**Habitat Work Group   
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**

**July 1, 2024**

~ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ~

**Fairfield Marriott - Grand Mound  
Rochester, WA***and Zoom*

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| Adrien Owens - *Conservation Northwest*  \*Alexandra James - *Capitol Land Trust*  \*Alex Gustafson *– Trout Unlimited*  \*Ann Weckback - *Lewis County Public Works*  \*Amelia Scwartz, *Thurston County*  Alice Rubin- *Recreation & Conservation Office*  \*Anthony Waldrop, *Grays Harbor CD*  \*Bill Tietzel, *Port of Chehalis*  \*Bob Russell - *Lewis County Citizen*  \*Brett DeMond - *CBFTF Streamworks*  Chanele Holbrook - *Dept of Ecology*  \*Jacob Murray, *Mason County CD* | Jenny Lewis, *Office of Chehalis, ASRP*  John Stepanek, *Grays Harbor CD*  Kathy Jacobson - *LE Education Coordinator*  \*Key McMurry – *Grays Harbor Citizen*  Kirsten Harma - *LE Coordinator*  \*Kelly Verd - *Lewis CD*  Mara Zimmerman - Coast Salmon Part/Fdn  \*Martin McClallum - *Thurston Co Rep*  Megan Tuttle – *WDFW Region 6*  Ned Pittman - *Coast Salmon Part/Fdn*  Olivia Williams - *USFWS*  Paula Holroyde - *Citizen* |

\*Indicates voting member for the purpose of approving project list

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Members and guests provided introductions

1. **Minutes**

There were no comments on the minutes.

1. **Organizational Business**
   1. **Outreach Updates**

Kathy provided a presentation at Centralia College: “How the science of awe inspires salmon restoration and protection in the Chehalis Basin”, with 23 people in attendance! Included students and professors. Students were enthusiastic.

Kathy and Kenna from Lewis CD are making a video to inspire landowners and the general public about what they can do to protect land, erosion, water quality, salmon habitat. Megan Tuttle featured speaker. Theme = bioengineering explained using everyday language, plantings, the importance of riparian structure. Will be available on the Lead Entity website and will be promoted at special events.

Teacher training – Kathy participated in joint training with Nisqually, with the theme of “salmon”. Learned about the importance of chinook salmon and orca. Kathy will incorporate learnings into educational activities for next year.

Upcoming July events:  
 – Schafer State Park Centennial – July 20, 10-4. Kathy will table.  
 -Tenino Trail Days – July 27th. Creekside Conservancy will also have a table. Great time to talk specifically about Scatter Creek area.  
 - Bat Activity Trends – an evening with Washington State Parks and Woodland Park Zoo – July 27 – Schafer State Park

Kathy requested participants to e-mail her if they are aware of any upcoming events, and she will add them to the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity webpage that we would like to have as a master calendar: [kmjacobson59464@gmail.com](mailto:kmjacobson59464@gmail.com)

* 1. **Cloquallum PWR**

John provided and update. Are looking at fish use distribution. Are beginning to build a wood model. Will be more work needed from the Core Team before the next group meeting. By next HWG we should be able to see areas prioritized for restoration. Kirsten explained something interesting she learned at the last meeting – the geology is very different compared to the Newaukum. In the Cloquallum it’s a glacial landscape, so most of available material has already been washed out, only source of sediment now is from streambanks.

* 1. **Habitat Work Group – Check for Quorum**

The group reviewed the list of positions on the Habitat Work Group and their current representatives. Some seats are still vacant, including Ecology and Grays Harbor County. Sarah Watkins may soon be leaving, and she will look for a replacement; others are welcome to recommend options for a Grays Harbor County citizen. Patrick from Grays Harbor College was recommended, but he teaches on Mondays. The process for appointing an NGO representative was discussed. It’s important that representatives are aware of the Lead Entity process and are available to become familiar with projects. The model of a representative from an NGO that doesn’t participate in meetings or do work in the basin doesn’t work. The concept of inviting Port of Grays Harbor for the other business seat to complement Bill was discussed. Kirsten and Mara are working on this. Amelia is a new associate planner representing Thurston County. Ben and Caprice are not present today due to Tribal holidays, Kirsten consulted with them to get statement on project list before this meeting.  
  
Action: Chanele will ask her supervisor for permission to represent Ecology on the Habitat Work Group.  
Action: Kirsten will ask Suresh at Grays Harbor County whether he or another planner would like to participate on the work group.

1. **Salmon Recovery Funding Board**
   * 1. **Local Review Team presents ranked project list**

**1) Bernier Creek Wood Placement Field-Fit Project**  
Sponsor: Trout Unlimited  
Grant Request: $349,731  
Goal: To place hand-built low-tech wood structures at strategic places along Bernier Creek (<2mi) to reactivate and improve the degraded processes.  
  
**2) Newaukum Headwaters Wood Placement Assessment**  
Sponsor: Trout Unlimited  
Grant Request: $200,000  
Goal: Assess 19 miles of streams in 3 different sub-basins to prioritize 9 miles for designs for wood placement to counteract historic process degradation.  
  
