

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

**Meeting Summary**

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**PRESENT:**

Lee Napier, Grays Harbor County	Danielle Gardea, Puget Sound Meeting Services
Lonnie Crumley, Streamworks Consulting	Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy
Chad Stussy, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Randy Lehr, Grays Harbor College
Janet Strong, Chehalis Basin Land Trust	Birdie Davenport, Department of Natural Resources
Todd Baun, City of McCleary	Eric Delvin, Washington Rivers Conservancy
Chanele Holbrook-Shaw, Thurston County Citizen	

**Welcome, Introductions, and Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chad Stussy called the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) Habitat Work Group (HWG) meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Everyone present provided self-introductions.

**Project Review**

Ms. Napier reported Todd Baun, City of McCleary is providing a project review. She explained the review process to Mr. Baun.

***Sam' Canal Enhancement:*** Mr. Baun provided the project review:

- Sam's Canal is a small stream that is ditched out and piped under the City.
- There is a trash rack with two-inch slits and the bank is armored with black rock.
- Himalayan blackberries, canary grass, and red alder trees are encroaching into the canal.
- The request is for funding for cleanup of the trash rack and placement of woody debris and log weirs to provide a hospitable atmosphere for the fish.
- Removal of evasive plants replaced with shading plants.
- Building an all purpose trail with signage to inform the community of habitat in the stream.

Ms. Napier asked whether the trails are part of the proposal. Mr. Baun indicated the trails are included in the project proposal. Ms. Napier asked Ms. Strong about other grants she's received. Ms. Strong said the grant for an educational component and trail was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The committee discussed different agencies to contact for the proposed trail system.

Ms. Napier commented on the Community Salmon Fund that will be available soon and suggested splitting the proposal. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB) grant will be available soon for regional distribution.

Mr. Crumley asked whether the project proponent has contacted Pat Powers. Mr. Baun said he is seeking recommendations. Mr. Crumley referred to the log weirs and provided some suggestions. Ms. Davenport asked whether large rock will be removed. Mr. Baun replied that the majority of rock will remain.

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Mr. Stussy asked about the length of the area. Mr. Baun provided a description of the area.

Ms. Napier suggested the support of Ms. Strong in assisting with the project. Ms. Strong agreed to assist.

Ms. Davenport suggested dividing the project into phases.

Mr. Stussy suggested contacting Bob Bernard and Pat Powers for assistance. Ms. Strong commented that there has been successful bank stabilization through the use of plants and rocks.

The committee discussed spawning gravel and the maintenance of gravel.

Mr. Lehr asked if expansion of the floodplain access and connectivity is possible. Mr. Baun replied that it's a possibility. Mr. Crumley commented on the floodplain overflow areas.

Ms. Napier asked about necessary steps if the project is phased. Mr. Baun replied it would be the replacement of the trash rack. Ms. Napier advised there should be notification in the fall of the projects receiving a grant from the Community Salmon Fund. Mr. Baun reported he recently applied for a grant from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Advisory Board through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for trails. Ms. Napier inquired about the timeline for notification of the grant. Mr. Baun stated August 1, 2008 is the technical completion date.

***Black River – Water Rights Project:*** Eric Delvin provided project updates:

Washington Rivers Conservancy is the project applicant. Executive Director Lisa Pelly is overseeing the project. The acquisition is for protection of 400-acre feet of water on the Black River. To acquire water rights the documentation of use and capacity is required. Mr. Delvin described the process for establishing the documentation. He said he's confident there is sufficient water for agriculture and that the 400-acre project makes sense.

Mr. Delvin said the project was updated in PRISM and the project cost is \$175,000. The 400-acre parcel is valued at approximately \$800,000, but it's not reflected in the project. Ms. Napier asked if that information will be included in the narrative portion of the proposal. Mr. Stussy said the information in PRISM becomes condensed and not all the information is of interest to the review panel. Ms. Napier noted that the information is important at the local level.

Mr. Lehr asked whether the water rights acquisition project is part of a larger Nature Conservancy (TNC) initiative. Mr. Delvin replied that it is.

Mr. Delvin asked about the materials that will be provided for the field visits. Ms. Napier said she will provide the pre-applications.

Mr. Delvin said the water flow is two cubic feet per second (cfs) but it's difficult to model. Steve Bosso from the Department of Fish and Wildlife will be at the meeting to discuss the importance of the project's relation to fish.

The committee discussed the best way to graph and model projects.

Mr. Crumley said it's important to relate the project to saving the fish. Mr. Delvin agreed.

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***Preacher's Slough Fish Passage:*** Birdie Davenport presented a project update:

Ms. Davenport said she would like to review the process because the project was discussed in March and not listed on the April agenda, which caused some confusion between her and the project manager.

Ms. Davenport described tide movements and tide timelines. During her visit to the slough, the area was populated with seals and birds. There is no outlet for fish.

