

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2013**

The February 8, 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	Caitlin Guthrie, Capitol Land Trust
Miles Batchelder, WCSSP	Kat Moore, RCO
Janel Bistrika, Grays Harbor College / LE Coordinator	Miranda Plumb, USFWS
Bob Burkle, WDFW	Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy	Mark Swartout, Thurston County
Dave Geroux, Center for Natural Lands Mgt	Ann Weckback, Lewis County
Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy	John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions

Agenda Items

2013 SRFB Grant Schedule

Janel reminded potential applicants for this year’s SRFB round that today was the deadline to add their project to the Conceptual Projects List. Janel will forward potential project sponsors their PRISM number to allow their uploading project information into the database.

March 8th marks the date that the final project list for this year’s funding round begins to move forward. All information must be in PRISM by April 19.

The Lead Entity is still waiting for confirmation from RCO if site visits will happen on May 9 and 10; so far, no other Lead Entity has requested those dates from RCO staff.

Reviewing the Conceptual Project List

Janel distributed an updated Conceptual Project List, with discussion on which projects potentially are seeking SRFB grant funds. She anticipates the addition of several more projects. There was a recommendation to avoid naming projects after roads to avoid confusion regarding the project location. Even if the stream has no name, the preference is

to identify by the project as “unnamed tributary of Stream X.” Bob Burkle reminded everyone that the old WDFW Stream Catalog also numbers even unnamed tributaries.

Updated Online PRISM

Kat Moore conducted a walk through with the group on how to use the new PRISM program. The goal of the update was to consolidate all RCO “paperwork” requirements online.

Project Sponsor Presentations and Updates

Elliott Slough

Janet Strong reported that the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust would be resubmitting the Elliott Slough Acquisition Project to this year’s SRFB round. She added that the project would include an invasive species removal element, along with the removal of a collapsed bridge.

Satsop Invasive Species Removal/Restoration

Dave Geroux updated the group on a project pursued by the Center for Natural Lands Management – removal of invasive knotweed and restoration of native vegetation on two sites along the Satsop Mainstem. Erosion also is an issue on both sites and restoration should alleviate the problem. The Center has been working with Weyerhaeuser and Green Diamond to control upstream knotweed sources as well.

The project already has Washington Department of Agriculture funding to remove and control the knotweed; SRFB funding would go towards restoration of riparian vegetation. The group made some recommendations to Dave about redoing the proposed project cost estimate.

Lewis CD Projects

Bob Amrine discussed three Conservation District projects he may be requesting SRFB grant funding. The first is the Ceres Hill flood fence project along the Chehalis Mainstem. A second one involves reconnecting the Mill Creek channel with Wisner Creek. The third project, an RMAP project with Green Diamond, would remove two culverts on upper Scammon Creek.

Water Typing Assessment Project Update

Jamie Glasgow from the Wild Fish Conservancy gave the group a progress report on the water-typing project on Wildcat and Allen Creeks that an earlier SRFB grant round funded. A report has been prepared that includes a list of potential projects within the two creek basins. Janel will distribute a copy of the report to Habitat Work Group members. Jamie also gave the group a demonstration of the interactive GIS kept on the WFC website that updates the water-typing maps managed by WDNR.

There remains enough money in the project fund to continue additional water-typing fieldwork. Habitat Work Group members endorsed the idea of using those funds to look at Beaver Creek.

Lead Entity Organization Update

Miles Batchelder reported that the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership was looking for additional board members representing WRIA 22-23. In addition, the US Forest Service wants to establish a committee that selects restoration projects in the Humptulips Basin using timber harvest funds; Miles is looking for members for this committee. John Kliem suggested that the Humptulips Basin could be logical choice for beginning the Lead Entity Strategy/Conceptual Projects List Update. Given the time, this discussion will resume at the next meeting.

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