**Habitat Work Group
Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat**

**Chehalis Tribe Community Center – Library Classroom**

| Alex Bradberry - *CSP Outreach Director*Alice Rubin - *RCO*Amilia Schwartz - *Thurston Co Planner*Anthony Waldrop - *GH Conservation Dist.*Ben Amidon - *Chehalis Tribe*Bill Teitzel - *Port of Chehalis*Bob Russell - *Lewis County Citizen*Brandon Carman - *WDFW*Brett DeMond - *CBFTF Streamworks*Caprice Fasano - *Quinault Indian Nation*Chanele Holbrook- *Department of Ecology*Drew Mealor - *ASRP Implementation Mgr*Farley Youckton - *Chehalis Tribe*Jacob Murray - *Mason CD*Jenny Lewis - *Office of Chehalis, ASRP* | John Stepanek - *Grays Harbor Conserv Dist*Kathy Jacobson - *LE Education Coordinator*Kelsey Mach - *Aspect Consulting*Key McMurray - *Grays Harbor Citizen Rep*Kirsten Harma - *LE Coordinator*Mack Hunter *- Grays Harbor Conserv. Dist.*Mara Healey - *Thurston County Conserv Dist*Mara Zimmerman - *Coast Salmon Part/Fdn*Martin McCallum - *Thurston Citizen Rep.*Molly Paige - *Non-Point Coordinator, Ecology* Ned Pittman - *Coast Salmon Part/Fdn*Olivia Williams - *USFWS*Shannon Shula - *Thurston County Planning*Tara Livingood-Schott - *Chehalis Tribe*Victoria Knorr - *WDFW* |
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**MINUTES**

**November 4, 2024**

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1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Minutes – October**
3. **Organizational Business**
	1. **Field Trip Debrief**

Work Group members who attended a field trip to a site slated for restoration work in the Grays Harbor estuary shared about the experience and presented photos from the day.

* 1. **Outreach Update**

Kathy Jacobsen shared that two new stream team coordinators have been hired. Breana Downs, a Grays Harbor CC and University of Puget Sound graduate, has been hired by the Grays Harbor Conservation District. The Lewis Conservation District also hired a Voluntary Stewardship Program and stream team coordinator, Maddi Wilcox.

Kathy also shared that she sent out a developing informational sheet on Spring Chinook for technical review by area biologists. She also shared that November 12th, she would be sharing the water table model with the League of Women Voters.

Finally, she shared that on October 26th, the Return of the Salmon event took place at Schaefer State Park. She shared that Lauren Bauernschmidt was WDFW’s representative, and that the event went well. She also shared pictures from the event, which had around 40 participants.

Bob Russel then shared pictures of the restoration of Berwick Creek on Logan Hill Road near Jackson Highway, and took the opportunity to highlight the local restoration work by Lewis County Public Works. It was also noted that this project will be highlighted with outreach signage at the site.

Martin McCallum then shared details of a zoom Wetland Conservation webinar being presented by the Capitol Land Trust on Tuesday November 19th.

* 1. **Cloquallum and Newaukum PWR Update**

John Stepanek shared updates on the Cloquallum PWR. The larger group hasn’t met since the last HWG meeting, but the next steps involve reviewing the priority barriers in the basin. He noted that Mara Zimmerman has worked to review and update the Cloquallum GSU’s. It was then noted that this review by the CSP is being done for the entire Chehalis Basin, and that more information on these developments will be upcoming at future meetings.

Kirsten then shared that the Newaukum Pilot Watershed suffered a spill on Weyerhaeuser property. Tara Livingood-Schott shared some basic information about the spill, which involved large logging equipment falling into a tributary to Lucas Creek. Caprice Fasano shared that the spill was reported to have involved the deposition of 70 gallons of diesel fuel, 15 gallons of lube oil, and 45 gallons of hydraulic oil.

Lastly, Kirsten shared information about a map of 2022 - 2023 salmon spawning site concentration throughout the Newaukaum watershed, developed by Lea Ronne with WDFW.

* 1. **HWG Citizen Members – Close Nomination & Vote**

Kirsten led a conversation renewing and voting on citizen membership. Key McMurray and Bob Russel were both nominated to continue in their positions, and a vote to confirm their positions passed unanimously.

Kirsten re-emphasized that another citizen representative for Grays Harbor County is still needed. She also reminded the group that a new Stream Team representative is needed, as well.

* 1. **HWG Chair and Vice Chair – Close Nomination & Vote**

Secondly, Kirsten led a nomination of the group’s Chair and Vice-Chair. A motion for both Ben Amidon and Key McMurray to continue in those respective roles passed without comment.

* 1. **Annual Work Plan**

Finally, Kirsten led a discussion on approving the coming year’s Annual Work Plan. She outlined a few different updates, including: the inclusion of a few additional application workshops; the development of a SRFB project budget workshop; the inclusion of a Climate Resilience plan workshop; planning of a completed-project site tour; possible sponsoring of applicants to the Yakima Salmon Recovery conference in April; shifting Grays Harbor college’s SRFB participation to an event apart from site visits; furthering the participation of the Lewis County Stream Team in outreach and restoration; increased outreach by the LE to local community entities.

