

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP
HABITAT WORK GROUP
Lewis Conservation District Office
1544 Bishop Road
Chehalis, WA
April 11, 2008
9:30 a.m.**

Meeting Summary

PRESENT:

Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District	Ted Labbe, Wild Fish Conservancy
Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County	Valerie Gow, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Lonnie Crumley, Streamworks Consulting	Danielle Gardea, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Chad Stussy, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Jason Lundgren, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Janet Strong, Chehalis Basin Land Trust	Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Thurston County Citizen
Brett DeMond, Streamworks Consulting	Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy
Brian Peck, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Andy Olson, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
Randy Lehr, Grays Harbor College	

Welcome, Introductions, and Adjustments to the Agenda

Mr. Amrine called the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Habitat Work Group (HWG) meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

Project Review

Ms. Napier reported early applications were distributed last month. The purpose of the review is to provide feedback to the project sponsor to assist them in strengthening/improving their application. Final applications are due in August. Prior to the August date, there are several opportunities for project sponsors to present their proposals, receive feedback, and incorporate any suggestions or improvements into the proposal.

Sampsom Wetland Enhancement: Chanele Holbrook-Shaw provided the project review:

- Several site maps were distributed of the project site.
- The Sampsom property was recently acquired through receipt of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds.
- The property is 80 acres with 50 wetlands and 30 upland forests.
- The long-term goal is to create new wetland habitat of over 10 acres in emergent wetlands with snags, a new riparian zone, large woody debris (LWD), and rock. The work could involve digging, filling, log placement, and engineering in the stream.
- The request is for funding to hire an engineer to assist in developing the project.
- Nadine Romero, Thurston County, has been involved as well and would use the site for student fieldwork.
- The request is for a planning and design grant of \$35,000 with a match to hire an engineer or pay for time of others for developing the project. The project will likely be a three-phased project with construction occurring during the first phase.
- The project site could be a good area for water storage.

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Mr. Amrine noted engineering services do not require a match. Jason Lundgren confirmed engineering projects do not require a match. Ms Holbrook-Shaw said she estimated the number of hours for the project.

Brett DeMond suggested obtaining bids or estimates. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw commented on finding the right engineer who has an open mind and is flexible.

Mr. Lundgren offered the name of engineer Tom Smayda from Kirkland, who has done much work in lowland systems.

Lonnie Crumley offered the name of Tim Haderly with Ecological Land Services in Longview. Mr. Haderly is a wetland specialist and completed some wetland delineation for Streamworks Consulting.

Mr. Glasgow asked if the designs will be permit ready. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw said it would be beneficial to have the design at the permit ready stage because she plans to seek funds next year to begin creating the project. She said she has access to wood and rock.

Mr. Lundgren said SRFB's manual defines the different stages of design. The Board had difficulty measuring the deliverables because of the differences in terms. For design only projects, 30% completion is expected. He referred to Appendix D as a reference, which is located on the SRFB's website.

Randy Lehr mentioned Rich Mraz with the Department of Ecology (DOE) as an additional resource who is involved in wetlands and permitting.

Ms. Napier advised that at the end of the meeting, all projects will be reviewed at least once by the committee. Any remaining issues to discuss can be carried over to the May meeting. Eric Delvin was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Delvin may want to present his project in May. However, any changes to proposals during the May meeting will need to be clarified before the field visits because the next deadline is May 1, 2008, which requires updating on PRISM. After the site visits with the review panel, it's likely more changes may occur to project proposals based on feedback from project reviewers.

Chehalis Water Type Assessment: Ted Labbe introduced Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, who presented the proposal.

Mr. Glasgow provided a PowerPoint presentation on the South Sound Stream Typing Assessment project. Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC) is a non-governmental entity working to protect and restore Puget Sound salmon stocks. The organization is science-based and helps policy make good decisions. Recovery of fish in the Northwest requires a two-pronged approach to include both protection and restoration of habitat. The presentation highlighted the results of a study and assessment of South Puget Sound streams.

The presentation demonstrated the need for responsible watershed management. Stream typing is a classification used to regulate land use around streams. Mapping identifies fish habitats within the stream. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) originally developed stream typing through its Forest Practices Program in the 1970s to regulate buffer width requirements around forest practices occurring near streams. Most local governments have adopted the practice to protect critical areas from adjacent land use.

