

**CHEHALIS BASIN PARTNERSHIP  
HABITAT WORK GROUP  
Lewis Conservation District Office  
1544 Bishop Road  
Chehalis, WA  
February 15, 2008  
1:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

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**PRESENT:**

Chad Stussy, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Bob Amrine, Lewis County Conservation District  
Lonnie Crumley, LWC Consulting  
Jan Robinson, Chehalis Basin Land Trust  
Chris Hemplemen, Department of Ecology (DOE)  
Andy Olson, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation  
Birdie Davenport, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County  
Brett DeMond, LWC Consulting  
Ted Labbe, Wild Fish Conservancy  
Janet Strong, Chehalis Basin Land Trust  
Nicole Hill, Cascade Land Conservancy  
Pete Holm, Chehalis Basin Land Trust  
Craig Swanson, Lewis County Public Works  
Jessica Tate, Puget Sound Meeting Services

**Announcements and Introductions**

Ms. Napier called the Habitat Work Group (HWG) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

Ms. Napier provided a brief update regarding the February 14, 2008 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting, which resulted in allocation of \$600,000 to the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP). The CBP was awarded an additional 1% in funding because of its eligibility to form a regional organization.

The Review Panel requested that project applications should be very clear in story, design, and process and must include reference to the 2007 Work Plan. The HWG is highly respected throughout the state for its efforts so it's imperative to have a strong project list because of the competitive process.

The SRFB also discussed protection and acquisition projects. Project sponsors must provide an adequate acquisition story for acquisition projects, explain why growth management protections are insufficient for protection, and provide a strategy as well. Project sponsors interested in acquisition projects might want to consider sponsoring an assessment study.

The SRFB expressed concerns about both invasive species projects pertaining to treatment, which does not provide long-term results.

Ms. Napier indicated the SRFB requested project application submittals should be written from the perspective that the SRFB knows nothing about the project, area, and strategy. Reference to the CBP preservation and restoration 2007 Work Plan must be very specific. Projects must be consistent with the 2007 Work Plan.

Mr. Crumley asked whether the 2007 Work Plan is available in alternative forms. Ms. Napier indicated it is available on the CBP's website. Hard copies are available at the Lewis Conservation District office as well.

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**Project Updates**

Ms. Napier reported application information must be submitted in PRISM format by March 7, 2008. During the March 14, 2008 meeting, the group will begin working to strengthen applications for final submittal in August 2008. She asked members to contact her if technical assistance with PRISM is needed.

**Frase Creek Barrier Removal:** Mr. Swanson provided the update on the project.

- Has been in the previous two or three proposal rounds by Lewis County Public Works
- Most likely cost prohibitive for this year because the recommended WDFW alternative was to construct a bridge at a cost of approximately \$800,000

**Lucas Creek Tributaries Barrier Removal:** Mr. Swanson provided the update on the project.

- Culvert projects located at mileposts 4.2 and 4.3 will be submitted as separate projects
- Milepost 4.2 –
  - 33% barrier to adults and 67% barrier to juveniles
- Milepost 4.3 –
  - 100% barrier to juveniles and 67% barrier to adults
- Last culvert barriers in the upper Lucas Creek barrier portion
- Implement stream bed gravel to withstand 100-year floods
- \$120,000 to replace existing culvert with a 90-foot by 12-foot corrugated metal pipe
- Access to 1.75 miles of habitat
- Would complete the entire system
- No barriers have been identified upstream of mileposts 4.3 and 4.2
- Riparian corridors are healthy
- SRFB is considering a 20% match, which would be approximately \$90,000

**Hoquiam River Property Acquisition:** Ms. Robinson and Ms. Hill provided the update and distributed a map of the area.

- Involves two forks of the Hoquiam River, which are surge channels that come together just outside of the City of Hoquiam.
- Contains habitat such as old growth, riparian zones, and sloughs
- One area is 4,000 to 5,000 acres and the other is 6,000 to 7,000 acres
- Rainier Timber Company is the owner of the land.
- Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, and Cascade Land Conservancy are partners interested in the project.
- Discussions with DNR have occurred regarding potential mitigation and partnership

Ms. Hill reported federal funding is being sought, but a portion of SRFB funding might be warranted to make the project happen.

Ms. Napier reiterated the need to describe why the land should be protected and how existing wetland protections are not adequate.

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Mr. Crumley suggested Ms. Robinson and Ms. Hill also look into the land-banking option.

Mr. Olson asked about the cost of the properties. Ms. Hill indicated an appraisal must still be completed during the assessment process.

Mr. Swanson asked if the areas are tidally influenced. Ms. Robinson said that they are.

Ms. Napier asked if the riparian areas are in good condition. Ms. Robinson answered yes. Ms. Napier suggested bringing a watershed plan into the riparian assessment and using definite goal statements such as “preserving high quality waters” and “acquiring old growth riparian zones.”

