

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

Monday, August 5, 2019

~ 9:30 am – 12:30 am ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center – Gathering Room

461 Secena Road, Oakville, WA

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| Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor CD Ann Weckback, Lewis Co. Alissa Ferrell, RCO Brandon Carman, Grays Harbor CD Bob Amrine, Lewis CD Caprice Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation Cade Roler, WDFW Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited. Jeanne Kinney, Thurston Co. Public Works Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe Kathy Jacobsen, LE Outreach Coordinator | Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator Kelly Verd, Lewis CD Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership Mark Gray, CRBLT Mark Swartout, Thurston Co. Citizen Ned Pittman, Coast Salmon Partnership Paula Holroyde, League of Women Voters Rick Rouse, Port of Chehalis Rickie Marion, Chehalis Tribe Stu Trefry, WSCC Thom Woodruff, Capitol Land Trust Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor CD |
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1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

2. Organizational Business

1. Review minutes from June & July, 2019:

- i. Tom Kollasch moved to approve each set of minutes, both of which Rick Rouse seconded. Both were voted for approval.

2. Subcommittees

i. Culvert (Chris/Cade)

Cade described the development of the new contract with Aspect Consulting. He and Chris are doing QA/QC work and ironing out the rough-draft contract. They expect to have a finished contract soon, which they will bring to a subcommittee meeting in early September.

ii. Newaukum (Cade/Ann)

The next Newaukum subcommittee meeting (this afternoon) is looking at reassessing the FBRB priorities in the light of that fact that barrier removal in the Middle Fork Newaukum is nearing completion. The subcommittee will be looking at other watershed pathways to prioritize, likely within the Newaukum--but this is yet to be decided.

3. Coast Salmon Partnership Work Plan – Informational (Mara Z.)

- i. Mara discussed briefly the work plan she has put together for her staff: it is divided into outreach, implementation, fundraising work (CSF board), and the day-to-day business of running a non-profit. The work plan was

not presented in detail in the interest of time, but Mara is open for more detailed discussion one-on-one. Interest was expressed in seeing a copy of the work plan; Kirsten will email this out to those who would like to see it.

4. Coast Salmon Foundation – Vote on Bylaws (Mara Z./Bob)

- i. Mara led a discussion soliciting approval from the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity –to be their contribution toward approval by the Coast Salmon Partnership as a whole-- for changes being made to the Coast Salmon Foundation bylaws. This was addressed in a previous meeting, but the following minor changes came through after that approval:
 1. Language clarifying that tribal participation is optional, and that whether or not filled their seats on the board are perpetually available to them
 2. Clarification that board members are volunteer, and cover their own expenses; there is, however, an avenue for approval of limited reimbursement for special costs.
 3. Clarification of a typo
- ii. CSP will vote at the end of August
- iii. Mark Swartout moved to approve the changes, Jason seconded the approval. This was put to a vote, and it was passed unanimously.

5. Outreach

i. Contract:

Kirsten presented the HWG with the annual Lead Entity Scope of Work at the last meeting and the group approved the work plan. Completing the Scope of Work requires a subcontract to complete community outreach work. Kathy Jacobson was the successful applicant for that subcontract. Kathy introduced herself to the Work Group: she has worked in environmental education throughout the larger region. More locally, she coordinated the Chehalis Basin Education consortium for 15 years. She's currently a local park ranger. Her contract will include funding to have her in attendance at HWG meetings, and as such, she will be available to be a part of conversations around outreach going forward.

ii. Event idea

Kirsten offered up an outreach idea to help address the question: how do we get new folks submitting projects & aware of the opportunity? She suggested a community presentation by *Saving Tarboo Creek* author Scott Freeman. This would provide an opportunity for a conversation with a landowner who is informed, passionate, and articulate about restoration of his own land. Possibilities and suggestions around how to put on this event were discussed.