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There are four classifications of stream types. In 2005, the classification shifted to a new set of codes. Type 1 is now Type S for Shorelines, Types 2 and 3 were merged to Type F for Fish-bearing Reaches, Types 4 and 5 are now Type N for Non-fish-bearing Reaches, and Type 9 is unclassified.

Mr. Glasgow displayed a regulatory water type map, which is color coded to represent the classifications. Current regulatory maps used to protect fish habitat are inaccurate. In the past 10 years, the WFC has undertaken surveys and assessments to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the maps in terms of distribution of fish and fish habitat, and many of the streams are incorrectly mapped or not included on maps.

In the 1970s, the state classified all streams within the state to describe the location of fish habitat in the state for protection. At that time, there were limited resources. The mapping process involved personnel in a room with numerous maps who made some basic assumptions during the production of the maps. Since then, much has been learned about the habitats fish can use, but the state has maintained the original hydro layer identifying where the streams are located based on a coarse, 10-meter resolution digital elevation model. There are many opportunities in that area with the advent of technology, such as linear technology, which can provide sub-foot resolutions at the landscape scale. There has also been an effort in developing a model that uses parameters, such as channel grading, precipitation, and basin areas to predict the upstream extent of fish habitat across the state. There are still major discrepancies in the maps. Mr. Glasgow provided some examples of what WFC is finding on the ground. There is a process for DNR to accept proposed water type changes. WFC is performing on the ground surveys as much as possible especially in areas experiencing increased development.

Mr. Lehr asked whether the models have been addressed as well. Mr. Glasgow replied that there have been recent discussions about a new model that would be more accurate. It is being proposed. However, the major issue involves people using the maps despite DNR's urging that the maps are the starting place for ground surveys and shouldn't be taken at face value. For forest practices, DNR is doing a better job of encouraging people to use the maps as a tool as they undertake ground surveys to map streams and fish habitat prior to submitting a forest practice application. However, that message hasn't been received by local governments that use the maps for land use decisions. WFC is working with local governments and the state to convey that information before too many more habitats are lost. Misidentified habitats are not receiving the protection that they warrant under existing laws.

Mr. Glasgow displayed several areas showing DNR's map and what WFC discovered. It's difficult to consider recovery actions when the information does not accurately identify fish and streams. Since the mid-90s WFC has been working with federal, state, local, and tribes to groundtruth regulatory water type maps. There is a process to submit survey results to DNR for review and possible acceptance or further questioning for follow-up. WFC has never lost to a questioning process for validating the results.

Mr. Glasgow reviewed the South Puget Sound project funded by the SRFB and from an in-kind match from Thurston County Geodata Center. The project has been underway for the last three years. Basic field elements include on-the-ground surveys to ensure mapping is accurate and fish and habitat are appropriately documented. The data is fed into an interactive internet-based GIS accessible by anyone to assist in making informed decisions about land use. Information is also provided to appropriate agencies for updating regulatory maps. Mr. Glasgow identified some of the benefits of the project.

Brian Peck asked how time of year surveys and the life history of the fish play into the maps. Mr. Glasgow said the field protocol is state-sanctioned for water type assessments, which is described in law and by the Forest Practices Board Manual, which includes a window during which water type

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assessments should occur. The window is March 1 through July 15. The general window is spring into early summer. The state doesn't want water typing completed in August during low flows. Many of the streams/channels are used seasonably by cutthroat and Coho.

Mr. Crumley said the water-typing period is flexible. He explained his work with the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). For each fish barrier discovered using the DNR maps, miles of stream is added, which is reported to DNR.

Mr. Glasgow reviewed results from one small watershed located on the westside of Cooper Point in Snyder Creek. The results are not an anomaly but are commonly found across the landscape. DNR missed much of the watershed on the regulatory water type map. Groundtruthing has found fish and fish habitat in many more miles of the watershed than what's documented on DNR maps.

Mr. Glasgow said water type assessments involve seeking approval from landowners, undertaking the field work, data entry, generating a GIS, generating a web interface for the GIS, and presenting results to appropriate agencies to include DNR, DOE, WDFW, tribes, and local governments, as well as the general public at a cost of \$1,500 per mile of stream. There are also opportunities to identify on-the-ground restoration opportunities and protection opportunities because of the generation of the maps. All results are available on an interactive web-based GIS that is housed on the WFC website at www.wildfishconverancy.org. He invited members to go on the website and tour the watersheds.

