

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2013

The December 13, 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:

Amy Spoon, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eric Delvin, The Nature Conservancy
Jason Hatch, Washington Water Trust
Kat Moore, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Lonnie Crumley, Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force and Streamworks
Miranda Plumb, US Fish and Wildlife
David Rountry, Department of Ecology

Alice Rubin, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Ann Weckback, Lewis County Public Works
Jane Atha, Centralia College / LE Coordinator
Caitlin Guthrie, Capital Lands Management
Chanele Holbrook, Creekside Conservancy
Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation
Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation District

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Updates and Announcements
 1. Final SRFB 2013 projects
 2. LEAG meeting update (now Washington Salmon Coalition)
 3. Humptulips strategy update
 4. Solicitation for tree planting location ideas for Centralia College Sustainability Committee and Grays Harbor Stream Team
3. SRFB 2014
 1. Changes to Manual 18
 2. Scheduling
4. Conceptual projects committee
 1. Outreach to new project sponsors
 2. Conceptual project development
5. Grays Harbor Management Plan
6. Final project summary for Washington Coast Restoration Initiative
7. Agenda for next HWG meeting January 10, 2013

Updates and Announcements

Final SRFB 2013 projects

Atha distributed the final SRFB 2013 projects for the lead entity and discussed the additional funding allocated to the projects after the Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Assessment project was withdrawn. Amrine told the group that the Green Diamond project for the Scammon

Creek culvert removal that may not have the budget for 2014 since Green Diamond was first informed that it wasn't getting funded and now doesn't have the match available. Moore mentioned that in the future if there are projects that cannot for whatever reason be completed in the year that the funds are allocated, it is possible to remove it and fund an alternate project within the lead entity. Amrine remarked that he is determined to work towards completing it in the allocated timeframe. There was some discussion between Amrine and Moore about timber companies regarding budget concerns, minimum wages, and remaining in compliance to receive state funding. Atha briefed the group on the status of the Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Assessment along with current plans and actions for funding opportunities and resubmittal to SRFB in the coming year.

LEAG meeting update

Atha briefed the group on the last LEAG meeting held in Olympia at the Equity for Enterprise office. The group has officially changed their name and will now be called The Washington Salmon Coalition: Community Based Salmon Recovery. The group acknowledged that the name is bigger than what the group currently is undertaking; but the hope is for the Washington Salmon Coalition will evolve into something greater. They are also doing some legislative outreach to encourage the legislature to continue and/or increase funding for salmon recovery. They also had a training session with Senator Rockefeller and others on legislative outreach.

Humptulips Strategy Update

John Kliem facilitated two workshops in mid-November in order to refine the sub-basin strategy to include tributaries. Different people attended the two workshops and there were a lot of ideas put forth on reach by reach objectives to obtain a 100 year desired condition.

Solicitation for tree planting location ideas for Centralia College Sustainability Committee and Grays Harbor Stream Team

Atha took the opportunity to solicit possible locations for a tree planting in the Chehalis as part of a coordinated effort with Centralia College's Sustainability Committee. This would also be a part of the education and outreach component of the lead entity's objectives. The group provided very useful feedback and suggestions for possibilities for the tree planting. There was also discussion regarding expanding the scope by teaching volunteers the process of planting and maintenance. The Discovery Trail was brought up as a possibility and/or the Wien's property. Rounry asked about funding for plant materials, etc, for the tree planting. Atha relayed that Centralia College provides funding for this event.

SRFB 2014

Atha distributed a proposed schedule for the 2014 SRFB process in addition to a synopsis of changes put forth for Manual 18. Moore introduced Alice Rubin, the new grant manager for the coast. Moore went through the changes that have been made to Manual 18 for the group. She explained that the major possible change from SRFB for minimum riparian planting widths has not been made for this year. There is some guidance from NOAA and from Ecology to SRFB. Rubin explained that Ecology was required to make minimum width regulations from EPA. Other agencies are going through the process of standardizing riparian widths as well. SRFB decided not to make the changes to riparian width minimums at this time. Moore mentioned that if the primary funders to the state for not just SRFB, but other funding programs, are setting buffer criteria, it would be good for sponsors to know that there is a set width in order to have some consistency. There was discussion regarding buffer requirements for projects and the hope to remain flexible regarding guidelines. This will be evolving over the next year, so it will be important to express concerns as it moves forward. Moore said that she looks to SHRG guidelines for riparian buffers. Moore said that riparian stewardship projects may now be stand-alone projects for SRFB. They're going to be ranked in the same way; so we'll see how they do. Moore explained that most of the changes to Manual 18 are administrative for clarification.

The group discussed the SRFB schedule for 2014. Atha mentioned that if anything comes up that should be addressed regarding the schedule to let her know. Atha is going to be out of town during the April 11th meeting; so she proposed moving the meeting up to the 4th. Atha also told the group that she will revise the schedule to include the later dates after the submittal process.

Conceptual Projects Committee

Atha initiated conversation regarding the formation of a conceptual projects committee. Would people be willing to have a couple of meetings to discuss conceptual projects, mentor project sponsors, and potentially groom projects for SRFB or other funding sources? One thought is to start with the WCRI project list, those that made the final list, and those that didn't, to see how we may get them ready for funding opportunities. The group decided that this process can be held within the HWG meetings, and that it would be beneficial for the group in its entirety to weigh in on conceptual projects list.

Grays Harbor Management Plan

Swartout brought up this plan and the opportunity to use this process to let the harbor folks know about the amount of habitat that the group has opened up. The group will advise Atha on stream miles opened up. Atha will let the group know of the next public input dates. The group discussed a PRISM query to determine what has been opened up for WRIAs 22/23. Holbrook asked if we would want to communicate amount of land acquired for conservation in addition of river miles. Crumley mentioned that you get a plus of that by having higher escapement, but the negative is that you have more harvesting.

Final project summary for Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

Atha distributed a letter of support for the lead entity to review and approve. Nordin updated the group on the fieldtrip in Pacific County. Delvin mentioned that on Monday there will be a fieldtrip to the upper Quinalt with DeBolt and Hargrove among others. Delvin has been around the coast meeting with commissioners, etc, getting letters of support for the WCRI in order to get a great package together. The group discussed the Green Diamond projects and the possibility to reach out to their lobbyists to promote the state funded programs and have some outreach to them for mutually beneficial future legislative initiatives.

Agenda for next HWG meeting January 10, 2013

Delvin mentioned that he will be giving a presentation on derelict gear removal at the next meeting. We will also review conceptual projects that have been submitted thus far for 2014.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, January 10, 2013, 9:30 AM at the Lewis County Conservation District, in Chehalis.