

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group
October 4, 2021 -- Minutes**

Zoom Meeting

~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis County Public Works</i> Alex Gustafson, <i>Trout Unlimited</i> Alexa Brown, <i>CBFTF/GH Stream Team</i> Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis Cons. Dist.</i> Brandon Carman, <i>RCO</i> Brian Stewart, <i>Conservation Northwest</i> Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i> Chanele Holbrook, <i>Citizen</i> Cinde Donoghue, <i>DNR Aquatics</i> Elena Fernandez, <i>Thurston County PW.</i> Emelie McKain, <i>ASRP/ WDFW</i> Garrett Dalan, <i>Nature Conservancy</i> Greg Green, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Hannah Coe, <i>Ecology Non-Point</i>	Jan Robinson, <i>Chehalis R. B. Land Trust</i> Jennifer Holderman, <i>WDFW ASRP</i> Kaitlynn Nelson, <i>Thurston County</i> Kirsten Harma, <i>Lead Entity Coordinator</i> Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis Cons. Dist.</i> Key McMurray, <i>Grays Harbor Citizen</i> Lee First, <i>Twin Harbors Water Keeper</i> Mara Healy, <i>Thurston Conservation District</i> Marisa Litz, <i>WDFW Research Scientist</i> Megan Tuttle, <i>WDFW Habitat Bio.</i> Ned Pittman, <i>Coast Salmon Part/Fdn</i> Sarah Watkins, <i>Grays Harbor Citizen</i> Scott Collyard, <i>Ecology</i> Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.</i>
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- 1. Welcome, Introductions**
- 2. Networking Time in Breakout Rooms**
- 3. Minutes Approval – September**

Key motioned to approve September’s minutes, and Alexa seconded. The motion passed.

- 4. Organizational Business**
 - a. Membership**

Sarah Watkins has submitted her candidacy to fill the remaining Citizen seat on the Habitat Work Group. Sarah is our former note-taker and a recent graduate of Grays Harbor College’s Forest Resources program. She currently works with the 10,000 Years Institute. She lives in Oakville near Harris Creek, as do her daughters.

Bob made a motion to elect Sarah to serve as our Citizen rep. Key seconded. All in favor.

In other membership news, October is listed in our bylaws as the month we elect the Chair and Vice-Chair, as these are one year terms.

Key made a motion to open nominations. Tom seconded. All in favor. Nominations will remain open until our vote at November’s meeting.

- b. Outreach updates**

Kirsten provided an update on recent tours, including to a property with intact beaver ponds near Rochester, and a tour in coordination with the Coast Salmon Partnership to take Commissioner Swope and Representative Abbarno to look at two fish passage project sites in the Newaukum basin.

Lewis Conservation District hosted the kick-off of its new Stream Team program at Wisner Creek. Local neighbors attended and got ideas of restoration work they could do on their own land. Kathy will write a story about the event.

Onalaska Apple Festival was this past weekend and Kathy hosted a booth for the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity. She was able to talk to 75 people. About half were new to the area and had moved from the Longview /Portland area. Brian added that Onalaska is planning to see the building of 50 new homes. This speaks to the changing demographic of these watersheds, to people who aren't familiar with living near rivers.

Kathy noted an outreach material need: a brochure with projects completed over the past 10 years.

Alexa will host a salmon viewing day for the public at Schafer State Park – November 13th. The Stream Team will host a planting event November 6th and 20th.

c. Newaukum subcommittee – to be held after November meeting.

5. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Cost Increase Request – 2020 West Hoquiam Acquisition

This project has a funding deficit of \$58,681. This is because the cost estimate was developed in early 2020, and land prices have increased since then. The Fairfield parcel appraised higher than expected. There was a comparable parcel on the Hoquiam that has wetland and floodplains, but was still permitted for development! The sponsor will move some of their budget for “incidentals” to cover the acquisition price. The sponsor's preferred option is to keep the budget for restoration costs intact, rather than the option of preparing a separate SRFB application for just riparian restoration.

Q) Do you have plans to remove the creosote pilings?

A) No, those aren't part of the properties.

Q) How much is the timber portion of the appraisal?

A) About \$17k.

Q) Is the funding available in the cost-increase pot from RCO?

A) Since we just had the funding meeting, there should be a fresh pot of funds available.

Ducks Unlimited is ready to close on the acquisition once funding is available.

Bob made a motion to approve the cost increase request. Key seconded. All in favor.

b. SRFB meeting – Key take-aways

Brandon and Kirsten provided key take aways from the last meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

c. Draft Schedule for 2022 Grant Round

Kirsten showed the draft schedule for 2022. Members are invited to provide comments after this meeting.

6. Monitoring Probe Siting (Cinde Donahue, DNR)

Cinde provided a presentation on DNR's ocean acidification monitoring program, and new citizen science program. DNR is looking to add another monitoring probe somewhere in the mainstem Chehalis River that citizen volunteers could access and clean. The group discussed ocean acidification and how it works. More information can be found at oainwa.org/mrac/. No one had suggestions on where to put a probe in the Chehalis but are invited to contact Cinde after the meeting.

7. Associated Program Updates

Kirsten shared a spreadsheet with projects included on last year's Planned Project Forecast List, that sponsors updated at the past meeting. She showcased which projects aren't in an ASRP priority area, and thus which would be likely candidates to apply for SRFB funding. Tom noted that Grays Harbor Conservation District might be ready to apply for construction funds for work in Still Creek. The Fisheries Task Force won't apply for SRFB funds for Damon Creek, but will instead apply for WCRRRI and maybe FBRB. Creekside Conservancy may start working on an acquisition proposal for the Cozy Valley area as part of their work in Scatter Creek, which is also seeking Streamflow funding.

a. Fish Barrier Removal Board (WDFW staff et. al.)

A grant round will be starting soon. No one from the program was available to provide more details.

b. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan – Implementation Plan overview and program updates

Jennifer shared that the sponsor RFQ has been delayed. It will likely be sent out by the end of the week. A sponsor webinar was put on recently. There will be another one soon that will focus on how the implementation process will work. The RFQ is due November 23.

c. Coast Salmon Partnership

Ned Pitman provided updates on the Implementation Committee's work. The upcoming Coast Climate Change symposium will be held entirely virtually.

d. Chehalis Basin Partnership

Ecology will start accepting applications for the Streamflow Restoration program starting November 2.