

Bob Amrine opened the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves, and if applicable share SRFB proposals current or proposed and/or their organization.

### **Introductions**

- Bob Amrine, Lewis Conservation District, is currently working on a barrier assessment and awaiting funding for additional assessment work,
- Kahle Jennings, City of Centralia, has a funded SRFB project for riparian planting which is largely complete. The project includes an education trail with a long term goal to create a river trail. Potential project for the next round is east of the city property on Dry Creek. The proposal would create off channel habitat and enhance flows. Could be a demonstration project, but is just in the feasibility stage at this point.
- Chris Stearns new fisheries biologist for the Chehalis Tribe.
- Randy Lehr, Natural Resources Instructor, Grays Harbor College and the Alder Creek watershed. Would like to restore the salmon run to this watershed.
- Jim Hill, Citizen Advisory Committee member and project reviewer.
- Gavin Glore, Mason Conservation District, is wrapping up two years worth of barrier assessments in Grays Harbor County.
- Dan Blatt, Jr. also works with Mason CD and the barrier assessment
- Chad Stussy watershed stewardship biologist for WDFW. Helps with the lead entity program by providing staff support for administration and technical aspects. WDFW did receive SRFB funding for the Satsop Restoration project, but it is on hold due to withdrawal of financial support from COE.
- Brett Demond, WDFW staff and coordinator for the Family Forestry Fish Passage Program.
- Lonnie Crumley fisheries consultant to Grays Harbor County/Lead Entity program.
- Brian Abbott, IAC SRFB project manager for the Chehalis.
- Brian Peck, USFWS, manages the National Fish Passage Program and the Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program, both of these programs help support SRFB and FFFP programs.
- Mark Swartout Thurston County and project reviewer for the local SRFB program.

### **SRFB Grant Program**

#### Presentation from Mason Conservation District

Gavin Glore presented an overview and results of the barrier assessment for the areas in the inventoried portions of the Lower Chehalis in both Mason and Grays Harbor Counties. Data gaps remaining include the tributaries south Grays Harbor, the portion of the Cloquallum subbasin in Grays Harbor County, and privately own land not visible from the road. The data is stored in an Access data base and submitted to WDFW SHEAR program. They are still contemplating another grant to assess the data gap areas.

Abbott suggested for the next grant to also include stream assessments for the areas not walked through the current assessment. Based on conversations there appears to be an opportunity to partner with the College on the next assessment.

Napier shared the SRFB timeline. The next deadline is for the letters of intent which are due May 6.

### **Strategy Update**

Napier distributed a proposed geographic division for the Chehalis Basin. This proposal would create 11 subbasins versus the current 34 in the strategy/work/LFA. The current geographic boundaries for the subbasins are unclear. She proposed creating 11 subbasins based on a combination of the Watershed Administrative Units (WAU). The new subbasin delineation would combine WAUs that drain directly into the Chehalis or contain large tributaries such as the Black and Skookumchuck. The group was asked for their initial impressions. This seemed logical to the group. Napier will send out this information for more feedback regarding pros and cons of this type of delineation.

Stussy distributed a sample of the salmon profile. The group asked about unknown stock status? Is there something to provide guidance for these areas? We could use WDFW staff. Include a note in profile, based on personal communication.

Does this incorporate EDT? Brian Peck will try to develop an example of how EDT could be used in the profile. Tool to identify the quantity of habitat for potential recovery or restoration.

Regarding other updates to the strategy/work plan, Napier would like to revise Section 2 to reflect the completed assessments and other information that was not available during the last revision. She would also like to revise the subbasin project guidance to reflect the new subbasin boundaries, include the barrier assessment results, and to work with technical members to generally "tweak" the text as they deem necessary.

She stressed to the group that due to timing and the SRFB schedule a lot of the work related to the strategy update would be done outside of TAG meetings. Because of the limited time available, the TAG meetings would need to focus on SRFB projects.

### **Community Salmon Fund**

Napier reminded the group that the Chehalis Basin was selected to administer a small grants program. The program is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The NFWF and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) have established the Community Salmon Fund (CSF) to fund small habitat restoration projects, with a particular emphasis on stimulating small-scale, voluntary action by landowners, community groups, and businesses to support salmon recovery on private property. The goals of the Community Salmon Fund are to:

- Fund habitat protection and restoration projects that have a substantial benefit to watershed health and are consistent with the local Lead Entity salmon recovery strategies.
- Engage landowners, business owners, and community groups to carry out these projects and care for them in the long run.
- Stimulate creativity and leadership among various constituencies to address conservation needs.
- Target constituencies that can be particularly helpful in salmon recovery, especially farmers, rural forest owners, suburban homeowners, and owners of businesses and industries.

The group asked several questions of Napier:

- Can a project sponsor match CSF dollars with FFFP dollars? Per Nic Pearson yes.
- Are we required to conduct a spring cycle? Yes, per Chehalis sponsors communication to Lee Napier, we asked for that timeline and NFWF has scheduled their work around our information.
- Is the 50% match set in stone? Per Nic Pearson the match is 50% of the amount requested from CSF and not 50% of the total project cost.

Napier announced that Nic Pearson will attend the next meeting to answer additional questions about the program.

The next meeting is May 13, 2005 at the Lewis Conservation District.