

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

The March 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	Gavin Glore, Mason Conservation District
Janel Bistrika, Grays Harbor College / LE Coordinator	Miranda Plumb, USFWS
Bob Burkle, WDFW	Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
Jeanne Kinney, Thurston Co. Public Works	Omra Bhagwandin, Onalaska Alliance
Dave Geroux, Center for Natural Lands Mgt	Pete Murphey, Onalaska Alliance
Todd Sandell, Wild Fish Conservancy	John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions
Lonnie Crumley, Streamworks LLC	

Agenda Items

2013 SRFB Grant Schedule

Janel informed the group that she has been receiving a number of conceptual project forms since the last meeting. At the moment, it appears there will be 15 projects from the Lead Entity applying for Salmon Recovery Grant funding this year.

She also mentioned that RCO has confirmed the May 9th and 10th dates for the site visits and there is an on-line application workshop. Janel also put together and distributed a letter to recruit individuals for the local review panel for this year's Salmon Recovery Grants.

The June 14th Habitat Work Group meeting will be the last opportunity to review draft Salmon Recovery Grant projects before members. These are valuable sessions for project applicants to receive comments and insights from members.

Janel reminded the group that she would be leaving her Lead Entity Coordinator position in the middle of July. Grays Harbor County has agreed to stay on as the fiscal agent for the Habitat Work Group.

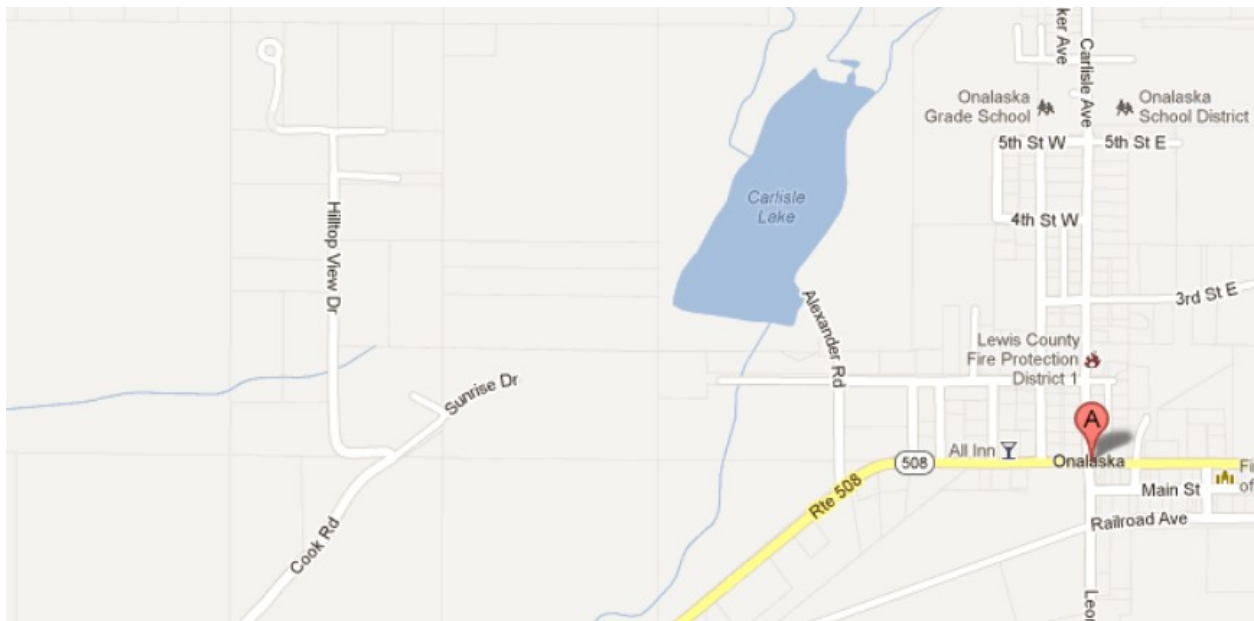
Conceptual Project List

The group examined this month's list of conceptual projects, including identifying which of these projects would be applying under this year's Salmon Recovery Grant Program. There were some minor adjustments to the list.

Project Sponsor Information Sharing and Updates

Onalaska Alliance

Representatives from the Onalaska Alliance discussed with the group some ideas about a restoration project for the Carlisle Lake outside of Onalaska. Carlisle Lake is a man-made mill pond.



The proponents are considering providing fish passage into the lake so fish can access both the lake and connected wetlands. The project potentially might include restoration of the wetlands and riparian areas. The nearby Onalaska High School operates a fisheries learning program in this drainage. Suggestions to the project sponsors discussed how to design the fish passage structure into the lake, sorting of wild and hatchery salmonids, and the possibilities of establishing a wild fish program.

Wild Fish Conservancy

Todd Sandell from the Wild Fish Conservancy highlighted findings for two recently released reports: “Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Use Assessment 2012 Annual Report” and “Climate Change in the Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Estuary.” Janel will distribute copies of these reports to the Habitat Work Group via email.

Next Steps for the Conceptual Projects

John continued discussion on the proposal before the Habitat Work Group about selecting a subbasin as a trial update to the Lead Entity strategy. The work plan would entail updating the best available science and anecdotal information that documents conditions in a subbasin and developing a recovery and protection strategy that lists general and specific priority projects. This could also lead into making recommendations to Grays Harbor County in how it could approach its Shoreline Master Program shoreline inventory and characterization process.

The group agreed to take on the Humptulips as its first test case and suggested the following participants:

Bob Burkle, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Amy Spoon, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Todd Sandell, Wild Fish Conservancy
Lonnie Crumley, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force
Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor CD
Bob Metzger, US Forest Service
Rob Fancher, Rayonier
Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust/GH Audubon Society
Dave Rountry, WA Dept. of Ecology
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy
Dave Bingaman, QIN
Curt Holt, WDFW
Doug Fricke, Commercial Fisherman
Miles Batchelder, WCSSP
Janel Bistrika, LE Coordinator

Janel and John would be getting back to these folks about setting up a first organizational meeting in the near future.

Coastal Region LE Update

Miles gave a report on the potential redirection of \$270,000 in funding originally aimed at breaching a dike along the Johns River on WDFW land. The reason for dropping the project was the possible inundation of SR 105. Discussion followed about how to use the money, particularly the in removal of a fish barrier on a nearby tributary as well as options for studying the rerouting the highway near Bottle Beach State Park to avoid the consequences of sea level rise.

NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2013, 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District headquarters, in Chehalis.