

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

May 1, 2023 ~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center
Library Class Room
461 Secena Road, Oakville, WA

Alex Gustafson - <i>Trout Ultd</i>	Key McMurry - <i>Pacific County LE</i>
Ann Weckback - <i>Lewis County Public Works</i>	Kirsten Harma - <i>Lead Entity Coordinator</i>
Ben Amidon - <i>Chehalis Tribe Restoration</i>	Lee First - <i>Twin Harbors Waterkeeper</i>
Bill Teitzel - <i>Port of Chehalis</i>	Luc Lamarche - <i>Beaver Craftworks, LLC</i>
Brad Murphy - <i>Thurston County Planner</i>	Mara Healy - <i>Thurston Conservation Dist</i>
Brett DeMond - <i>CBFTF Streamworks</i>	Mara Zimmerman - <i>Coast Salmon Part./Fdn.</i>
Caprice Fasano - <i>Quinault Tribe DNR</i>	Martin McClallum - <i>Thurston County Citizen</i>
Chris Palmer - <i>Lewis Conservation Dist</i>	Megan Tuttle - <i>WDFW Habitat Biologist</i>
Chanele Holbrook - <i>WA Dept of Ecology</i>	Miranda Plumb - <i>USFWS</i>
Drew Mealor - <i>ASRP Implementation</i>	Nat Kale - <i>Office of Chehalis Basin Planner</i>
Farley Youckton - <i>Chehalis Tribe Water Qual</i>	Ned Pittman - <i>Coast Salmon Partnership/Fdn</i>
Jan Robinson - <i>Chehalis R. Basin Land Trust</i>	Sarah Watkins - <i>Grays Harbor Citizen Rep</i>
Jacob Murray - <i>Mason Conservation Dist</i>	Sasha Medlen - <i>RCO</i>
Kathy Jacobson - <i>Lead Entity Outreach/Ed.</i>	Tara Livingood-Schott - <i>Chehalis Tribe F&W</i>
Karen Adams - <i>WDFW Habitat Biologist</i>	Travis Casey - <i>Dept of Ecology</i>
Kelly Verd - <i>Lewis Conservation Dist.</i>	Tom Kollasch - <i>GHCD/Willapa Bay LE</i>

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Minutes Approval**

Tom Kollasch requested a change in April's minutes, clarifying that the Lower Satsop project mentioned in section 7a is delayed *until* 2024 rather than *through* 2024. The project is planned to occur during the year 2024. With that change taken into account, Tom Motioned to approve the minutes, which Key McMurray seconded. A vote on this motion passed unanimously.

3. **Organizational Business**
 - a. **Outreach Updates**

Kathy reminded the group that the Shorebird Festival is coming up this weekend, May 3 - 5. The following weekend, Prairie Appreciation Day is taking place on May 13th. Kathy is also working on an addendum to previous info sheets on Beaver - she will be adding more information on their role with specific regard to climate change mitigation. Further, Kathy shared that 59 people attended the virtual event with Ben Goldfarb this month. The community is engaged.

Lee First shared that on June 26th, Twin Harbor Waterkeeper will be holding a free, NOAA-funded 3 day "Muddy Boots in Your Watershed" workshop for area high school teachers throughout the coastal region. This workshop will help teachers get their students outside

for watershed-focused environmental education. Anyone who is interested or knows teachers who would be interested should reach out to Lee.

Jan Robinson shared that the CRBLT had an Earth Day event in which members of the community worked to remove invasive species from the Chehalis Discovery Trail in Centralia.

b. Newaukum Work Group

The Newaukum Work Group will be reconvening on May 9th, to bring everyone up to speed and finalize their report. Anyone who is interested may attend, and there will be a virtual option.

c. Culvert Subcommittee

The Coast Salmon Partnership is working to update WDFW's culvert model. Mara Zimmerman requested that any basin entities who have information on updated passability of corrected culverts from the last 2 - 3 years reach out to her. Once this update is carried out sufficiently, it can be expected that the culvert subcommittee will reconvene and discuss running the model to produce new culvert rankings for the basin.

4. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Legislative/Budget Updates

Kirsten shared that the latest capital budget funding for SRFB is coming in low relative to last year. Last biennium's funding was \$30 million; this biennium is \$20 million.

Brett DeMond shared that the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force's (CBFTF) Schaefer Boom project may come under budget and be able to return \$40,000 to SRFB.

Kirsten also noted that the Fish Barrier Removal Board did well in this budget, receiving their \$48.4 million ask.

b. Project Site Visits debrief

Several SRFB site visit participants shared about the site visits, which was joined by students from a forestry class from Grays Harbor College.

c. SRFB schedule/next steps

Kirsten shared that project ranking will be taking place May 11th, location TBD. Project sponsors will be hearing back from State reviewers with any questions or issues in the next month via PRISM. June 6th or 7th, a phone call will be set up with those reviewers to discuss any outstanding issues.

The ranked list will be presented at the June 5th HWG meeting, at which time the HWG will have a chance to vote. HWG members can ask the review committee to consider any questions about the list, with a final chance to vote at the July 10th HWG.

d. Salmon Recovery Conference debriefing

Several attendees shared some comments and highlights from the Salmon Recovery Conference. Standout topics included the importance of considering density dependent and density independent restoration work; barrier prioritization considerations; discussions with railroad lines regarding barriers in their networks. Some attendees also noted they would've liked to have seen more information on riparian zones and the role of beavers in conservation work.

