

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group
August 1, 2022 -- Minutes

In person: Chehalis Tribe Community Center & Zoom

~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

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| <i>Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works</i> <i>Alexa Brown, Grays Harbor Stream Team</i> <i>Alex Gustafson, Trout Unlimited</i> <i>Arthur Grunbaum, Citizen</i> <i>Anthony Waldrop, GH Cons. Dist.</i> <i>Ben Amidon, Chehalis Tribe</i> <i>Bob Amrine, Lewis Cons. Dist.</i> <i>Brett DeMond, Streamworks</i> <i>Caprice Fasano, Quinault, Biologist</i> <i>David Marsell, Pacific Conservation District</i> <i>Elena Fernandez, Thurston County</i> <i>Garrett Dalan, The Nature Conservancy</i> <i>Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited</i> <i>Jerilyn Walley, Grays Harbor Cons. Dist.</i> <i>Kelly Verd, Lewis Conservation District</i> <i>Key McMurray, Grays Harbor Citizen</i> | <i>Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator</i> <i>Kitty Weismann, Capitol Land Trust</i> <i>Luc Lamarche, Beaver Craftworks</i> <i>Mara Healy, Thurston Conservation District</i> <i>Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership</i> <i>Megan Tuttle, WDFW</i> <i>Miranda Plumb, USFWS</i> <i>Nat Kale, Office of the Chehalis Basin</i> <i>Ned Pittman, Coast Salmon Partnership</i> <i>Paula Holroyde, Thurston Co. League of Women</i> <i>Rickie Marion, Chehalis Tribe</i> <i>Sarah Watkins, Grays Harbor Citizen</i> <i>Sasha Medlen, RCO</i> <i>Tara Livingood-Schott, Chehalis Tribe</i> <i>Tom Kollasch, Willapa Bay Lead Entity</i> <i>Others – names not recorded</i> |
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1. Welcome, Breakout Rooms, Introductions

2. Minutes Approval

Bob Russell motioned to approve June’s minutes, and Ann seconded. The motion passed.

3. Organizational Business

a. Coast Salmon Partnership representative appointment

Tara expressed her interest in serving in a Chehalis Basin Lead Entity seat on the Coast Salmon Partnership board. Her statement of interest was sent to the group prior to this meeting. All members were in favor of her appointment to the Partnership.

b. Coast Salmon Foundation representative appointment

Bob Russell expressed his interest in serving in a Chehalis Basin Lead Entity seat on the Coast Salmon Foundation board. His statement of interest was sent to the group prior to this meeting. Mara told the group that no one is representing the Chehalis on the Foundation currently. All members were in favor of his appointment to the Foundation.

c. Newaukum Subcommittee

Alex provided an update. The committee has adjourned for the summer. Mara and Ned from the Coast Salmon Partnership are still working on models that will identify stream reaches most

in need of restoration. The goal of the modeling is to identify 30 miles of stream for review. Field verification is the next step. The committee will reconvene in October.

d. Outreach Updates

Kathy presented virtually. We are co-hosting an event on the Wynoochee River on August 14th. This is a Sunday, from 9-2. The purpose of the event is to encourage safe swimming and fish protection, and to celebrate healthy, clean waters for swimming in the basin. Kathy is still writing articles for our Watershed Heroes series, and invited participants to let her know about people to feature.

4. Infrastructure Bill Funding Opportunities

a. NOAA Fish Passage - Letter of support for FBRB projects (Decision)

The Fish Barrier Removal Board will be submitting an application to NOAA in order to fund some of the projects in our state. The Chehalis Basin and Kitsap were selected for this opportunity. The criteria FBRB used was projects that applied for funding through FBRB but were below the funding line, applied again this year, and can be put together into a cohesive bundle. The projects in our basin are:

MF Newaukum Trib- Kruger Fish Passage Const

Lucas Crk Trib MP 4.39 - Fish Passage Const

Lucas Crk Trib MP 4.24 - Fish Passage Const

Coal Creek Barrier Correction Project

The FBRB has requested a letter of support from our Lead Entity. Members asked for clarifications about the projects and the request. Bob summarized the opportunity as a way to get federal funds for our state and thus save our local tax dollars. Alex and Ann noted that they would abstain from the decision. A quorum was still present. All voted in favor of providing a support letter for these projects.

b. NOAA Fish Passage – Letter of support for Hoquiam (Decision)

The City of Hoquiam will be submitting a proposal to NOAA for their project. The proposal and request will be the same as what they requested of WCRRI. Aspect Consulting is preparing the application on their behalf. They are asking for a letter of support. The Habitat Work Group has supported this project before. All were in favor of a letter of support to NOAA.

c. NOAA Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience – Letter of support for Newaukum (Decision)

The Coast Salmon Foundation is writing a project proposal to this program. Their project would support the “pilot watershed” initiatives on the coast, including the Nemah, Calawah, and Newaukum.

Motion: “To support the proposal in its entirety, specifying that we are supportive and will be engaged with implementing the Newaukum portion of the proposal.” Bob Russell made this motion and Anthony 2nd. Alex and Bob recuse as they will be listed as partners on the proposal. All in favor.

Kirsten will still need to draft the letter and will distribute it to the group once finished.

5. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Grant Round Updates

The RFP for projects over \$5 million closed today (August 1). No projects have been submitted in the Chehalis.

6. Associated Program Updates

a. Aquatic Species Restoration Plan

Anthony reported on the Wynoochee River project. They recommend doing geotechnical studies ahead of pile driving. They will do more planting of the site this winter. The Governor visited the project site and was very complementary.

A WDFW acquisition on Davis Creek has closed. The WDFW Lands' committee is developing a new acquisition list.

The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust acquisition of Fairfield Acres has closed. Ducks Unlimited is engaged to begin restoration.

Trout Unlimited's Camp Creek barrier correction project is nearly done. Finishing the road is the final step.

Stillman Creek reach project has its first instream field work day today. They will do augering, pile driving, and construction of a side channel.

The Littlerock Road barrier correction is underway.

The Geissler Creek fish passage project will be done by the end of August.

All of these projects will make for a good field tour. Friday afternoons work well. Maybe in the fall.

Kirsten passed on a request from Karen Adams to find groups who can conduct de-fishing work. There has been an emergency action taken on Bunker Creek that trapped fish. Since there is a mitigation requirement here, WDFW can't lead. Trout Unlimited can help, but they don't own an electrofisher. Caprice can help and has access to an electrofisher. Miranda can similarly provide support. Ned volunteered to do electrofishing work.

b. Office of the Chehalis Basin

Ecology has hired a new staff person to run CFAR (community flood resilience). The Chehalis Basin Board approved allowing spending of the funds they had previously held in reserve. This will allow more ASRP projects to get under contract. The LAND (local actions non-dam) committee has been meeting monthly. The public may attend virtually. There will be a follow up to the values planning workshop in October. This is by invitation only. Contact Nat Kale for more details.

c. Coast Salmon Partnership

The WCCRI list will come out August 5th. The FBRB list will come out August 16th.

d. Chehalis Basin Partnership

The Chehalis Tribe may be removing a culvert on Harris Creek soon. They are waiting on sheet pilings. There are new resources at the Tribe! A planting crew! 1 VCC (veteran's conservation corps) and 1 full time staff person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am to allow in-person participants to go on a field trip with the Chehalis Tribe cultural resources staff, Dan and William. This part of the meeting was not recorded.