

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group Meeting
June 4, 2018
9:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Chehalis Tribe Community Center Library
Oakville, Washington

Alice Rubin, <i>RCO</i>	Kathleen Berger, <i>Thurston County CD</i>
Alissa Ferrell, <i>RCO</i>	Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis County CD</i>
Anthony Waldrop, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i>	Kirsten Harma, <i>CBLE</i>
Cade Roler, <i>WDFW</i>	Mark J. Stewart, <i>Thurston County citizen</i>
Chris Dwight, <i>WDFW</i>	Miranda Plumb, <i>USDFW</i>
Colleen Suter, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Omroa Bhagwandin, <i>Lewis County citizen</i>
Greg Green, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i>	Rich Osborne, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i>
Hope Rieden, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Rick Rouse, <i>Port of Chehalis</i>
Janet Strong, <i>CRBLT</i>	Sarah Burkhart, <i>Grays Harbor College</i>
Jamie Glasgow, <i>WFC</i>	Thom Woodruff, <i>Capitol Land Trust</i>
Jason Gillie, <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i>
Jess Helsley, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i>	.

1. Welcome, Introductions

All participants introduced themselves. Alissa Ferrell introduced herself as the new RCO grant manager to take over for Alice Rubin.

2. Organizational Business

A) Review minutes from May

Kirsten noted that Jordan Rash provided edits in writing in advance of this meeting. Thom made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark seconded. All in favor. April 2nd meeting minutes were approved with Jordan Rash's suggested edit.

B) Subcommittees

1. Newaukum

The Newaukum subcommittee has not met but the Chair hopes to reconvene in the fall.

2. Culverts

Cade provided the update: The subcommittee hasn't met in a while. The next expected meeting date will be in late summer. Cade's team at WDFW is making sure the mapping for new sites lines up with existing GIS data. They will be ready in approximately 4-6 weeks. They will be getting the EDT/culvert database, and are meeting frequently with GIS specialists.

C) Membership

Kirsten provided the update: The Habitat Work Group recently lost two citizen members. This is a call to think of landowners or citizens interested in salmon recovery who might be interested in participating. Please let Kirsten know if you know someone in the community who may be interested. Jess noted that the Native Fish Society will start working in the basin. They have a citizen scientist program that recruits people to be stewards of the river. That might bring more citizen representatives to the Habitat Work Group.

D) Protection Chapter

Conducting a strategy update as part of the annual Lead Entity work plan. The last update was 2011, and was based on an earlier edition. Kirsten acknowledged that this group needs to wait to see what the ASRP science and strategy is before updating our own strategy. None the less, nothing in the current Strategy speaks specifically to protection projects so we need to seek guidance. Eric Erler is providing recommendations on guidance for evaluating projects, which will be provided at an upcoming pre-ranking meeting. A “protection chapter” for the Lead Entity strategy may be in order in the near future.

Q: What’s the purpose for waiting for the ASRP to be finished before updating our strategy?

A: We’re waiting for the information to incorporate that into our strategy. There’s new science coming out, and we need to decide what we’re going to use.

Cade cautioned against pulling too much from the ASRP and making that central with the LE strategy. They should be kept as two separate documents with different pathways.

3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

A) 2018 Grant Round

Mark was on the local review team this year and provided a summary of the projects and site visits. The projects are a mix— restoration, acquisition, channel re-connection, etc. One of the projects is the fish screen projects, funding 15 fish screens. The review team will be having a pre-ranking meeting to help set the parameters and review the way of ranking. Mark provided a ‘thank you’ to the Tribe for use of the van for the site visits. Kirsten added that RCO comment forms are almost done, and should be going out this week.

B) Individual Project Post-Site Visit Comments

1. Frase Creek Culvert Project – Lewis County

This project received ASRP funding, but they are looking for additional funding for extra salmon-friendly enhancements.

2. Middle Fork Newaukum – Lewis County

Ann pulled this project to since she was guaranteed Fish Barrier Removal Board funding

3. Lost Creek Fish Passage - WDFW

Chris Dwight told the group that on June 13 and 14 they have their archaeologist on site to do field reviews, and to talk about cultural resources and what goes into those surveys. He invited interested parties to contact him about joining on the field review.