Ms. Davenport said she has not pursued engineering work for the bridge. However, she has spoken to numerous people. Mr. Crumley asked whether Brian Thompson is holding the bridge for Ms. Davenport. Ms. Davenport replied that she received a drawing of the bridge but doesn't believe they will hold the bridge until there is a contract.

***Chehalis Water Type Assessment:*** Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy, presented updates:

Several changes have been made to the draft application in PRISM. The range of options includes explaining the need for water type assessments and identifying the different sub-basins where the work will be performed. Another option is describing the need and presenting potential basins justified for the water assessment and continuing work with citizens and local governments prior to initiating the project.

Ms. Napier pointed out that previous assessments have identified areas while others have not. It's based on the nature of the adjustment. Mr. Glasgow proposed listing identified sub-basins and how the list is generated and modifying the application based on the suggestions from the SRFB. Ms. Napier explained the process and that the project details should be finalized by August.

Ms. Davenport asked about the size of the project. Mr. Glasgow replied that the request is for \$80,000 from the SRFB for surveying 40 miles of stream channel. He recommends selecting several sub-basins and concentrating the work rather than sampling streams from different regions.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw asked if it would be helpful to avoid areas of stream that have been typed by the DFW and forestry. Mr. Glasgow replied the effort is primarily focusing on the impacts of the stream. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw asked about the process used to determine the testing locations. Mr. Glasgow replied that he will type tributaries located in developing parts of the counties. There are many tributaries not on existing maps.

Mr. Glasgow reported the water type assessments will be performed in different parts of the state to ascertain the various error rates. The real benefit is updating the maps to include new tributaries. In the past, the assessments have identified areas where local government anticipates the greatest amount of growth in future years. Fish distribution and sensitive populations are considered.

Mr. Crumley said he has visited several locations that are not located on the maps. He provided examples of the areas.

Mr. Glasgow said most counties are receptive to having the typing completed.

Committee members discussed the Wild Cat Creek aquifer and the Critical Areas Ordinance for Grays Harbor County and how that information could be beneficial.

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Mr. Delvin suggested the information on the application should be in a general format.

Ms. Strong said the involvement of Wild Fish Conservancy's is needed in Lewis County and Grays Harbor County.

Mr. Glasgow said Scatter Creek, Black Creek, Wild Cat Creek, and China Creek are areas to address. Mr. Stussy suggested China Creek doesn't need any water typing.

Mr. Glasgow said the Wild Fish Conservancy is working with Thurston County to do water assessment and that the conservancy may be able to use some of the funds. Mr. Delvin asked about the location of the areas that have been typed. Mr. Glasgow replied the northern portion of the county extending into south Puget Sound.

Members discussed the time of year that typing is normally undertaken.

Ms. Napier requested input on the schedule for the site visits. She suggested a start time of 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15 ending at approximately 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Mr. Delvin reported Lisa Pelly is not available until after 3:00 p.m. on May 15.

Ms. Napier reported the tour on May 15 will begin in McCleary at Sam's Canal project site. Schedule of the sites on Thursday include:

- Eaton Creek Fish Passage Barrier
- McCormick Creek Fish Passage
- Sam's Canal Enhancement
- Black River Conservation

On Friday, May 16, 2008, members will meet in Montesano and visit the following sites:

- Preacher's Slough Fish Passage
- Hoquiam Surge Plan Habitat Acquisition
- Return to Montesano for presentation on Sampson's Wetland Enhancement Project
- Chehalis Water Type Assessment Presentation

Mr. Stussy said last year, Mr. Lehr put together a project ranking system. Ms. Napier commented that last year's ranking was completed by the group. Some of the projects received more review than others based on criteria. When completing applications it's helpful to know about the other projects that are being reviewed. Previously, only SRFB criteria were used. All projects applications should be based on the benefit and certainty of the criteria, with a small component on technical review.

Mr. Stussy said projects should go beyond the funding allocation. Ms. Napier explained that last year, six projects were submitted and four were funded. If a project fails there are alternate projects for funding consideration.

Ms. Napier asked for volunteers to work with Mr. Stussy and Mr. Lehr on ranking criteria. Ms. Holbrook-Shaw and Mr. Delvin volunteered.

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Ms. Napier indicated there will be no June meeting unless additional information is requested on review criteria. The next deadline is August 1, 2008 for inputting applications. Applicants are requested to be available by phone during the review process.

Ms. Holbrook-Shaw asked about the members of the review committee. Ms. Napier replied the review committee is comprised of Mike Kuttel, Chad Stussy, Randy Lehr, Margaret Rader, and Andy Wilson.

Ms. Napier said the new Regional Director of the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership will be joining the tour on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Mr. Delvin said his position at The Nature Conservancy is changing to focus primarily on the Chehalis River basin and Grays Harbor County to include unrestricted funding.

Ms. Napier said Grays Harbor is looking to form a Marine Resources Committee (MRC). There has been legislation passed for funding to form a coastal MRC for Pacific, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, and Clallam counties.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business, Mr. Stussy adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Prepared by Danielle Gardea, Recording Secretary  
Puget Sound Meeting Services