

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group
August 2, 2021 -- Minutes**

Zoom Meeting

~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

Ann Weckback, <i>Lewis County Public Works</i> Andrew Deffobis, <i>Thurston Co.Planning</i> Alexa Brown, <i>CBFTF/GH Stream Team</i> Anthony Waldrop, <i>Grays Harbor CD</i> Ben Amidon, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Bob Amrine, <i>Lewis CD</i> Bob Russell, <i>Lewis County Citizen</i> Brandon Carman, <i>RCO</i> Brian Stewart, <i>Conservation Northwest</i> Caprice Fasano, <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i> Casey Costello, <i>WDFW</i> Christa Bale, <i>Coast Salmon Partnership</i>	Colleen Suter, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Emelie McKain, <i>ASRP/WDFW</i> Garrett Dalan, <i>Nature Conservancy</i> Hope Rieden, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i> Jamie Glasgow, <i>Wild Fish Conservancy</i> Kirsten Harma, <i>Lead Entity Coordinator</i> Kelly Verd, <i>Lewis CD</i> Key McMurray, <i>Grays Harbor Citizen</i> Mara Healy, <i>Thurston Conservation District</i> Ned Pittman, <i>Coast Salmon Part/Fdn</i> Paula Holroyde, <i>League of Women Voters</i> Rickie Marion, <i>Chehalis Tribe DNR</i>
--	--

- 1. Welcome, Introductions**
- 2. Networking Time in Breakout Rooms**
- 3. Minutes Approval – July**

Key motioned to approve June’s minutes, and Anthony seconded. The motion passed. Kirsten reminded the group that we are looking to hire a note-taker.

4. Organizational Business

a. Membership

At the last meeting, Garrett suggested Alex Gustafson, new hire at Trout Unlimited, to sit as an alternate for one of the voting environment seats currently held by Garrett and Jamie on the Habitat Work Group. Having an alternate will help contribute to a quorum when a vote is held. After a year, it may make sense to move her into the primary seat.

Garrett made a motion to make Alex an alternate for an environment seat. Jamie seconded. All in favor.

Bob Russell is an interested citizen from Lewis County who may be interested in serving as a citizen rep. This will be discussed further next meeting.

Andrew Deffobis has been appointed by Thurston County as their new representative.

b. Outreach updates

Kathy was not present as her contract has not yet been renewed. Kirsten mentioned that we will be hosting a tour of the Chehalis Tribe’s Harris Creek project site on August 12. All are welcome.

- c. **Newaukum subcommittee** – to be held after this meeting.

5. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. SRFB 2021

The Coast Salmon Partnership voted on how to allocated unused project funds among the Coast Lead Entities. Excess funds were available from the North Pacific, Quinault, and Willapa Lead Entities. Kirsten had made a proposal to use the funds for the next project on our list – the Lewis CD’s Middle Fork Newaukum culvert project. Willapa came up with a proposal to partially fund the second project on their list with the available funding. Given that this is only the second project in the Willapa, and it will be a project with significant habitat gain, their was unanimous support to fund that project.

Megan Duffy approved the cost increase for Ann’s 2017 project using state funds.

b. SRFB Manual 18- Changes to riparian guidelines

RCO is suggesting new policy updates to riparian project guidance and targeted investment program implementation guidance. There may be opportunities for public comment at the Sept SRFB meeting.

6. Associated Program Updates

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

Emelie walked the group through a detailed presentation on the ASRP’s proposed implementation plan, and solicited feedback from the group. Questions included:

**How will sponsors work across ecoregions that don’t align with county boundaries?*

-A sponsor whose primary focus is a given ecoregion could still take on projects in another.

**How many project ideas will be accepted/funded each year?*

-This will depend on lots of things. We may have flexibility to make this decision based on landowner interest.

**What will the deadline be for the sponsor RFP?*

-This will be an open application period, and hopefully even marginally interested sponsors will apply to ensure a chance at participation. We will reissue this RFP frequently. Emelie is open to suggestions on that frequency.

**What will the process be to make a decision about cost increases after a project has been approved for funding?*

-Not determined yet

**What if there are more projects than funding available? When will the cut-off be?*

-Currently this is “first come first serve” - once its ready, it’s added to the list

**How will you ensure that best projects are funded?*

-We will ask folks to sponsor in priority areas and take priority actions

**How will sponsors be expected to deal with liability?*

-We encourage sponsors to work together to take on complex projects. A sponsor more willing to take on liability could partner with one less so.

**How will barriers be funded?*

-The Steering Committee will likely break down the approximate amount of funding it wants to allocate to each project type each biennium.

**Can we work on river projects as “nodes” instead of “reaches”?*

-This will still need to be up for discussion by the Steering Committee.

Emelie offered to accept feedback after this meeting– feel free to e-mail or call her.

Implementation Teams may kick off in October, depending on when the budget is approved.

b. Coast Salmon Partnership

Christa Bale presented the Coast’s new funding program reference tool – sharing an exciting range of funding opportunities for coast restoration and protection projects. The tool is available here: https://www.coastsalmonpartnership.org/funding_sources/

Ned provided an update on other Coast Salmon Partnership items.

c. Fish Barrier Removal Board

Casey provided an update. FBRB will issue an RFP in November. Projects that rank well using the Chehalis Fish Passage Prioritization Tool will likely score well for FBRB, given that many of the same metrics are used. WDFW staff are available to provide surveys of sites a sponsor may want to take on.