Mr. Glasgow provided a demonstration on the website and the parameters that can be queried.

Mr. Lundgren asked about adding culvert data from the WRIA 13 culvert inventory. Mr. Glasgow affirmed it's possible to add data. The interface could become the foundation or clearinghouse for different sources of data.

Mr. Glasgow reviewed the project proposal for the Chehalis basin. The project involves characterizing the channel and riparian conditions, water temperature, and instream features that may affect fish distribution, as well as document and photograph different features encountered. Fish will be identified and measured, and if appropriate, notes are completed on the condition of a fish. All fish observed will be documented with photographs and GPS. Using GPS correctly map the course of incorrectly or unmapped stream channels. WFC uses water type assessment as its foundation, but at the same time while in the field, WFC collects much information above and beyond the minimum required by the state for water typing to help inform salmon recovery strategies and help identify and prioritize opportunities for protection and restoration.

The most difficult part of the projects is obtaining permission for gaining access to stream channels. WFC undertakes an extensive mail campaign. WFC uses GIS and works with local counties to create a list of all streamside landowners. For parcels located within 100 feet of a known stream channel, the landowner's name and address is added to the list and a letter is mailed requesting permission for access. The landowner is invited to provide any information about the stream as well.

Mr. Labbe said because streams are linear systems, in those circumstances where landowners don't allow access, water typing can occur upstream. If fish are discovered, everything below that point is presumed to be fish bearing.

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Mr. Labbe said the educational aspect of the project is a major component involving riparian landowners. There is typically a two-way flow of information from the landowners as well as teaching landowners about the inaccuracy of the maps. Outreach also occurs to local jurisdictions and lead entities because of the level of awareness of water typing problems. He cited an example of working with Jefferson County and the county planner becoming aware of the problem associated with existing water type maps.

Mr. Amrine asked how WFC classifies stream channels where a landowner doesn't allow access and the stream above contains no fish. Mr. Glasgow said the area where access is denied is classified at Type 9 – unclassified. There is no guessing and the information that is documented is very conservative.

Mr. Amrine noted that many areas in the upper watershed located in forest zones will be difficult to water type because one particular large landowner doesn't allow access.

Members discussed issues associated with timber owners and access.

Mr. Peck said the application appears to pertain to areas around Chehalis and Centralia. Mr. Glasgow said he is relying on the committee's advice and recommendation for the areas that would benefit from the work. Another aspect to consider is areas of eminent threat to development. Mr. Peck asked about the location of the areas. Mr. Glasgow indicated the areas are located in the urban/suburban edge and areas that were outside of an urban growth boundary but are now inside the urban growth boundary. The proposed project would be the first water type assessments in the Chehalis basin.

Mr. Peck said that within the basin there are many hills and uplands that are privately owned. There may not be many issues with water typing but the issues will be in the areas of the headwaters. Mr. Glasgow said the biggest discrepancies between what's on the ground and the maps are located in the lower gradient areas.

Discussion ensued on water typing of large forest landowner lands.

Mr. Amrine questioned the amount of miles that will be assessed within the project. Mr. Glasgow said the project will entail approximately 45 to 50 miles. WFC will rely on the committee's assistance to identify areas. He described the approach WFC undergoes after an area is identified for water typing. Mr. Amrine said many large forest landowners may allow access because the work will benefit them in the future.

Mr. Labbe commented on the accuracy of the water typing assessment. Mr. Glasgow agreed and noted WFC has only been challenged four times and the results were upheld.

Mr. Lehr suggested also focusing on areas of the primary tributaries to the estuary in the lower portion of the basin because most of them are not on any maps. Mr. Glasgow agreed.

Ms. Napier questioned whether the application should identify the locations or whether the application should keep options open. Mr. Amrine said by September when the application is due, the committee should have identified some areas, such as the Aberdeen/Hoquiam area because of the inaccuracies discovered in the mapping when the Conservation District completed some culvert surveys.

Mr. Stussy commented on the availability of the committee to give guidance. Mr. Labbe said the application requires identification of two areas, which is subject to review by the HWG. Mr. Glasgow

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said the nature of the project is very scalable and if the committee anticipates more than 40 or 50 miles of work, more funds could be requested to cover more ground.

