

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**  
**Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2014**

The January 10, 2014 meeting of the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity was held at the Lewis Conservation District Office, Chehalis, Washington. Chair Bob Amrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. In attendance were:

Amy Spoon, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy  
Cindy Wilson, Thurston County  
Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy  
Lonnie Crumley, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force and Streamworks  
Jack Mowreader, AMEC  
David Rountry, Department of Ecology  
Kathy Jacobson, Chehalis Basin Education Consortium

Omroa Bhagwandin, Chehalis Tribe and Onalaska Alliance  
Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works  
Jane Atha, LE Coordinator  
Caitlin Guthrie, Capital Lands Management  
Chanele Holbrook, Creekside Conservancy  
Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation  
Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District  
Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust

**Agenda Items**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Updates and Announcements
  - Grays Harbor Salmon Management Plan
  - Rose Foundation grant opportunities
  - Updated SRFB 2014 schedule
  - New lead entity directory
  - Alternative projects to Chehalis mainstem dam
3. Review Conceptual Project List
4. Time for project sponsors to discuss projects
5. Eric Delvin presentation on derelict gear removal
6. Agenda for next HWG meeting February 14, 2013

## Updates and Announcements

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### Grays Harbor Salmon Management Plan

Jane Atha reminded the group that public input for the Grays Harbor Salmon Management Plan (the Plan) will be underway Jan 10-11<sup>th</sup> at the Fish and Wildlife meeting in Tumwater. The time for public input for the Mgmt Plan is 9a on the 11<sup>th</sup> – Saturday morning. Jamie Glasgow brought up some good points in an email regarding the “all-H integration”, but that often we get focused on just the habitat side of things. Bob Amrine asked how the Plan was integrated with the Chehalis lead entity recovery plan. There was some discussion regarding who is in charge of the Plan, what data are being used to develop the Plan, and how the group may be better informed (and vice versa) about the Plan.

### Rose Foundation Grant Opportunities

Atha briefed the group on the Grays Harbor/Chehalis River Watershed Fund set up through the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment. Amrine and Janet Strong had a question about the funding that was available for the upper basin. Both read in the Chronicle that a large portion had already been allocated to the City of Centralia. Atha suspected this was an error that the money has yet to be allocated (this has since been confirmed).

### Updated SRFB 2014 schedule

Atha reminded the group of the updated 2014 SRFB schedule that includes the later dates in the grant round. Atha briefly reviewed the importance of the later dates for projects submitted to SRFB.

### New lead entity directory

The Government Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) is making a new directory for all of the lead entities. Atha updated our directory page which includes the current list for the citizen committee and the technical committee. Atha passed around the current list and asked that if anyone not on the list would like to be to add their name, and if you’re on the list and don’t want to be – too bad!

### Alternative projects to the Chehalis mainstem dam

Steve West with WDFW is doing some reconnaissance surrounding alternative flood mitigation projects within the Chehalis that might provide an alternative to a main-stem dam and is may be attending a future HWG meeting to discuss options. Atha isn’t sure since she hasn’t communicated with him yet on the phone whether or not he is looking into projects outside of the smaller projects already underway with the Governor’s Task Force or not. The

group segued into alternative measures to learning about storm water, etc, and a new paradigm shift in environmental education using biomimicry to let nature inform us.

### **Conceptual Project List**

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Atha distributed the current proposed projects list from Habitat Work Schedule (HWS), in addition to the conceptual projects list from HWS, and a list of new projects submitted to Atha that are not yet in HWS. Atha asked the group to look over the lists and discuss which projects may be viable for the next grant round. Amrine asked if the group has access to the information about the projects. Atha mentioned that anyone can look at HWS and find the all of the WRIA 22/23 projects; however, the information tends to be fragmented including project sponsors and contacts. Cindy Wilson said that she is seeking out projects for Thurston County to apply for the Ecology floodplain grant. Chanele Holbrook said that her Samson property may fit that description.

### **Time for project sponsors to discuss projects**

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Caitlin Guthrie passed out maps of a 54 ac property in the floodplain of the Black River. It is adjacent to a conservation easement downstream acquired in 2006. The landowner is ready to go, easy to work with, and it shouldn't be too high-cost. It is bordered on two sides by already conserved land. There are three partners: Capital Land Trust, Creekside Conservancy, and South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust. Creekside Conservancy would purchase the lowland slough area. The maps illustrate how big the parcel would be with different riparian buffers. The issue is determining the property size that makes the best long-term sense for wetlands, wildlife corridors, and agriculture. There are development rights on the property so there is an effort to bundle them for the Land Trust; with the rest available for agriculture. Creekside Conservancy could purchase a maximum of 33 acres with 80 ac left for agriculture through South of the Sound. The group discussed the different scenarios and benefits of wider riparian buffers. Mike Nordin mentioned the ranking process and how the strategic plan fits into the ranking of projects. Spoon told the group that there is an individual scoring; but then afterward it does have to be discussed and considered through site visits, additional factors, etc.

Omroa Bhagwandin discussed the Gheer Creek channel rehabilitation project. This is the outflow creek from Carlisle Lake mill pond in Onalaska (~17 ac) with an associated wetland complex. This area has historically been a fishery, and while the water quality has improved and rehabilitation projects have been undertaken, fish passage was not included. This project is to design fish passage and assess upstream habitat. Jacobson mentioned the work being done by Teal Waterstrat at USFWS identifying freshwater mussel habitat as they relate to salmon. Glasgow told the group about freshwater mussels, how they are parasites on gills

of fish, usually salmonids, and live on the blood of the fish before dropping off. So the fish nourish the baby mussels, and then also relocate them into areas upstream where they wouldn't otherwise thrive. So as their hosts, the fish, are threatened, the mussels are as well. Jacobson said that there are student programs identifying freshwater mussel populations. They're integral to water quality as well because they clean the water (~18gal/day!).

### **Eric Delvin presentation on derelict gear removal**

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Delvin presented an overview of work done identifying and removing derelict gear in the estuary and the lower Chehalis, as well as future work in the estuary and the coast. Set nets are the primary derelict gear. They're bad for the water and can trap fish and wildlife. They're particularly bad in the Puget Sound b/c of the rocky substrate (easy for nets to be stretched out on). In 2010 multiple partners came together to understand the extent of the problem, find the nets, and get them out of the water. Delvin discussed the methods used to identify the nets as well as remove them and then the resulting statistics. The damage is less in the Chehalis than the Sound because of higher flows and fine sediments that bury the nets. Jacobson is interested in having the information available for STEM education applications. Nordin asked about crab pots. Delvin said that there are derelict crab pots, and efforts to remove them. They are a real issue on the coast as they get lost. Many get sanded in, and many fishers are getting better at recovering them.

\*after the presentation Holbrook told the group that she is going to need to reallocate funds for the Weins 12-1189 project. She is not asking for more money; rather, she needs to get lead entity approval to shift more funds to higher than anticipated administrative costs. The group confirmed that they are okay with her doing this.

### **Agenda for next HWG meeting February 14, 2013**

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Rich Osbourne will be attending the meeting next month with an HWS intern to discuss new streamlining of projects in HWS for the coastal region.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, March 14, 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District, in Chehalis.