3. SRFB

1. Draft ranked 2019 SRFB project list presented by Local Review Team (LRT)

- i. Project rankings and scores were presented: project scores this year were closer than in previous years. The LRT provided some feedback about the process. They emphasized that rank awarded is about how projects

compared, and doesn't necessarily speak to the merit of individual projects: these were all solid projects, and funding all of them would be the preference! There was a wide variety in types of projects this year. The LRT was careful that scoring was consistent after 8 hours of ranking work: to this end, a follow-up phone meeting was held for discussion of scores and possible reassessment after some distance from initial scoring. Overall, this was a good, science-based round of project review.

- ii. A few ranking concerns were discussed:
 - 1. It's hard to see such close scores for projects on either side of the funding line: there needs to be good justification for the ranked list. The Hogue project in particular was pointed out as a frustrating example: it is a time-sensitive project that has been a work-in-process for a couple years, and it came in just below fundability.
 - 2. The CRBLT would like to see the Gronberg Acquisition project funded before the Middle Fork Hoquiam project. They are the sponsor in the former project and the landowner in the latter. GHCD (sponsor for the MF Hoquiam) expressed support for this move; the CRBLT is the main interested party in both cases, and the GHCD would like it to be their call. This option will be discussed below during the HWG ranked list voting discussion.

2. Discussion & HWG Vote

- i. Discussion continued concerning the appropriateness of changing the project ranking developed by the LRT of the two CRBLT-interested projects. While most HWG members were supportive of the ranking shift, concern was expressed about the wider consequences it may have on the integrity of the system. If there is to be an objective score, who gets to change the ranking? The process needs to be maintained. Integrity of process is of concern, yes, but also, the ranking is not written in stone. There is some malleability to the process: the Citizen's Committee (Habitat Work Group) has the ultimate authority to determine the ranking. It was noted that the Willapa Lead Entity has simply written into the process that the citizen's committee has the jurisdiction to adjust rankings, given that a justifiable reason is well-documented. The North Pacific Coast LE also has a similar process.
- ii. After the above discussion, the group felt comfortable going ahead on a vote. 6 voting members without a vested interest in the rankings were present, sufficient for a vote. As such, Mark Swartout moved to approve the ranked list as adjusted by the citizen's committee (HWG). Garrett seconded. The change to the list approved by this vote lowers the Middle Fork Hoquiam in ranking below the Gronberg Acquisition. This change was made by agreement of the parties (GHCD and CRBLT), for two reasons: the Gronberg Acquisition's need for funding is of much higher urgency given the nature of acquisition; the GHCD believes the MF Hoquiam project has further sources of funding and is thus comfortable

with a ranking demotion that allows Gronberg to rank such that it receives most of its needed funds. Motion was put to a vote and passed.

3. Next steps in 2019 grant round (Alissa/Kirsten)

Final applications due in PRISM August 8th; ranking list submitted August 15th; August 27th CSP will carry out final approval; SRFB will meet for ranking approval in December.

4. Update on Project 17-1125 – Landowner Willingness (Thom)

Thom Woodruff provided an update on a previously funded project looking to establish a database of landowner willingness in several Chehalis subbasins. Recent progress is that CLT's GIS-person merged 4-county's assessor's databases, and then from State of WA Fish distribution website, did some evaluations to come up with 4 different scores: length of stream, species listed, parcel size, % wetland cover. Of all parcels in the counties, 100 scored 26 or better, which was determined as high priority for conservation. Letters are being sent out to landowners of those parcels: just initial contact, no details thus far. Observations: only 3 or 4 of those 100 priority parcels are on the list developed in the ASRP early action reach, indicating that the priority of those projects is restoration, not protection.

Kirsten noted that in Chehalis basin, we don't have listed salmonids, so asked why that metric was relevant in this model which is being developed specifically for the Chehalis with salmon money. Thom mentioned that the listed frog species make "listed species" relevant. **Correction:** Thom corrected this final point at the following meeting: this wouldn't have been a part of the conversation, as SRFB doesn't take non-fish species into consideration. He did take the opportunity to look into the rationale behind using a metric regarding the presence of listed species for this area even though the Chehalis Basin does not have any listed species. As it turns out, listed-species were taken into consideration only insofar as species that are listed as threatened in the nearby South Puget Sound region were given some extra weight because of their proximity to the Chehalis Basin.