Mr. Lehr pointed out the importance of also ensuring the project aligns with the Partnership's existing strategies for priority basins that have been called out.

Mr. Peck asked how the SRFB views proposals without a defined project area. Mr. Lundgren said the SRFB will want a defined area by the September application date.

Ms. Napier expressed concerns about identifying locations on the application and the information becoming public prior to notification to affected jurisdictions. She suggested obtaining concurrence with respective jurisdictions/agencies prior to listing the information. Mr. Labbe said he is contacting Kernen Lien at Lewis County. He acknowledged the importance of contacting Lewis County and sharing information on the project prior to any work commencing. Mr. Amrine suggested contacting Craig Swanson, a biologist at Lewis County. He suggested meeting with both Mr. Lien and Mr. Swanson.

Mr. Glasgow reviewed a slide on the results of a water-type assessment:

- Better protection for stream habitat.
- Identification and prioritization of restoration and protection opportunities.
- Strengthening salmon recovery strategies in streams.

Mr. Glasgow was asked if the information is provided to WDFW's SalmonScape GIS Application. Mr. Glasgow said the information is provided to WDFW with encouragement to include the information. One of the reasons for putting all the results in an interactive web-based GIS for public access is because of the serious lag time between the submittal of the results to the agency and when the information is represented on regulatory maps. WFC wants the information to be available immediately. Arming local citizens with good information can go a long way in protecting streams.

Ms. Napier said for those project applications that are not visited during the field visits, the project sponsor will have an opportunity to provide a presentation at the end of the tour on Friday, May 16, 2008.

Mr. Amrine suggested the committee should consider identifying more areas during its May 9 meeting for the project application. Ms. Napier extended invitations to Mr. Glasgow and Mr. Labbe to attend the May 9 committee meeting as well as the May 16 meeting after the site visits.

Eaton Creek Fish Passage Correction: Lonnie Crumley provided the presentation:

- Project is a fish barrier correction on South Bank Road under a county road.
- The project was presented last year but not funded.
- The project is replacement of a fish barrier culvert on the Eaton Creek system consisting of two tributaries on the south fork and north fork. North fork has had stream restoration and a fish barrier culvert installed. On the upper portion of the north fork, a FFFPP barrier has been replaced. The creek has Coho and there have been sightings of spawning above the project site. There is also a good opportunity for the presence of Chum in the lower portion of the stream.
- The creek will open up 3.6 miles of stream that doesn't account for side tributaries.
- The bankfull width is approximately 14 feet.

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- Existing culvert is a five-foot round culvert elevated with no outfall drop. The culvert is installed at the top of the stream bed, which presents a juvenile barrier most of the time
- Installation will involve a low-profile bottomless arch, which is 20 feet wide. It is slightly wider than what is called for by WDFW. It will involve a no-slope installation. The landowner above and below the culvert will not allow access to the property for any stream restoration. The goal is to install a wide culvert to improve the stream.

Mr. Peck asked if the project site includes a large fence upstream. Mr. Crumley acknowledged that there is a fence as well as the presence of old railroad bridge piling. The landowner on both sides will not allow access and is not cooperating with the county.

Mr. Crumley shared additional information on the difficulties of working with the landowner and additional details of the project site. Any increase in pricing will be covered by the county.

McCormick Creek Fish Passage Correction: Bob Amrine provided an overview of the project proposal:

- Change of land ownership is providing the opportunity for replacement of a culvert.
- McCormick Creek is a tributary to Rock Creek in the upper watershed above Pe Ell.
- Coho, cutthroat, steelhead, and resident fish are present.
- Ranked number one private culvert basin-wide by the Lewis County Conservation District.
- Existing pipe is 6/10ths of meter in diameter with an outfall drop. The pipe is small and plugs up with sediment allowing little access.
- Nearly five miles of spawning habitat is present above the site based on priority index work completed by the District.
- Project underwent the Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program and ranked number one and funded for \$50,000, which will be used as the match.
- Prior to the final application date, the site will be visited for a better illustration of the site and final cost estimate and design.
- Some protection measures are included in the application for upstream and downstream because of the meandering of the site.
- The site is located on a BPA easement road. A request has been forwarded to BPA to assist in the cost of the project; however no response has been received.

