

# Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

August 3, 2020 -- MINUTES

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~  
Zoom!

Alexa Brown, <i>Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task F.</i> Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis County Public Works</i> Anthony Waldrop, <i>Grays Harbor Conservati.</i> Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis Conservation Dist</i> Brad Murphy, <i>Thurston County CPED</i> Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation DNR</i> Colleen Suter, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Cindy Wilson, <i>Thurston Co. Citizen Rep</i> Emilie McKain, <i>ASRP/WDFW Habitat</i> Garret Dalan, <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> Greg Green, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Hope Rieden, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Jennifer Reidmeyer, <i>Ecology</i>	Jonathan Bradshaw, <i>Minutes/Lewis Citizen</i> Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis Conservation Dist.</i> Key McMurray, <i>Grays Harbor Citizen Rep</i> Kirsten Harma, <i>LE Coordinator</i> Mara Healey, <i>Thurston Conservation Dist</i> Mara Zimmerman, <i>CSP/Coast Salmon Found.</i> Mark Gray, <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i> Miranda Plumb, <i>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</i> Ned Pittman, <i>CSP/Coast Salmon Foundation</i> Rickie Marion, <i>CIN Water Quality</i> Ryan Walker, <i>Forterra</i> Thom Woodruff, <i>Capitol Land Trust</i> Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor Conservation D.</i>
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1. **Welcome, Introductions**

2. **Social Time in Breakout Rooms**

The group was broken up into small groups in Zoom to chat and provide updates on their work.

3. **Approval of June minutes**

Postponed until Sept. meeting, as Jonathan's contract renewal is pending.

4. **Organizational Business**

a. **Noting the Passing of a Local Conservation Partner**

The news was shared with the group that Patrick Dunn, of the Center for Natural Lands Management South Puget Sound program, passed last week. He's been involved in a lot of the group's work over the years, and will be missed. If Kirsten receives notice of a celebration of life, she will pass it on to the group.

b. **New Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force Representative**

It was announced that Alexa Brown will be coming in under Lonnie Crumley to fill his position with Streamworks and the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force as he retires. She will now be attending meetings as the CBFTF representative going forward.

c. **Appointing New Citizen Member**

Key McMurray was suggested as a good fit to fill the remaining citizen representative seat. Among other conservation work involvement, Key has been a longstanding member of the Willapa Lead Entity. Her appointment would mean all the citizen rep seats will be filled, unless Omroa Bhagwandin is no longer an active member.

Thom Kollasch made a motion to appoint Key McMurray as a Citizen Representative, and Mark Gray seconded. The vote to appoint her was passed unanimously.

**d. Culvert Subcommittee**

No members present.

**e. Outreach**

Under the “Get Involved” tab on the Lead Entity website, there is now a section “for educators and students.” This will be the warehouse for all the outreach materials that have been put together on local aquatic species and ecological regions. A couple educational videos are also available there!

It’s looking very likely that we’ll maintain the funding to keep Kathy Jacobson as our outreach coordinator: stay tuned.

**5. Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

**a. SRFB – Coast Salmon Partnership decision & Next steps**

The CSP has apportioned the allocated 2020 SRFB funds to complete the funding gap for the North Pacific region and to fund the Quinault culvert project. The decision is being submitted to the RCO for consideration at the September funding meeting. Being able to do this is helpful to keeping funding in our Coast Region: the collaboration is appreciated!

The SRFB will be approving funding for projects in September: projects will be able to go under contract and spend funds in September. Previously, this timeframe had been December.

**b. Planned Project Forecast List – Decision**

The group reviewed the Planned Project Forecast List, which will be sent to RCO after this meeting. The goal of this list is to present strong need for conservation funding in the basin. As such, the projects listed are all tangible, recognizable, and realistic projects that could be executed if funding were provided. Through developing this list, we’ve created evidence of a \$29 million need for conservation in the basin (though only \$7 million will be presented as proposed request for SRFB funds).

