

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2013

The January 11, 2013 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:

Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District	John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions
Miles Batchelder, WCSSP	Kat Moore, RCO
Janel Bistrika, Grays Harbor County / LE Coordinator	Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District
Bob Burkle, WDFW	Miranda Plumb, USFWS
Gavin Glore, Mason Conservation District	Dave Rountry, Dept. of Ecology
Caitlin Guthrie, Capitol Land Trust	Mark Swartout, Thurston County
Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Creekside Conservancy	Bruce Treichler, Citizen Representative

Agenda Items

2013 SRFB Grant Schedule

Janel distributed a revised SRFB schedule; the only date needing confirmation is for the site visits. The Lead Entity must coordinate this date with RCO staff schedules; an announcement will be available soon.

As of February 1st, everyone will have access to a revised PRISM program. Janel is also entering projects into the Habitat Work Schedule. Kat Moore can come to the next meeting to instruct how to use the new PRISM version, if it is available online by that time. Prospective project sponsors must enter all information for this year's SRFB round into PRISM by April 19th.

Review of Conceptual Projects List

Janel distributed a new conceptual project list with the adjustments requested at the last meeting. The group provided some clarifications and minor corrections.

A new RCO Manual 18 for the 2013 cycle SRFB grant is due for release around January 31st. There are a few minor changes to the manual: project guidance on knotweed and bank stabilization; RMAP projects now required to explain how a project design fits in RMAP plans; and new grant application submittals list, including a detailed cost estimation sheet.

Discussion followed clarifying SRF Board policy regarding knotweed projects.

Project Sponsor Presentations

Dunnagan Creek/Gate Road Conceptual Project

Gavin Glore presented a conceptual project sponsored by the Thurston Conservation District along Dunnagan Creek/Gate Road. This project entails replacing an undersized culvert under Gate Road and restoring riparian vegetation downstream from the county road. The riparian zone has an infestation of reed canary grass; the project intends to plant willows to accelerate the development of a canopy that will shade it out.

WDFW and Thurston County Parks are the landowners of the project site. Thurston County will provide a topographical survey of the project, which can count as match to a SRFB grant. The project has also received a funding another conservation grant. Gavin is anticipating applying for Salmon Recovery Grant funding this year to prepare a complete restoration plan for the project. Gavin supplied a handout on the project to the group.

Bob Burkle followed up with some discussion on projects along Delezene Creek; a project may be forthcoming over the next year or two.

Lead Entity Organization Update

Janel and John Kliem are scheduled to meet with Kevin Varness at Grays Harbor County to discuss the Lead Entity's contractual status.

John also presented an idea to the Habitat Work Group regarding expansion of the Conceptual Projects Program (see handout). He suggested that group consider the idea of creating an acquisition and restoration strategy for salmon habitat in each subbasin with the basin. This would entail the group reviewing and updating data about each subbasin and then identifying conceptual projects that would address habitat needs. The Habitat Work Group could then "shop" those projects to potential project sponsors. This would assume a more proactive role for the group in terms of facilitating the Lead Entity Strategy. Given the size of the basin, John suggested that the group may want to consider taking on two to three subbasins annually, starting with those that would be the "easiest" start with.

Group members spoke positively about the idea. John asked members to think about the approach between meetings to make recommendations on improving upon the idea. The group would take action to consider the idea at the next meeting.

Kat Moore concluded the meeting with a demonstration of the beta-version of the new PRISM.

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2013, 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District headquarters, in Chehalis.