

# Habitat Work Group, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

## AGENDA

February 5, 2023

~ 10:30 am – 12:15 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center

And Zoom

Ann Weckback - <i>Lewis County Public Works</i>	Karen Adams - <i>WDFW</i>
Anthony Waldrop - <i>Grays Harbor Cons. Dist</i>	Kathy Jacobsen - <i>LE Education Coordinator</i>
Alex Gustafson - <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Kelly Verd - <i>Lewis Conservation District</i>
Ben Amidon - <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Kendall Kohler - <i>SRFB Grant Mgr</i>
Bob Russell - <i>Lewis County Citizen</i>	Key McMurray - <i>Pacific County LE</i>
Brett DeMond - <i>CBFTF Streamworks</i>	Kirsten Harma - <i>LE Coordinator</i>
Brian Stewart - <i>Conservation NW</i>	Mack Hunter - <i>Grays Harbor Conserv Dist</i>
Caprice Fasano - <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i>	Mara Healy - <i>Thurston Conservation District</i>
Chenelle Holbrook - <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Mara Zimmerman - <i>Coast Salmon Part/Fdn</i>
Cindy Wilson - <i>Thurston County Citizen</i>	Martin McCallum - <i>Thurston Co Rep</i>
Drew Mealor - <i>ASRP Implementation Mgr</i>	Megan Tuttle - <i>WDFW</i>
Farley Youckton - <i>Chehalis Tribe</i>	Ned Pittman - <i>Coast Salmon Part/Fdn</i>
Greg Green - <i>Ducks Unlimited</i>	Sarah Watkins - <i>Grays Harbor County Citizen</i>
Jacob Murray - <i>Mason CD</i>	Travis Casey - <i>ECY Water Quality</i>
Jan Robinson - <i>Chehalis River Basin LT</i>	

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

### 2. Minutes

With no corrections to the minutes offered, the minutes from the January's meeting were approved.

### 3. Organizational Business

#### a. Outreach Updates (Kathy, others)

Bob Russel shared that he participated in river table outreach at Onalaska Middle School with Kathy Jacobsen. He stated that the programs available to students through the lead entity's outreach are impressive and were exciting and encouraging to see, and that he was able to bring that experience to legislators at the Salmon on the Hill event.

Secondly, he shared about the developing Coal Creek project. He described several of the community members who attended, including the mayor of Chehalis and representatives of the Chronicle. About thirty people were in attendance, and the project was very well received. Bob stated that in community conversations thus far, he has only received support for the project. He believes next steps are to develop a Gant chart for the project with the HWG, and then develop that into a story-board to share with the community. In Salmon Day discussions, Bob shared that this project was top-of-mind for both the senator and representative for the region. Karen Adams made herself available for conversation on the logistics of the project regarding any involved permits and regulations as early in the process as possible.

Kathy Jacobsen also shared about the Onalaska middle school outreach program. She shared some slides from the outreach, which involved a half-day project for students to develop their own investigations with the river table model. She also worked with Kenna Fosnacht at the high school with their CTE and Biology classes.

Kathy shared that she will be doing similar presentations with Chehalis's Orin Smith 4th grade classes on February 27th, 28th, and 29th, and invited HWG to participate.

She then shared about the Student Congress, a collaboration with the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium, South Sound Green, and the Nisqually River Education Program. This congress takes place annually at Evergreen State College and provides an opportunity for students to present on water-quality and water-quality, and participate in hands-on workshops. Kathy will keep the group informed on dates and details.

Kathy also shared that the LE's collaboration with WDFW and Friends of Schaefer and Lake Sylvia State Park (FOSLS) is moving forward, with the next program being a weed pull at Schaefer State Park late in March. This series of natural history classes, workshops and hikes will take place at Lake Sylvia, Schaefer and Ocean City State Parks. The series is coming together in part to fill the gap left by the absence of Lake Sylvia Days.

Lastly, she shared that the Rising Tides lecture series at Centralia College is being reinvigorated, and that HWG members may hear from the college about giving presentations for the series. Kathy will likely be giving a presentation on the restoration work of the HWG group in April or May.

#### **b. Cloquallum PWR**

John Stepanek provided an update from the Cloquallum PWR project. Their first working group meeting took place in the past month, with sixteen attendees, including local government representatives. They were able to lay out the process for the project in the coming months, and begin to define its geographical and restoration scope.

Kirsten Harma shared that the city of McCleary is also putting together a proposal for the Streamflow Restoration Act to carry out groundwater well and streamwater monitoring, for which the Cloquallum workgroup is looking to provide a letter of support. Since the deadline is the end of February, Kirsten suggested the HWG put this letter together on behalf of the Cloquallum workgroup in the interest of time.