4. Fish Screening – Lewis County Conservation District

The review team visited a dairy with a fish screen already in place. Someone on the review team heard that when the screening was put in, the pool was full of coho.

5. Banick – Lewis County Conservation District

Mark commented that he would like more details in order to understand the project better. We didn't stand in the area where the culvert would go, so it was difficult to understand how the pond, river and stream fit together with the project. A map would be great.

Comment: A survey is needed to decide where to put the new channel.

Q: Is there a way to show some elevations for the pond and the river?

A: Kirsten noted that she saw LIDAR product produced for that area in the ASRP design team meetings that shows relative elevation. Anchor will have that data.

Q: Would it be good to have a small handout for reviewers to have?

A: It's all in PRISM. Sponsors are welcome to hand out a packet to advance their own project. For ranking committee members, Kirsten packaged all the projects documents into one PDF.

Q: Hasn't this project applied for ASRP funding?

A: It didn't funded, so it's being proposed as a SRFB project.

6. Holm Farm – Capitol Land Trust

Reviewers asked for a more accurate and easy-to-read map of the property.

Thom responded that he plans to do more GIS mapping to identify the buffers. He is looking for funding to put towards the forested wetland. He expects to close on Holm Phase I in the next two weeks. Since they were successful in getting funding approved, they were able to get match.

7. East Fork Wishkah Barrier and Channel Reconnection Design – Grays Harbor CD

No comments were made.

8. Wishkah Gardens – Forterra

Darcey commented via Skype: We'll be

looking to WFC, our partner, for answers to the technical questions proposed by Kirsten and the SRFB review panel.

9. Newkah – Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

Q: Is there going to be an alternate driving route? The design said they were going to put in a temporary one.

A: Lonnie did talk about that.

10. Grayland – Ducks Unlimited

Q: Was part of that project mapping the area?

A: It's an assessment of the property, so a component will be a series of maps.

Q: Were there comments about mapping noxious weeds?

A: Yes. But the property is 1,700 acres, so the focus of the proposal is where I

see opportunity for fish-focused restoration, not for the entire property.

C) General SRFB Updates

1. There will be a meeting of the Board at the end of June. It is a joint travel meeting to the Lower Columbia with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the SRFB sister agency in Oregon.

2. Alice will be doing presentation for the Board on Shotwell's Landing, a conversion property of TNC and managed by the CNLM. They had been allowed to develop nurseries where the original buildings were on an upland area next to Littlerock Road, but the entire parcel is protected by a deed of right, meaning they can't construct any buildings.

TNC has a donated property that they'd like to consider as an alternative for a replacement property. We don't allow sponsor-owned property to be used for that purpose. The presentation will be in support of waiving that policy.

Q: Why are sponsor-owned properties usually not allowed?

A: It has to be eligible for a project, so you need a waiver of retroactivity if you purchase a property in advance of applying and getting funding. They've owned the property for a long time, so it doesn't fit into those criteria.

4. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) & Chehalis Strategy

A) ASRP Updates

Kirsten: It's been two months since the last Steering Committee meeting. The current push is to put funding towards designs of larger-than-usual projects with multiple landowners along 1-2 miles of river bank in five different basins in the Chehalis. The Steering Committee approved hiring two large restoration firms that specialize in process-based restoration, specifically to do these designs: Inter-Fluve and NSD. Their work is divided by county / Conservation District. The firms are meeting and narrowing down which specific areas to work in, and determining how to begin engaging the landowners. The structure of the "design teams" for each subwatershed is simple: the firm representatives, project managers, Conservation District staff, Kirsten and Jess.

Anthony: Maggie McKeon, the WDFW representative, is coordinating the process and is on each of the Design Teams for consistency. As these design projects evolve, there will be different opportunities for learning.

Kirsten: They're in the design phase now, with a goal of getting the designs completed by the end of the biennium. They have funding to do five major, multi-landowner designs by the end of the biennium, with the hope that they can ask the legislature for funding for construction for the subsequent biennium.

B) Other Chehalis Strategy Updates

Kathleen: We've held more landowner meetings, gathering members of the agricultural community to talk about their needs for agricultural viability, in hopes that the Strategy can address some of those in exchange for the restoration opportunities. Ideas put on the table included better transportation for agricultural products, community butcher houses, and enhancing agricultural presence in the watershed. They talked about the role of large woody debris, and what

their concerns about those projects are. We want to build a relationship and convey that their concerns were heard, and we've created this with their needs in mind.