Ned Pittman and Mara Zimmerman both presented at the conference; Ned on the Newaukum wood opportunity model, Mara on fish barrier prioritization in the Western Olympic region.

It was also noted that many of the presentations are available online, as there were some related topics that were presented at conflicting times.

5. Office of the Chehalis Basin

Nat Kale shared that a board meeting is coming up this Thursday. He shared that the OCB received strong support from the legislature: \$70 million for the 2023-2025 biennium. As the Board's tentative budget was for \$73 million, however, some adjustments are forthcoming. In the forthcoming meeting, the OCB will discuss their Skookumchuck work, as well as proposed Local-Action Non-Dam (LAND) alternatives. Nat stated he expects there will likely be some concrete directives worked out for both the Skookumchuck and LAND work at the upcoming meeting. The OCB is also working with a board facilitator, Sam Imperati, to move forward with their long term goals.

6. Willapa Monitoring Proposal & SRFB

Mara Zimmerman shared that an upcoming SRFB project by the Willapa Bay Regional Fish Enhancement Group (WBRFE) will be entering a monitoring certification approval process with the CSP. The project is a strong candidate for monitoring certification, which is required due to a regional funding allocation cap for monitoring projects. She described the project, which involves monitoring to assess the efficacy of remote site incubation work in establishing salmon populations in restored but still salmon-poor creeks. WBRFE plans to put forward their own time and materials, and is seeking funding specifically for the genetic sampling involved with the monitoring.

Mara provided time during the meeting for anyone to address any questions or concerns related to the potential monitoring certification of this project by the CSP, of which this group is a member. Discussion was had both about this specific project and the larger context in which it would take place; but no party expressed any issues or concerns with the certification of the project by the CSP.

7. Presentation – Tire Chemicals and Water Quality

Lee First shared a presentation on the effect of tire chemicals on local stream systems. Her presentation is available at request and a brief summary follows.

Tires, in use, disposal, and reuse, are ubiquitous in the US. Legislation exists to manage and mitigate pollution by disposal of tires, but it is challenging to enforce. There is clear consensus that 6-PPD-quinone, a compound given off by tire rubber breaking down, directly causes lethality in salmon, particularly Coho. Effective management involves proper disposal of tires and tire-rubber products, as well as municipal stormwater management solutions such as rain gardens.

Twin Harbor Waterkeeper has been carrying out public outreach on this issue through a Dept. of Ecology grant, and they requested a letter of support as they reapply for the Public Participation Grant that has funded this work to date.

Sarah Watkins motioned to take a vote to provide a letter of support for Twin Harbor Waterkeeper's application to continue this community outreach through the Department of Ecology's Public Participation Grant. Caprice Fasano seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously.

8. Federal Funding Opportunities

Kirsten shared a new tool developed by the Federal Funding Workgroup, with help from the Office of the Chehalis Basin's partnership with a DC-based firm. This tool maintains updated information on the many sources of federal funding available. The workgroup is also looking to provide extra capacity for potential grant sponsors in the basin. Any group aware of grants they would apply to if they had more capacity should reach out to Kirsten.

9. Associated Programs Updates

a. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Drew Meador provided an ASRP update. He shared that during a division meeting last week, the Energy, Water, and Major Projects division held a tour for several stakeholders of the Upper Chehalis basin, including the Skookumchuck Early Action Reach projects, the Skookumchuck dam, the PeEll proposed dam site.

This Thursday at the Chehalis Basin Strategy Board meeting, the Lewis Conservation District and the WA Farm Trust will present one of their larger Newaukum projects on the mainstem, which is in its final phases of approval. There are multiple other projects in some form of review in the ASRP pipeline right now: a barrier project, another Newaukum project, and the Dry Bed Creek project are all in conversation.

Drew also shared that the ASRP is making progress in coming out with new guidance for project development.

b. Coast Salmon Partnership

Ned Pittman shared that CSP's next implementation meeting is happening on May 23rd, and that their next board meeting is happening on the 25th. Additionally, the Climate Adaptation South Coast Workgroup meeting is taking place on the 22nd.

The Implementation committee will be looking at regulations and how they interact with the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Plan.

c. Chehalis Basin Partnership

Kirsten shared that on Wednesday, May 24th, the CBP will be holding a field tour of the West Fork Hoquiam Dam Removal and Water Right Source Switch project.

10. Other Business

a.

For both September and October's HWG meetings, Kirsten will be on vacation. Whether the group will choose to skip those meetings or have someone else facilitate them is TBD.

b.

Luc Lamarche, owner of Beaver Craftworks, introduced himself and shared his most recent work this last week with Centralia College. The college has a beaver that has built a dam on a natural area on campus, and they reached out to Luc for help. Luc was able to install a beaver pond leveler that allows for the dam to stay in place while mitigating the threat of localized flooding. The work was featured on the front page of The Chronicle. Luc will give a full presentation to the HWG introducing his work in July.

c.

Tom Kollasch shared that Jerilyn Walley has left her position at the Conservation District due to family developments; the district is hiring for her replacement.

11. Closing