The group discussed the details of the proposal, and Sarah Watkins moved that the group provide this letter of support to the city of McCleary on behalf of the Cloquallum PWR workgroup. Martin McCallum seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **4. Salmon Day on the Hill**

Kirsten provided a debrief of the Salmon Day on the Hill event, which provided an opportunity for various entities to advocate for salmon restoration work in our region. She shared images from the day and described interactions she and others had with law-makers. Mara Zimmerman further described some specific priorities for discussion which included salmon recovery funding programs; the burden of match requirements for grant funding; and the streamlining of permitting processes. In large part, lawmakers were widely supportive of salmon-focused work.

#### **5. Federal Funding Workshop Recap**

Caprice Fasano shared a reflection from participation in the Federal Funding workshop. She shared that the group was able to learn about drafting competitive proposals with multiple parties, and worked in small groups to workshop packages of grant proposals. The group will meet again, and begin discussions with state agencies on what kind of umbrella grant proposal could be carried out.

#### **6. Salmon Recovery Funding Board**

**a. 2024 –Grant Round**

**i. Vote on Local Review Team**

Kirsten led a discussion determining this year's local review team. to include:

Martin McCallum, Cindy Wilson, Sarah Watkins, Meghan Tuttle, Caprice Fasano, Ben Amidon, Key McMurray and Ned Pittman.

Bob Russel moved to approve the above list for the SRFB Review Team, which Sarah Watkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ii. Targeted Investment Program**

Mara Zimmerman shared the details of a new SRFB Targeted Investment grant program available to the Coastal region. This funding prioritizes high-impact projects that have significant salmon recovery benefits. Qualifying requests from SRFB should range from \$1 to \$5 million, and both: drive significant population-scale benefits; and accelerate the on-the-ground pace and scale of project implementation. This grant process will follow the existing SRFB process, but will then include the following further steps: the Coast region will submit a region-wide list to the SRFB; the SRFB will create a statewide ranked list for to be reviewed by the SRFB Review Panel; and a statewide ranked list will be funded by SRFB. These projects must advance LE-specific priorities, as well as address climate resilience as outlined in the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Plan. Match will not be required.

This RFP will come February 23rd, with conceptual project forms due in March, and final applications are due June 24th. The CSP will submit a region-wide ranked list to the SRFB on August 13th.

*Q: Would this funding be compatible with the Federal Funding workshop bundles?*

A: Yes, such bundles would qualify, and though match is not required, it would be strategic to partner these funding sources.

**b. SRFB Conceptual Project Presentations**

**i. Stowell Crk and Tribs at Johnson Fish Passage Design (Ann, Lewis County)**

Ann Weckback presented a proposal to design three fish passage corrections on Stowell Creek and its tributaries at Johnson Road east of Onalaska. The first barrier is a 33% passable 3.2 x 2.6 foot squash culvert on Stowell Creek that is undersized and elevated above the stream channel at low flow. The second barrier is two 3.5' round culverts which are 67% passable and undersized, on a tributary to Stowell. The third culvert is a 2' concrete culvert that is 33% passable due to slope and undersized. The proposal would design the replacement of these three barriers with minimum 11- and 12-foot structures, and restore access to 3.22 miles of habitat for coho and 3.36 miles of habitat for steelhead. The headwaters of the streams here have extensive quality habitat above these barriers. There is also a fourth existing barrier downstream of these projects on Magnus Road that is slated for correction in 2026.

Project funding request from SRFB would be \$195,254, with \$1,301,702 requested from NOAA. The total funding would involve design of all three Johnson road culverts, as well as design/construction for the Magnus Road culvert. Status of NOAA funds should be known before July at the latest.

**ii. SF Newaukum Trib at Clark Fish Passage Design (Ann, Lewis County)**

Ann Weckback presented a second proposal to design a barrier replacement on Clark Road on an unnamed tributary to the SF Newaukum. The design would seek to replace a 5.5' x 3.5' squash culvert which is 67% passable due to velocity that is undersized. High flows are also an issue at this site. The replacement barrier would be a minimum 10.5' span, which would restore passage to 2.07 miles of

habitat for both coho and winter steelhead. Above this barrier is high quality riparian habitat, with 22.84 area of cool water input.

Project funding request is \$327,047, with the county contributing \$81,011.

## **7. Other Business**

- a.** A SRFB Pre-application workshop followed this meeting at 1:00, which included further information on Riparian-dedicated funding.
- b.** Ned Pittman shared an update from the Coast Salmon Partnership, which follows:
  - i.** The WCRRI grant process is active. Applications are due march 14th, and technical review panel responses are due Feb 12th.
  - ii.** The Coast Salmon Partnership communication outreach committee will meet on February 6th to discuss project signs, buisness outreach, and legislative site tours.
  - iii.** A joint board meeting of CSP and CSB will take place February 22nd to discuss development of the foundation's strategic plan, and discuss recommendations of the implementation committee.
- c.** Drew Mealor shared that an RIT meeting is coming up on February 15th, and that these meetings are open to the public. He also noted that though there are 14 - 16 months left in the biennium, there is close to \$20 million yet to be obligated. Drew also noted that there are more projects coming in, about a half-dozen projects in the application pipeline, with a few more lined up for consideration in this February meeting.

## **8. Closing**