**3) MF Newaukum Trib - Alpha Fish Passage Construction**  
Sponsor: Lewis Conservation District  
Grant Request: $128,300  
Goal: Provide full access to wetland rearing habitat for juvenile coho and steelhead through construction of 2 barrier culverts.  
  
**4) Garrard Creek RM 4.4 – 5.0 Restoration Design**  
Sponsor: Grays Harbor Conservation District  
Grant Request: $142,736  
Goal: Design (concept and preliminary) and alternatives analysis to improve process degradation on a half-mile reach of tributary stream on Garrard Creek.

**5) SF Newaukum Trib at Clark Fish Passage Design**

Sponsor: Lewis County Public Works  
Grant Request: $250,729  
Goal: Opening additional habitat for coho and steelhead and sediment transport through design of a culvert correction.  
  
Available Funding:  
Regular SRFB: $1,040,195

If all projects were funded, this would leave the last ranking project short -$31,301

Only one project was submitted for the Riparian funding, and it ranked #1:

**1) Mox Chehalis Creek RM 5.3-6.3 Riparian Restoration**

Sponsor: Grays Harbor Conservation District  
Grant Request: $898,961  
Goal: Plant a 1-mile reach of Mox Chehalis creek with 19.1 acres of native riparian vegetation, creating a variable width buffer between 100 and 300 feet on the south side of the creek, increasing shade by 50% within 20 years.

Available funding: Riparian: $886,772

This project would be -$12,189 short of funding.

* + 1. **Discussion** (all); **Vote on ranked project list** (all)

Grays Harbor CD would likely be able to accept a lower award for their riparian project through cost savings. Alice noted that if there are unallocated funds in the riparian pot, they can roll forward to the Lead Entity’s own grant round, and won’t need to be split among other Coast LE’s.

For regular SRFB, each LE on the Coast is slightly over their allocation for the year. There is no remaining funding to share among LE’s to top up the awards to lower ranking projects.

Anthony explained the changes to the Garrard Creek project since the application was prepared. They have recently received Conservation Commission funds which have to be spent within next year, so can only accept the SRFB funds with a scope change. He suggested that the scope would change from concept and preliminary design to final design. Alice suggested that scope change be submitted after the SRFB funding meeting. Anthony stated that scope change will likely reduce the total grant ask. If this is the case, the extra funds could likely go to the Lewis County project.

A quorum of >8 was present for the vote. A quorum of 6 members without a conflict of interest was present for the vote.

Motion: Bob Russell made a motion to approve the list as it stands. Jacob Murray seconded. Three members present abstained from the vote. No objections. Carried.

\*\**Members not able to be present at this meeting provided a statement, in writing, prior to the start of the meeting, that they vote in favor of the list as is. This includes: Ben Amidon, Sarah Watkins, Caprice Fasano.*

1. **Request for Letter of Support – Satsop** (Anthony)

Grays Harbor Conservation District is applying for a National Fish and Wildlife Federation, National Coastal Resilience Fund, for Phase 2 of their Satsop restoration project, in the amount of $5.5 M. Phase 1 was funded by the ASRP. The project will benefit fall Chinook, potentially spring Chinook (hold in river mouth), and coho rearing by floodplain reconnection. The project has been in development for many years with lots of stakeholder advise. The Habitat Work Group provided a letter of support for the last time they applied to this fund source. The draft support letter has just been updated with a new date.  
  
Motion: Alex made a motion to approve a letter of support. Bob seconded. All in favor.

1. **Request for Letter of Support – Ripple Creek at Haywire and Holcomb** (Ann)  
   Ann requested support for a funding ask to the FHWA “Culvert AOP” program.  
     
   Project is in Stearns Creek, in the Lincoln Management Unit, near Napavine. Limiting factors include sediment, water quality and fish passage. Structures are 67% passable, 67% passable and 33% passable. Slope is the reason for the barrier. Two structures have a summer low flow problem due to concrete bottoms and lack of water. Goal is for design to improve passage to all life stages. 2.86 miles available if all three are replaced. There is synergy in the watershed. The next upstream barriers are being sponsored by Lewis CD, and the Chehalis Tribe in coordination with BNSF, as well as the City of Napavine – will submit AOP this round or next grant round. Most of the good wetland habitat is above the railroad. Requesting $1.9 M. Will design two projects and construct one with the federal grant. Interestingly, plans to use the federal grant to construct the project where there is not landowner support (state grants require landowner support). May request match from ASRP, but will hold off on applying to ASRP until they know if they are successful with the federal grant.  
     
   Bob Russell wants to see projects in high growth areas of Lewis County. Supports how well Ann prioritizes her proposed project actions. Supports this work.

Q) *Why is the County using consultants for this work? Is it because they don’t have a County engineer?*  
A) Have one engineer but just one designer. Have lots of projects so don’t have time to have the engineer do more than review consultants’ work. Have been looking for an engineer for over 6 months but no one is applying.  
  
