project cost of $964,000.

**SRFB Review and Rank recap and project list**

Atha recapped the review and ranking meeting that was held in July. The local review team scored each project on a consensus basis leading to the final ranking. The top four funded projects are the Black River – Amos Acquisition, the Stevens Creek barrier culvert removal, the Delezenne restoration project, and the Schweikert Farm Acquisition. All projects, including those that ranked below the funding line that would like to be considered as alternates, must be submitted by August 15th.

**Agenda for next HWG meeting September 12, 2014**

The September HWG meeting will revisit the lead entity strategy, projects on the WCRI that did not go through the SRFB process, and other conceptual projects.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, September 12, 2014 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District, in Chehalis.