

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2012

The June 8, 2012 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:

Ann Weckback, Lewis Co. Public Works	Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District
Bob Burkle, WDFW	Bruce Treichler, Citizen
Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Citizen	Janel Spaulding, Grays Harbor College
Janet Strong, Chehalis River Land Trust	Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy
Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County	Mark Swartout, Thurston County
David Geroux, Center for Natural Lands Management	Larry Durham, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions	

Review Panel Comment Forms/SRFB Grant Submittals

Lee Napier initiated discussion by reviewing the results of the Review Panel Forms prepared by RCO staff. There were no projects of concerns noted, but RCO staff did have comments / questions for some projects.

Lee noted that RCO is requiring each project sponsor to use Track Changes for showing any changes to their submittal documents in PRISM. The Track Changes feature will facilitate the RCO staff in quickly determining how a project changed since its initial submittal.

She reminded everyone that the deadline for submitting a project to the Lead Entity for consideration under the Salmon Recovery Grant 2012 round is June 28, 2012. Each project sponsor needs to send or hand deliver to Lee 10 copies of their proposal to the following address:

Lee Napier, Director
Planning and Building Division
Depart of Public Works
100 West Broadway, Suite 31
Montesano, WA 98563

The Review Team will meet on July 13 to evaluate and rank the projects.

Group Review of Individual Projects

The group next turned their attention to discussing three projects proposed for this upcoming SRFB round: the Wein's Farm Riparian Acquisition & Restoration, the Elliot Slough Acquisition, and the Bunker and Ceres Creeks Road Barrier Removal Projects.

1. Chanele outlined the concept behind the Heernett Wein's Farm project. Discussion by the group focused on how
 - Thurston County's Growth Management development regulations were insufficient to protect the property
 - The project will reduce sedimentation in Scatter Creek
 - There will be a 100-foot riparian easement along Scatter Creek
 - A culvert located along one of the small tributaries will remain in place to provide access for maintenance and on-site education visits
 - The project also is attempting to seek funding from Washington Department of Ecology to secure funding to purchase surface and well water rights associated with the property – this would be a very important acquisition to return instream flow to Scatter Creek
 - The Wein's Farm acquisition is tied to the success s of the South of the Sound Weems Project sponsored by the Thurston County Conservation Futures Land Trust
 - Kirsop Farms will eventually lease the land if the project moves forward
2. Janet discussed the details of the Elliott Slough acquisition, including its ecological importance to the preserving the Chehalis Surge Plain. Funding the project was the primary focal point of discussion – the project is still looking for contributions from other partners.
3. Ann outlined the three barrier correction projects proposed by Lewis County Public Works. She mentioned that the project drawings will change, including more detail on stream width. The Bunker Creek 2.386 Project will open up 7 miles of habitat once a FFFPP project upstream is complete.

Updating the Scoring Sheet and Ranking Criteria

John brought up the suggestion to the group to consider revising the current project scoring sheet and ranking criteria to reflect the “Guide for Lead Entity Project Evaluation,” as provided by RCO in Appendix H of Manual 18. By using the benefit and certainty criteria used by RCO, it would be easier for the Lead Entity Coordinator to prepare the required summary strategy each funding round. Additionally, moving in this direction will help project sponsors prepare future applications that clearly meet RCO expectations and evaluation criteria.

Discussion followed on the history behind the current form. John noted that it would not so much change the Lead Entity’s scoring and ranking criteria, but it will substantially add detail for reviewers under the current “Benefit to Salmon,” “Certainty of Success,” and “Partnership/Outreach” categories. Having the “Fit to Strategy” category, which actually folds into the “Benefit to Strategy,” criteria will not be necessary.

The group decided that this concept would be worthy of further discussion. An ad hoc committee will meet Wednesday, June 13 at the WDFW Office in Montesano at 9:30 a.m. to hammer out a draft for the group to consider.

Legislative Tour

The group discussed the possibility of arranging a tour of some completed and proposed projects for legislators during the Chehalis Basin Watershed Festival this coming September. Several methods of briefing the legislators were suggested, but meeting time ran short and further discussion was way laid to a later date.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 p.m.

Reminder-the group that the next regular meeting of the Habitat Work Group would be August 10th. On July 13th only the review team will meet to discuss and rank projects.