

## Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

October 5, 2020 – AGENDA

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

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| Alexa Brown, <i>Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task F.</i><br>Anthony Waldrop, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i><br>Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis County Public Works</i><br>Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis Conservation District</i><br>Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation DFW</i><br>Cindy Wilson, <i>Citizen</i><br>Charlie Kearns, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i><br>Charissa Waters, <i>Thurston Co Comm Planning</i><br>Emilie McKain, <i>ASRP/WDFW</i><br>Eric Earler, <i>Contractor with Ducks Ultd</i><br>Garrett Dalan, <i>The Nature Conservancy</i><br>Greg Green, <i>Ducks Ultd</i><br>Hope Rieden, <i>Chehalis Tribe DFW</i><br>Jennifer Reidmeyer, <i>Ecology</i> | Jonathan Bradshaw, <i>LC Citizen Rep/Minutes</i><br>Kathy Jacobson, <i>LE Outreach Coordinator</i><br>Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis Conservation District</i><br>Key McMurry, <i>Citizen</i><br>Kirsten Harma, <i>LE Coordinator</i><br>Mara Zimmerman, <i>Coast Salmon P/F</i><br>Mark Gray, <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i><br>Miranda Plumb, <i>USDFW</i><br>Mara Healy, <i>Thurston CD</i><br>Ned Pittman, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership/CSF</i><br>Rickie Marion, <i>Chehalis Tribe Water Quality</i><br>Ryan Walker, <i>Forterra</i><br>Steve Hagerty, <i>Mason Conservation District</i><br>Thom Woodruff, <i>Capital Land Trust</i><br>Tom Kollasch, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i> |
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1. **Welcome, Introductions**
2. **Networking Time in Breakout Rooms**
3. **September minutes Approval**

Thom Woodruff moved to approve September's minutes, which Mark Gray seconded. A vote approved the motion without comment.

4. **Organizational Business**

- a. **Nominations – Chair & Vice Chair**

Key McMurray moved to approve Bob Amrine to continue as Chair, which Thom Woodruff seconded. The group approved the motion unanimously.

Key McMurray and Ann Weckback had both been nominated for Vice Chair; Ann respectfully declined the nomination. Bob Amrine initiated the vote to confirm Key in the position, and the vote passed, though with one vote of opposition from Caprice with QIN. This opposition was based in both concerns about having a private consultant in the position of Vice Chair, as well

as the desire to have someone who has already-established experience with the Chehalis LE.

**b. Newaukum Sub-Committee report-out**

Members of the subcommittee described some of the discussion from September's meeting. The team went over maps produced by Ned's model work, which serve as great tools for identifying feasible and effective locations restoration. The group also noted that it is equally important to factor in outreach concerns; getting folks on board. Particularly, landowner willingness needs to be a major consideration - the landowner dynamic can make or break a project. Current projects are making it clear that it is invaluable to work with landowners who are sincerely committed to partnering in restoration.

The subcommittee's next meeting will take place in December after the regular HWG.

**c. Outreach Update**

Kathy Jacobson shared that World Fish Migration Day is coming up later in the month. She's hoping to work with folks in the lower and upper basin. Folks with the Chehalis Discovery Trail and the Grays Harbor Stream Team will be working with Kathy to get things rolling. A webinar also will take place on Oct 22nd, with contributions from a NOAA staff member from the Seattle area.

Further outreach work will continue to include Watershed Hero stories. Kathy is looking to highlight restoration work that has been happening in the Chehalis through photos and/or videos. If anyone has resources they can share, please reach out to her.

**5. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**

**a. Project Sponsor Survey**

Eric Erler, contracting with Ducks Unlimited, will be sending out a survey to gauge amount of restoration and protection work partners are planning to complete across the basin. The short, 5-10 minute survey will be shared via e-mail by the end of the week, and will be going out to around 60 stakeholders. Responses will be a great help in aiding the ASRP leadership team to set realistic expectations and inform future restoration decisions.

**b. ASRP Implementation Team Recommendations & Request for Input**

Emilie McKain shared a presentation outlining the recommendations of the ASRP Implementation Team:

The Implementation Team is working to understand what it will look like logistically to reach their goal of 550 stream miles of restoration in the next 30 years. In doing so, the team is most likely looking to achieve a balance between working with and streamlining current frameworks, and developing new systems and making larger systematic changes. As the team does so, they are looking for input from the HWG on how best to approach the following: balancing the need for both top-down and bottom-up approaches; identifying efficiencies of current systems; identifying bottlenecks in current system; working to have start-to-finish project implementation time; ensuring that projects meet ASRP goals; providing fair allocation of

funding that offers certainty to sponsors; continuing to build stakeholder support; building management that can adjust and evolve with the process.

Another significant shift that the Implementation Team is recommending is the model for allocating funding. Rather than continuing a competitive grant-round model as has been the structure of the HWG's distribution, the team suggests adopting a "project facilitation" model. With the amount of expected funding and the ASRP's large-scale restoration goals, there should be plenty of work and funding to share across the region. The emphasis should be, then, on helping connect current and new sponsors to this funding, and directing the funding to relevant restoration opportunities across the basin. Such a model would involve a few region-wide groups (i.e. coordination; science and technical review) which oversee the work of local teams based in geographical regions across the basin.

Anthony Waldrop also noted that the team is working hard to avoid reinventing wheels. The team has been working with the insight of groups from other regions that have done similarly large-scale work, and is working to implement those insights in ways that fit in with and incorporate the existing structures of the LE and HWG.

Generally, members of the HWG responded positively to the recommendations of the Implementation Team. Immediate suggestions emphasized the importance of both strongly aiding the integration of new sponsors as well as managing this development conscientiously, to avoid creating a feeling of scarcity. Additionally, it would be a boon for the project facilitation model to offer stability by commitment to funding projects through all stages - this isn't readily available through a yearly, competitive process.

## **6. Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

### **a. 2021 Grant Round, Next Steps**

The 2021 grant round will publicly kick off via an announcement from RCO in January but between now and then, conceptual project submissions are welcome. Also of note, RCO announced its budget requests for this coming year. For SRFB, they are requesting \$80 million; for WCRRI, \$15 million; and for the Brain Abbott FBRB, \$65.6 million.

### **7. Coast Salmon Partnership Updates**

The next CSP meeting will be Oct 27th. Pete Bisson will be discussing monitoring possibilities with SRFB funding. Mara is preparing WCRRI outreach materials - contact her directly if you would like information. Ned is also putting together a short white paper describing the nature of pilot-watershed-based restoration. This should be distributed around February.

### **8. Other/Closing**

Alexa Brown asked when the NFPP grant round would be opened, which Miranda shared should be by the end of the week. Miranda also noticed that this year's round looks to be shaping up to be pretty competitive. If sponsors would like feedback from Miranda on how competitive their submissions would be before they put them together, they are invited to reach out to her directly.