We did one collaborative meeting with all three Conservation Districts in Rochester, then we did our own meetings divided by the "ecoregions" relevant to our Districts.

Tom added: We came out with an understanding of the agricultural differences between the basins. E.g. soils in the lower mainlands are deeper and there is more agriculture compared to the predominance of hay production in other regions.

Q: What is your most effective method of communication?

A: Targeted outreach. We were targeting between 8-10 people and just called them. When we call someone, we ask them who else to talk to.

Q: What are the top concerns?

A: Bank erosion, development, and anxiety around the future of the region and the future of agriculture.

D) FAQ Handouts

Kirsten handed out a list of frequently asked questions to have at hand for outreach conversations. She asked the group to try answer those, write any additional questions, and then get responses back to Kirsten.

E) Other Announcements

June 7th is the next Chehalis Basin Board (CBB) meeting, which is in conflict with the EPA Drinking Water Provider's workshop held the same date. State elected officials will be at the Board meeting to meet the new OCB director. During the meeting, they'll be discussing the ASRP outreach strategy. They'll also be reviewing the early action flood damage mitigation projects, and discussing putting out a new call for proposals. They've set up a new criteria, which Board will approve. Kirsten asked if someone could be appointed to the project review team to comment on the habitat benefits or detriments of the different projects. Scott Boettcher said that each Chehalis Basin Board member gets to appoint one person to that committee, and suggested that Kirsten could be Steve Mallock's appointee. Since she's unable to attend the Board meeting, she asked if any Habitat Work Group members could attend the meeting and be present for the conversation about appointing someone to represent habitat on the review teams.

5. Other Updates

These agenda items were skipped due to time constraints:

A) Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRI) Update

B) Brian Abbott Fish Removal Board (FBRB) Update

C) Source Water Protection Workshop

6. Presentation: Fish Research in the Chehalis— Mara Zimmerman, WDFW

Mara gave a presentation on what WDFW has been doing in respect to fish research and monitoring in the basin since 2015. She distributed a handout which is an overview of the studies that have been completed or that are ongoing. Page one includes studies that look specifically at

populations of salmon and steelhead, the abundance, distribution, and survival. The studies on page two focus on broadening the scope of species, and looking at the relationships between all species, including non-salmonids, and the temperatures of in-stream habitat. A workshop that has been planned in September in which the individual project leads for these studies will be presenting this work.

Highlights include:

- *One of the concerns that led to this research is that there had't been a comprehensive look at the salmon and steelhead above the location that the dam is being proposed to go in. *WDFW has been looking at the status of spring chinook. They've been spawning later and later. The late spawning makes it harder to distinguish how many spring vs. fall chinook.

- *Steelhead differ genetically between sub-basins.

- *Chinook have similar genetics throughout the subwatersheds

- *Chinook spend time in the estuary, making restoration of Grays Harbor very important

- *Only a small area of the basin is used for summer rearing. The summer habitat is in the headwaters. As climate change increases summer temperatures, this would further constrict summer rearing.

- *We're getting more data on Chum abundance and distribution in the basin. We have found a strong need for spring-fed side-channel, "sloughy" spawning habitat.

Q: How would you describe the range of habitat that the spring chinook spawn in, and how important is it if that area would be inundated?

A: There used to be more spawning above Pe Ell; today there is very little. The majority occurs in the Newaukum basin and the Skookumchuck basin.

Q: Are you looking to delineate between spring and fall chinook?

A: That's what's currently being done. The tool we have to assess spring and fall stocks is counting the redds. One of the studies is looking at a gene that's associated with early migration timing.

7. Announcements

a) Get your WCRRRI applications in. Preliminary project applications are due June 15th. Get your forms to Jess to get them into PRISM.

b) Miranda provided an update on Chehalis Funding Program. We anticipate funding this year. I haven't seen a budget but we're working towards our usual allotment, which in the past has been about \$130,000. We will be reviewing the four projects applications we received this week. We are getting fewer applications in recent years because of the ASRP funding.

8. Meeting adjourned at 12:10