

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**  
**Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes**  
**August 9, 2013**

The August 9, 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	Miles Batchelder, WCSSP
Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District	Miranda Plumb, USFWS
Tristan Vaughn, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust	Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works
Chanele Holbrook, Heernett Environmental Foundation/Creekside Conservancy	Jane Atha, Centralia College / LE Coordinator

**Agenda Items**

1. Introduce New LE Coordinator to Chehalis Lead Entity priorities and projects.
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Discuss Conceptual Project List
  - c. Discuss 2013 SRFB Site Visits
  - d. Discuss Humptulips Sub-Basin in LE Strategy
2. Lead Entity Organization Update
  - a. Expanding the Conceptual Project Process – Next Steps
  - b. Discuss updating LE Strategy to get to the point of prioritization
  - c. Lead Entity Organization Update
  - d. WCSSP Updates

**General Overview of LE priorities and projects.**

Jane Atha asked the group to discuss the general overview of the processes to get SRFB projects selected, the conceptual process list, how it is developed, etc. Miranda Plumb explained the technical review team, their function, and who participates.

Mike Nordin discussed the Pacific LE and the Pacific County Conservation District diversifying beyond a project sponsorship role. The group explained Family Forest Fish Passage Project (FFFPP), Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, and RCO. The group told Jane about the culvert inventories and replacements, and this led to general discussion of data collection

and research collaboration. The group explained to Jane the priority index for culvert replacement project and there was discussion of it being updated, potentially by the Habitat Work Group.

The group discussed and explained the Habitat Work Schedule database. Miles explained how it is important to track implementation of projects. The group discussed regional limited factor analysis. Discussion of sub-basin needs one at a time starting with Humptulips in the Chehalis.

Conversation turned to the coastal legislative initiation \$10 million request this year. It was confirmed that there should not be acquisition projects and have to be talked about in terms of jobs as well as restoration. Miles and Jane confirmed that assessments likely won't work and projects have to be done within 2 years. Miranda and Miles discussed the Johns River project as a potential for the list. State legislators have been on the fence with dike removal. Mike discussed dike removal issues in Pacific County.

Jane asked about controversial projects. Miles said that the Chehalis is very friendly towards habitat restoration projects. Mike said that the Chehalis is farther ahead than most in project development, staff, etc. There are a lot of different viewpoints and political support since the basin is so large. Chanelle discussed the "shot gun" approach to getting projects completed in the Chehalis since it is so large and diverse. Really good projects that are blanketed across the region and then you get landowners talking, etc. Miles mentioned future pressure from the state to be a bit more strategic.

Humptulips: Discussion from group that the initial focus on the sub-basin is due to revenue from timber sales being applied to restoration in the Humptulips. The idea is to get a better idea of what the sub-basin is about from a physiographic and land-use perspective. The sub-basin committee has met twice. There was discussion among the group about data acquisition and assessment progress towards the sub-basin.

### **Lead Entity Organization Updates**

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There is hesitance towards updating LE Strategy to get to the point of prioritization due to the success of the earlier mentioned strategy of working with those that are interested and have good projects ready to go.

There was discussion of starting a coordinated effort on invasive species. The group would work to conduct invasive species assessments under the umbrella of "riparian restoration".

There was discussion of the possibility of forming a work group to address the problem and potential collaboration with Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM).

WCSSP is now a 501C3 and its own fiscal agent.

The next meeting will go over conceptual projects after Jane sends out email with the forms for the coastal legislative initiative.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, September 13, 2013, 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District headquarters, in Chehalis.