After this discussion, Farley Youckton moved to approve the revised annual work plan, which Bob Russel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Salmon Recovery Funding Board**
	1. **SRFB & RCO Updates**

Alice Rubin provided an SRFB update. First, she noted a “modernization of match requirements,” which removes the requirement in the coming SRFB grant round for match in all projects with the exception of acquisition projects, based on the amount of upland property included.

She also noted that SRFB will be working to better align riparian project requirements for traditional SRFB funding with the requirements for the new dedicated Riparian SRFB program; notably regarding match and minimum buffer width requirements.

Kirsten then walked the group through the anticipated schedule for the upcoming SRFB grant round, and Alice emphasized that she is more than happy to assist applicants one-on-one with their project applications.

* 1. **Scope Change Request: Garrard Creek Design 24-1364**

Anthony Waldrop led a discussion on a proposition to change the GHCD’s Garrard Creek project grant scope from preliminary design funding to funding for the final design phase. He explained that the project’s preliminary design has been funded by another source since the SRFB round.

Bob Russell moved to approve this change, which Farley Youckton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Regional Monitoring**

Mara Zimmerman provided an update on the CSP’s in-process Coast Region Monitoring strategy, which will serve to prioritize projects for monitoring grants for the future SRFB Monitoring funding. But in the absence of this fuller strategy, she walked the group through the monitoring fund grant round that is coming in 2025, and led a survey on potential projects from the basin. She shared that the statewide funding available is $1M, with up to 2 projects to be submitted by each region. These projects must have regional significance in either lifestage bottlenecks, limiting factors, or effectiveness monitoring. The RFP will go out in December, a letter of interest would be due February, and applications would be due in May.

For this upcoming round, the CSP will be discussing potential monitoring studies with LEs throughout the Coast region, those potential projects will be vetted by the Regional Technical committee, and then one to two projects will be chosen.

Mara highlighted that relevant monitoring projects should: fill an information gap; evaluate current approaches; provide information of regional significance; develop new data; and/or analyze existing data.

Following this discussion on what kind of monitoring projects are being sought, Mara led the group through a survey seeking input on potential projects in the Chehalis Basin.

1. **Request for Letter of Support:**

Kelsey Mach presented a letter of support request for a City of Hoquiam’s grant proposal to the NOAA Fish Passage Removal Program for their dam-removal and source-alternative project. The project design is in process, with the construction of one of the replacement wells slated for the coming year. Kelsey also noted that the city was also rewarded a streamflow grant for the final design for the project. She then noted that the current letter of support request is for the city’s construction grant application for the upcoming NOAA grant round.

Martin McCallum moved that CBCfSH provide a letter of support for the City of Hoquiam’s dam removal project application, which Farley Youckton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Associated Program Updates** (11:15)
	1. **Coast Salmon Partnership**

Ned Pittman shared a CSP update as follows:

1. The Communication and Outreach committee will meet Monday November 18th from 10 - 12. Contact Alex Bradberry for further information.

2. The Regional Technical Committee will meet November 12, reviewing ideas and developing recommendations for 2025 regional monitoring grants.

* 1. **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**

Drew Mealor shared an update from ASRP, showing the group the status of ASRP’s rolling funding. Of approximately 24M available, 12M has been obligated. Of the remaining available funding, 7.5M of projects are pending with the steering committee, and 4.5M are pending with the technical review team and regional implementation team. He emphasized that this means all of the available funding is successfully slated to be used, noting also that any large projects that may come in the near future will be well-timed to apply to the next grant round.

* 1. **USFWS National Fish Passage Program**

Olivia Williams with USFWS provided an update on the Western Washington National Fish Passage Program RFP. She shared that projects must demonstrate ecological benefits for federal trust species, exhibit permanent fish passage benefits, and make use of current best scientific practices. RFP closes November 22nd, with proposals being reviewed in winter 2025, and applicants being notified of decisions in spring/summer. Projects funded usually range from 30K to 200K, with total available funding pending legislative decisions.

* 1. **Non-Point Pollution Program**

Molly Paige of the Department of Ecology shared that as she is stepping into her new role and getting to know the area, she will have more to share in the coming months. Anyone with information or questions about non-point issues should feel free to reach out to her at molly.paige@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 480 6099.

* 1. **Federal Funding NOFOs and bundle planning**

Jennifer Lewis shared an update from the Office of the Chehalis Basin (OCB) on two Water Smart Grants they are looking to apply to: first, they are looking to apply for a planning/design grant looking to develop a plan for a hydrological model to inform projects within the Black River Oregon Spotted Frog population. Second, OCB is looking to put forward a bundle of projects that includes restoration construction within the Humptulips; culvert replacements with Ducks Unltd and the USFS; riparian plantings with Audubon; and capacity building for the Coastal Interpretive Center.

1. **Closing**

This meeting was followed by a discussion of the Local Review Team on incorporating climate resilience information into project evaluation.