

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group
October 3, 2022 -- Minutes**

In person: Chehalis Tribe Community Center & Zoom

~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

<i>Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works</i> <i>Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited</i> <i>Bob Amrine, Lewis Cons. Dist.</i> <i>Ben Amidon, Chehalis Tribe</i> <i>Brett DeMond, Streamworks</i> <i>Caprice Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation</i> <i>Drew Mealar, ASRP Implementation</i> <i>Elena Fernandez, Thurston County Pub. Wor.</i> <i>Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy</i> <i>Grace Adams, Coast Salmon Partnership</i> <i>Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited</i> <i>Jacob Murray, Mason Conservation Dist.</i> <i>Jerilyn Walley, Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.</i> <i>Karen Adams, WDFW Region 5</i>	<i>Kathy Jacobson, Outreach Coordinator</i> <i>Kelly Verd, Lewis Conservation District</i> <i>Kendall Barameda, RCO</i> <i>Key McMurray, Grays Harbor Citizen</i> <i>Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator</i> <i>Kitty Weismann, Capitol Land Trust</i> <i>Lacey Wright, Americorps</i> <i>Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership</i> <i>Megan Tuttle, WDFW Habitat Bio.</i> <i>Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife Service</i> <i>Ned Pittman, Coast Salmon Partnership</i> <i>Rickie Marion, Chehalis Tribe</i> <i>Sasha Medlen, RCO</i> <i>Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.</i>
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1. Welcome, Breakout Rooms, Introductions

2. Minutes Approval

Ben motioned to approve August minutes, and Kitty seconded. The motion passed.

3. Organizational Business

a. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Key made a motion to open elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Alex seconded. All in favor. Miranda made a nomination of Key to serve as Vice Chair. Bob made a nomination for Ben to serve as Chair. Tom made a motion to close nominations. Alex seconded. All in favor. Kitty made a motion to elect Ben and Chair and Key as Vice Chair. All in favor.

b. Newaukum Subcommittee

There has been a summer hiatus of this subcommittee and the core team has been working on a NOAA grant application to advance the pilot watershed restoration strategy. Kirsten asked about the development of the Humptulips strategy. Jerilyn reported that they have received their contract and are ready to go.

c. Outreach Updates

Alexa has left her position with Grays Harbor Stream Team. There is a need for a new coordinator. There was a great event put on by the Lewis County Stream Team. Kenna put together a YouTube video about the event and it is available on the Lewis CD YouTube page.

Kathy attended the Onalaska Apple Festival. She got to interact with new first time residents. Many are very interested in getting involved in restoration and volunteerism. She got questions about the salmon runs – when are the fish coming back? Kelly provided information on the locations of culvert replacements. Kathy provided education with a newly purchased river table.

Kirsten provided a summary of the recent legislative tour held for representative McIntire and Commissioner Polluck on restoration sites in the Stillman Creek basin. There is an upcoming tour planned in the lower basin for representative Tharinger. These are great opportunities for our elected officials to see how state dollars are being spent and how our programs are working together.

d. Field Trip Planning

October 21st was suggested as a good day to tour some of the sites. The proposed sites include Littlerock Road, Camp Creek, and Geissler.

Kathy had suggested a tour of Wild Time Farm, owned by John Henrikson. John has been completing restoration on his property for 20 years and can share lots of stories, lessons and successes. Kirsten will send out a poll to find a good time to meet.

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Updates

At the last SRFB meeting, staff shared two pending updates to Manual 18: There will be an update to Appendix D, Design Deliverables, and there will be several options considered for updating the upland acquisition match funding criteria.

b. Scope Change Request

Kelly Verd is requesting a scope change on the Lewis Conservation District grant that recently was awarded SRFB funding for 2022: – **MF Newaukum Tribs @ Alpha**. The scope change is being requested because the project is low on the FBRB list and will not likely receive its required funding match. The award of \$52,000 from the SRFB will not allow them to do very much. Thus, they are requesting to rescope the project to design only, and use the funds to pay for cultural resources, design, permitting, and administration.

Discussion. Q) Are you planning to do preliminary designs only? A) Yes, but these will probably be mostly finalized. Maybe 60%.

Brett made a motion to approve the scope change request to design only for the MF Newaukum Tribs @ Alpha project. Kitty seconded. All in favor.

5. SRFB Other

Kirsten asked if Ann would be using her funds from SRFB awarded to the Berwick at Labree project, as it is in a similar situation to Kelly's project in that it's rank on FBRB is below the funding line. Specifically, would there be a benefit to the Lead Entity in doing this, by allowing those funds to be allocated to another project next grant round.

RCO staff responded: ““If sponsors pull their projects within a year of the September funding meeting, the unobligated supplemental funding can be carried over to the 2023 grant round.”

Others asked if we could somehow prioritize getting that project funded the next time the FBRB grant round starts up and funding for match is awarded. That is, put it at the top of our list and not have to have everyone review it again. RCO staff will find out the answer for us.

Kirsten asked the group if they would be interested in a presentation on Intensively Monitored Watersheds findings. Participants expressed interest!

6. Project Updates! – Share your successes!

The Chehalis Tribe completely removed a culvert in Harris Creek to allow for restoration of full stream processes. They were able to remove it in 2.5 days! Ben will provide a PowerPoint showing how this worked at next month's meeting.

Grays Harbor Conservation District has released its film on the Middle Fork Hoquiam tidal restoration project. It is available on the GHCD website and Facebook page. There will be an article about the project in the Daily World.

Capitol Land Trust is excited to take on the Lucas Creek project development project. This would be the first land conservation project they take on in the Newaukum.

Lewis Conservation District will be planting 13,000 potted plants in the fall at Stillman Creek! LCD also recently removed 2 culverts in a trib to the Newaukum and a trib to Berwick Creek using FFFPP funds.

Mason Conservation District is working on project development in the Satsop basin.

Kitty reported that Capitol Land Trust's Tree Fever conservation easement on the West Fork Satsop did not go through. The Land Trust and landowner were unable to come to agreement on easement terms. This is unfortunate as the property has good river shoreline habitat.

The Grays Harbor Conservation District completed the house move on the upper Wynoochee. Tom recommends not starting a similar project with a house that isn't up to code! The project benefit is that the house move allowed for more restoration.

7. Associated Program Updates

a. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Drew provided updates. New members have been added to the technical review team: Jim Fisher and John Soden. A new ASRP project manager, Victoria, has started. There will be changes to the project approval process, where project requests over \$1 Million will be presented to the Chehalis Basin Board for funding approval. This will increase public input and Board engagement with the ASRP. RCO is going to be putting out an RFQ for sponsors interested in taking on ASRP projects. The RFQ will be open for a full month. Bob shared that in the upper basin there will be a new project development proposal coming through. The CD will be looking for opportunities for smaller projects focused on spring chinook summer holding pools. Creating new pools away from roads will reduce likelihood of human disturbance.

b. Coast Salmon Partnership

The SRFB Supplemental Budget includes an allocation of \$4.97 million for the Coast region. The scores between the two projects that applied were very close, with the award going to the slightly higher scoring projects, an acquisition in the Willapa Lead Entity. The team tried to find a way to split the funds between the two projects, but there were administrative issues that made

this not possible.

c. Fish Barrier Removal Board

No updates.

d. Chehalis Basin Partnership

No updates.

Adjourned.