Motion: Bob Russell made a motion to support projects as discussed. Alex G second. No objections.

**Request for Letter of Support – Berwick Creek at Borovec Rd MP 0.032 Construction**  
Applying for DOT-FHWA AOP (Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration, Aquatic Organism Passage). Project is in Newaukum management unit.Tier 1 concerns include fish passage. Problem is 67% barrier due to velocity. Priority 1 barrier.Lewis Co. has funding for upstream barriers and downstream. Goal is access to 9 miles of habitat throughout the subwatershed.High quality rearing habitat in the upper reaches of the subbasin. The Port’s project at Bishop Rd. has received FBRB funding for construction (2025). A project at Logan Hill is occurring and will be constructed this year. Also have funding for Labree from FHWA PROTECT and SRFB (2025). Request for this project is $1.2 M for construction. Expect to request $300,000 from ASRP for match. Project partners include Port of Chehalis, WSDOT, Lewis Conservation District.  
  
Group supports all of the work Lewis County has been doing to correct barriers in this area.  
  
Comment: Coast Salmon Partnership GIS intern will be doing updates to the Chehalis Basin Fish Passage Prioritization tool!  
  
Motion: Alex B motions, Jacob seconds. All in favor.  
  
Action: Kirsten to prepare letter of support to submit with the Culvert AOP grant application.

1. **Naming**  
   Kathy presented the problem statement. When she tables at community events, people see the sign that says “Chehalis Basin Lead Entity” and ask why there is a problem with lead (the metal). We don’t use the word entity in our common usage.

We are coming to the group with the proposal to change the name. In looking what other Lead Entities around the state use, some insert “salmon recovery” or otherwise add “salmon” to their name. This would make us “Chehalis Basin Salmon Recovery Entity”. They wouldn’t have to worry about the word Entity because of the word “salmon” in there. “Lead Entity for Salmon” is another option.

Strong support from the room and online for a name change/ rebrand. Bob describes the problem he has being in the community and trying to make connections with people – it takes a lot of words to describe what this is. Kathy mentioned a sports analogy – the “entity” is the quarterback for salmon projects in the area.

Kirsten asked the group to think of potential names. We can discuss this again and vote next meeting. Ideas proposed include, Chehalis Basin Salmon Recovery Council, Salmon Conservation Coalition of the Chehalis, Chehalis Salmon Recovery Coalition, Chehalis Watershed Salmon Alliance.

Suggestions: Use the name change to finally develop a logo. Use the Alex Bradbury Chronicle story to roll out the name change.

This item to be discussed and voted on next meeting.

1. **Associated Program Updates**
   1. **Coast Salmon Partnership**
      1. **Implementation Planning**

The group is talking about statewide land use policy – Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and VSP and how they interact with voluntary salmon habitat restoration on the coast. Ned offered to invite Kelly (VSP coordinator for Lewis County) to present.

* + 1. **Nomination of 3 new members to the Regional Technical Committee**

Regional Technical Committee needs approval from CSP Board. The group will be doing scoring for the targeted investment grant, and will be developing a monitoring framework to help frame coast region’s proposal for statewide monitoring program. Currently are 7 members, at the July meeting, 3 more members will be recommended to the CSP board for approval. Mara is providing a briefing. The HWG doesn’t vote on the vote of our Board members, but do like an opportunity to provide input. New members would include Olivia Williams, Ned Pittman, Tara Livingood-Schott (alternate of Colleen Suter for the Chehalis Tribe). Diversity of committee will allow for robust discussion.   
  
Q) *Who are the first 7?*  
A) John Hagen, Kyle Martens, Emily Gardener, Amy Spoon, Mark Mobbs, Aaron Whitcop, Ed Karnack.

* 1. **Coast Salmon Foundation**  
     Bob Russell provided an update on what the CSF is doing. He is happy to do this on a quarterly basis.
  2. **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**

Discussion on the joint TAG-RIT meeting. Jenny from OCB provided a summary: Good discussion on how to create more collaboration between different groups. The reason for this workshop was to prepare to spend down the ASRP budget by the end of the next year. Current level is spending about $1 M a month. Alex appreciated the workshop. Felt that we could have used another hour for unstructured project coordination and planning – what we have on deck and what we need. It’s very strategic to plan at that level. If we all know what’s going on, we could plan for the federal grants, for example. Most of the time in the Chinook group was spent on project presentations. Didn’t get to talking about capacity or federal proposals. Next steps: Bring people back together to talk about federal proposals – at least the low hanging fruit.   
  
Other updates:  
-Lewis Conservation District just hired 3 new people

-Kelly is working on the Mill Creek beaver planting project – prepping the site through weed whacking Reed Canary Grass

-Trout Unlimited and Grays Harbor Conservation District will be working on construction of the Schafer Creek project through all of July

-Trout Unlimited’s Coal Creek project will be under construction some time in August

-Grays Harbor CD is starting work on a knotweed treatment project.

1. **Closing**