Mr. Swanson asked what fish species utilize the areas and whether they are listed. Ms. Robinson advised that she will look into the issue. Mr. Crumley indicated species such as Coho, Chinook, Chum, and Steelhead are found in the area. Mr. Stussy said he’ll e-mail Ms. Robinson information on how to find documents regarding resident species. Ms. Napier added that depressed stocks must also be included in the application.

Ms. Robinson said she’s unsure of the cost estimate and that the project may need to be broken into two projects. Mr. Crumley commented that wetland mitigation might be a better option. Mr. Swanson suggested obtaining as many other entities involved a possible.

Mr. Crumley reported DOE may know of entities interested in wetland mitigation.

Ms. Robinson said onsite disturbance is located in the area of the west fork. It’s an old railroad line that acts similar to a dam. It could be a feasible restoration project.

Mr. Labbe explained he was not previously involved with a lead entity. He provided a description and background of the Wild Fish Conservancy, which performs field survey water-typing to determine whether state water type coverage used for forest practices and growth management is accurate. The group has been active since the mid-1990s. Often, state data are found to be inaccurate. The group is considering an assessment type of project geared toward habitat protection. The group is very proactive and engages with landowners. Many times, issues are found that could be proposed for future rounds such as private culverts. Current maps are used to target areas not in timberland bases. Acquired data are submitted to DNR to update maps. The group is looking to expand into other areas of the state because of its successes. More information can be found at [www.wildfishconservancy.org](http://www.wildfishconservancy.org).

Ms. DeMond asked about the types of inaccurate information that has been found. Mr. Labbe indicated it’s not uncommon to find fish species in areas not mapped as fish bearing. Streams are also commonly downgraded because of assumptions.

Mr. Labbe commented that the Wild Fish Conservancy website is also used as an interim tool and permanent archive of survey work.

Discussion followed regarding how Wild Fish Conservancy information is submitted to and accepted by DNR.

Mr. Swanson asked about the potential cost estimate. Mr. Labbe said he’s not prepared to discuss a cost estimate, but believes it could be approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000.

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Ms. Davenport asked if the project will be proposed for this grant round. Mr. Labbe said possibly. Ms. Napier encouraged Mr. Labbe to submit information to her as she would like to propose the notion in the Habitat Work Group schedule. The project might also coincide with the update to the Lewis County Critical Areas Ordinance that is currently underway.

**Fish Passage Project:** Mr. Amrine provided the update.

- Located where McCormick Creek opens to Rob's Creek.
- 0% passable
- Recommended by private landowner, who is very receptive to the project
- Initial discussion with an engineer indicated a 70-foot bridge would be required
- Ranked #1 for match
- Asking for \$176,000
- Utilized by species such as Coho, Steelhead, and Cutthroat
- A BPA access road will be impacted. Discussions with BPA are underway.

Mr. Crumley indicated he knows of a source that could provide a used 70-foot bypass bridge.

**Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve:** Ms. Davenport provided the update and distributed a map of the area.

- Plug on Preacher's Slough Road
- Is rearing and estuary adjustment habitat not spawning habitat
- Good riparian habitat
- 8 to 9 mile slough connected to the Chehalis River blocked at the upper portion
- Structure installation is warranted
- Additional funding sources will be sought, such as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

Ms. Napier indicated the county could be a local sponsor.

Ms. Robinson said she's familiar with the area and the road beyond it is in terrible shape, which causes sediment deposits in the river.

Ms. Davenport explained one challenge will be with road access. She said she is meeting with the county next week regarding the issue. Public access will be retained.

Ms. Napier indicated the project must be added to the Priority Index as well.

Mr. Labbe asked if there is a flood mitigation angle to the project. Ms. Davenport confirmed there is.

**Eaton Creek Fish Barrier Culvert Correction:** Mr. Crumley provided the update.

- Install small pipe under creek
- Issues with landowner regarding box culvert
- Spawning habitat
- 60% to 70% juvenile barrier and 80% adult barrier

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- Not in Priority Index
- Must remain in county right-of-way
- Engineering process complete

Ms. Robinson indicated the Sam's Canal Rehabilitation project will be resubmitted to restore the riparian zone and create an interpretive nature trail. Ms. Hill said a new lead sponsor might be warranted to initiate the process.

Ms. Napier expressed appreciation to everyone for submittal of projects.

Ms. Napier reported reviewers, who are not project sponsors, are still needed. The process is more credible if project sponsors are not reviewers. The reviewer process is scheduled in May 2008. Specific dates will be announced. The ranked project list will be submitted to the CBP on August 22, 2008. Final decisions from the SRFB will be issued on December 12, 2008.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Napier adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Prepared by Jessica Tate, Recording Secretary  
Puget Sound Meeting Services