This list serves multiple purposes: for the purposes of our group, it is an opportunity to maintain a robust and continual resource that keeps track of work to be done in the basin. A snapshot of the list is what will be submitted to the legislature for the purposes of making current and future funding need visible and tangible. In addition, while we’re looking at a dire funding situation on the state level, there is conversation about federal stimulus money coming

down. Were this the case, this list would put us in a fantastic position, projects conceived of and ready to go.

## **6. Coast Salmon Partnership Updates**

### **a. WCRRI grant round**

Ned Pittman shared that the WCRRI ranked list was sent to RCO the morning of the present meeting. The list was expected to go out to applicants later that day. The round went well: 29 projects for a total of \$23.5 million in funding.

### **b. Additional Chehalis LE Directors Needed on CSP Board**

Currently Kirsten, Mark Swartout, and Randy Ross are the only Chehalis LE members on the CSP board, and there are 6 available seats. It would be great to have more representation at the CSP. It isn't necessarily required for representatives on the CSP to be a voting member of the HWG.

Later in the meeting, Hope Rieden, who currently attends meetings, volunteered to attend CSP meetings in an official capacity as a representative of the Chehalis LE. This can be voted on at the next meeting. There are still openings, and interested folks are encouraged to reach out to either the group or to Mara.

## **7. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**

### **a. Steering Committee Update**

The committee has continued to meet every two weeks, and is continuing to engage with the technical work around ASRP refinements. Most recently, they met with the science review team, discussing the more specific details involved in defining detailed recommendations regarding specific areas and actions. A second focus for the SRT as well as for the Implementation team has been considering good sequencing: both spatially and temporally, with considerations to both logistical and scientific realities on the ground.

The following Wednesday, the committee will meet about budget development for the coming biennium, with a mind to potential budgetary challenges around the corner.

Also of note: Colleen Suter is now serving as the committee voting member for the Chehalis Tribe, and Stacy Polkowske is the ex officio member for WA Ecology.

### **b. Implementation Team Discussion**

One of the implementation model structures under consideration is to develop less of a competitive grant round format and move more toward a regional project-list development model. This format of project execution was done by American Rivers in the Colorado Basin, as the team has been looking nationally for different models. The group expressed interest in hearing more about such a model going forward, but also does value the current competitive grant round model the LE has operated under already.

**c. Chehalis Strategy Update:**

Recently, the Governor wrote a letter to Ecology, WDFW, and Chehalis Basin Board recommending that SEPA EIS work be stopped for the flood retention facility, and that the money be diverted to investing in understanding potential non-dam alternatives. The CBB will be discussing this in the upcoming meeting. Work on the ASRP is unaffected by this change; all studies and projects will continue - this is strictly a change on the EIS side of things.

**d. Early Action Reach Updates**

Thurston CD: Mara Healey gave an update. The in-water work window opened on the 1st. Log jam construction should be happening soon. There are folks on site working on the parallel pieces; the project is getting clarity on what planting will look like. It's a big project, and it's moving forward: lots of drone and video footage will be captured as well.

Grays Harbor CD: Anthony Waldrop updated on the Satsop/Wynoochee reach. Not a lot of new developments to report: permit applications are still in the works. The CD did just hire a riparian restoration project coordinator for invasives/restoration work in the reach - it is good to have more capacity.

Lewis CD: Bob Amrine updated progress on the SF Newaukum. They're waiting on permit signatures, as well. Also, Stillman Creek work has been put on hold because of an acquisition water right issue. ECY is doing pre-project monitoring in the next couple weeks for some upcoming projects.

**8. Newaukum Subcommittee**

Note: The full meeting schedule for after the present meeting was postponed until Monday, September 14.

The group discussed upcoming beaver dam analogue projects going in the Newaukum. This is a fairly new tool for the west side of the state, so there is a lot of interest in how these go. The project is in PRISM, and can be followed through that portal. It was suggested that the project incorporate footage of the progress; drone footage would be particularly effective here. The landowner here is great to work with here, and so that will likely be a good fit. For information on how permitting was handled for the BDAs, check with Melissa Erkel.

**9. Other/Closing**

Caprice Fasano checked in about group interest in having a cultural resource Q&A. The group decided to add that to the agenda for September's meeting.