5. Berwick Creek Project Update (Ann Weckback)

Lewis County asked for a grant extension which was approved by RCO. The project can't move forward at this time because the landowner's knowledge doesn't validate the hydrogeologist's model. Forward progress is therefore waiting on a rain event that will provide an opportunity for the hydrogeologist to assess the site on the ground when there is active overbank flooding and adjust the model accordingly. This is relevant because the grant was to carry out channel reconnection and restoration. The model at present would require channels to be put in a place that would change the riparian and wetland buffers and thus developability of property.

4. Grant Round Timeline Overview

1. Review of upcoming funding programs & timeline (2019-2020) (Kirsten)

- i. Kirsten led a discussion to address any input or concerns about the upcoming LEAN-adjusted SRFB grant-round timeline, which is as follows: RCO announces new grant round in September; In October, LE will put out a call for proposals, then collect conceptual projects Oct-Jan, due in January. February will be RCO deadline for complete application. There will not be a lot of draft review time. The rationale here is to allow reviewers to provide more valuable input during site visits since they will be more familiar with the project. Feb-March are allocated to site review visits. Ranking will take place in May. Citizen's Committee approval will be due by first of June. June 29th is the final application deadline.
- ii. Discussion: Q) Could there be a possibility of an April site visit? A) Site visit date requests are due Oct 25th so we can request an April visit so it's not an impossibility, depending on what dates are reserved by other Lead Entities.
- iii. There will be another FBRB grant-round. A Call for proposals will come in November, with applications due in January. Cade is available to provide feedback on project ideas any time before the application due date.
- iv. WCRRI will also be putting out an RFP for projects in the fall of 2019. Ned Pittman will be developing the grant round schedule and will aim to create deadlines that synergize with other grant programs.
- v. CBP Streamflow Restoration Act is a fourth funding source coming up as well: the grant round will open in October, with applications due in March. Funding available in August.

5. ASRP

1. **New RCO Chehalis Basin Contract Manager**

RCO will hire a full-time, dedicated Chehalis Basin Contract manager to manage all ASRP and other Chehalis Strategy projects. SRFB projects will continue to be handled separately and Alissa will continue to manage Chehalis grants.

2. **Opportunities for input on ASRP Plan**

The ASRP Plan will be released for public comment at the end of October. At the September 9th Habitat Work Group meeting, Emilie will present on the content of the ASRP and announce when feedback/comments can be given. Because of the timing of the release of the document, an RFP for small projects that implement the goals of the ASRP will be released, ideally, in early November. Sponsors can get a "sneak preview" of ASRP priority areas from Emelie's presentation.

Much discussion was had around dates of a potential ASRP grant round: there is concern that these dates were chosen with the interest of grant processing at the cost of viability for project implementation and construction. A significant time gap needs to exist between the award of a grant and the expected execution of the project. Permitting, bidding, and many other factors make it hard to deliver on a project the same year the grant is disbursed unless that grant is disbursed very early in the year. There are some exceptions to this, such as projects aided by occurring on private property and projects that are

permitted and ready for construction.

3. Early Action Reach Updates (CDs)

- i. CDs will soon be meeting with Land Trusts in order to coordinate landowner outreach.
- ii. Both Satsop/Wynoochee and Skookumchuck Early Action Reaches are targeting 2020 construction. Land owners are ready to go: motivated by flooding/erosion.
- iii. There is interest in providing and acquiring LWD materials from the City of Aberdeen as well as by private landowners.

6. Other Business

- i. Tim Beechie will be coming on November 4th to speak on the Life Cycle Model. The next meeting will be held the second Monday (Sept 9) due to Labor Day.