Ms. DeMond inquired about the possibility of relocating the site. Mr. Amrine said it would likely be problematic with the landowner. Mr. Lundgren said permit wise, it would be more difficult to install a new crossing, which is more entailed than replacing a culvert. The project has been reviewed by the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The program deemed the proposal ineligible for FFFPP funding. Mr. Lundgren said the FFFPP team consists of representatives from WDFW, DNR, and the Recreation and Conservation Office. DNR issues the eligibility determination.

Review Calendar

Ms. Napier reported for project sponsors, the next action is the May 1 deadline for any revisions to the early application or entering any new data in PRISM.

The next meeting of the committee is May 9, 2008. The agenda will include:

- Time for last chance projects.
- Discussion on review criteria (if time is available).

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- Work with Mr. Glasgow and Mr. Labbe on establishing priority areas.

Mr. Amrine suggested each member could also provide their top choices at the meeting. Mr. Labbe said he hopes to have contacted Lewis County and perhaps Grays Harbor County to discuss some possible areas of focus as well as reviewing basin priority sites.

Members exchanged ideas on potential areas in Grays Harbor County. Ms. Strong said development hot spots in Grays Harbor County are east county and the beach area. Mr. Amrine said he will also work with staff and contact them with more information on potential sites. Mr. Peck referred to the Satsop area, which is a high priority because of salmon species. Mr. Lundgren referred to the Humptulips area as well. Mr. Peck said the Satsop is a major area for the basin. Mr. Amrine also mentioned the Black River because of development activity.

Mr. Peck asked whether any projects have dropped out during the early application phase. Ms. Napier said there have been no drops but one sponsor did not accurately submit the proposal and elected not to pursue the project. She questioned the attendance of Todd Baun for the McCleary project as Mr. Baun indicated he would be in attendance to present the project proposal. The only potential for projects to drop out is the Nature Conservancy because they are also looking at other potential funding sources.

- Update by Eric Delvin on the Black River Conservation Initiative.

Ms. Strong suggested contacting Mr. Baun for presenting his proposal. Ms. Napier affirmed the request.

Ms. Napier said she estimates the basin will receive between \$500,000 to \$700,000 in SRFB funding.

Ms. Napier provided an update on the coastal program. The lead entities have been meeting and discussing funding for the region and are working on the criteria for allocating the funds.

Mr. Stussy left the meeting.

Ms. Napier asked for input on the schedule for the site visits. She suggested a start time at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15 and ending at approximately 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Birdie Davenport is not available on May 15 and has requested her site visit on May 16. The tour on Thursday will begin at the Tenino Park and Ride lot. Schedule of the sites on Thursday include:

- Eaton Creek Fish Passage Barrier
- Lucas Creek Barrier Removal Project
- McCormick Creek Fish Passage
- Sampsom Wetland Enhancement Phase 1
- Sam's Canal Enhancement

On Friday, members will meet in Montesano and visit the following sites:

- Hoquiam Surge Plan Habitat Acquisition
- Preacher's Slough Fish Passage
- Return to Montesano for presentation by other project sponsors at the County's Forestry Building to include the water typing presentation and the Black River Conservation Initiative.

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Ms. Napier said she is looking to assign one person to obtain all the technical information or to become the eyes and ears of a project to capture all the comments for conveyance to her. She asked for volunteers for the McCormick Creek, Sam's Canal, Chehalis Water Typing, and Eaton Creek projects. Andy Olson volunteered for the Sampsom project. Mr. Peck said he needs to check his schedule prior to making a commitment. Ms. Napier reported Mr. Crumley already volunteered for several projects.

Mr. Labbe asked whether the May 16 presentation needs to be more specific and focused on the project. Ms. Napier affirmed it needs to be focused on the project, as the audience will be the local review team of Margaret Rader, Brett DeMond, Brian Peck, Chad Stussy, Mike Johnson, Andy Olson, Mike Kuttel, and Randy Lehr. Time allocated for the presentation is 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions.

Ms. Napier advised Mr. Labbe to contact Kahle Jennings at the City of Centralia for areas involving Centralia.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Mr. Amrine adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Prepared by Valerie Gow, Recording Secretary/President
Puget Sound Meeting Services