



## WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

---

### SUMMARY OF REGIONAL MEETING

**February 18, 2009**

Montesano, WA  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

**In attendance:**

Nancy Allison, Executive Director, WCSSP  
Miles Batchelder, Program Assistant, WCSSP  
Dana Dietz, Administrative Assistant, WCSSP  
Debbie Holden, Creative Community Solutions

North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

Rich Osborne, Lead Entity Coordinator  
Ed Bowen, Citizen at large  
Devona Ensmenger, Wild Salmon Center  
Katie Krueger, Quileute Natural Resources

Quinalt Nation Lead Entity

John Sims, Lead Entity Coordinator  
James Sellers, Quinalt Indian Nation  
Bill Armstrong, Quinalt Indian Nation

Grays Harbor County Lead Entity

Lee Napier, Lead Entity Coordinator  
April Boe, The Nature Conservancy  
Lonnie Crumley, Streamworks  
Andy Olson, Chehalis Tribe  
Mark Swartout, Thurston County

Pacific County Lead Entity

Mike Johnson, Lead Entity Coordinator  
Key McMurry, Ecological Land Services, Inc.

Technical

Carrie Cook-Tabor, USFWS  
Lauri Vigue, Lead Entity/Watershed Steward Coordinator

**ACTION STEPS**

1. ***Start thinking about Board structure. We hope to make this decision in March.***
2. ***Call Nancy with any input you have for the meetings she and Miles will be having with federal legislators' staffers on March 6<sup>th</sup>.***
3. ***Encourage project sponsors to attend our April 22<sup>nd</sup> regional meeting when Erik Neatherlin will make an HWS presentation.***
4. ***Christine Daniels, public relations for Paladin Data, the HWS Software developer, is now working with local newspapers, reporters and Lead Entity Groups to create a series of newspaper articles showcasing Lead Entity projects. She will be contacting each LEC, and Miles hopes that each will take advantage of this opportunity. Let him know if he can help.***
5. ***Both Nancy and Devona asked that everyone here answer the Request for Technical Expertise spreadsheet and also forward it to any other technical experts who might be interested in helping with the Needs Assessment. It will not require a high degree of involvement and time from those interested, perhaps a couple workshops and a teleconference. The Assessment needs fish experts, habitat experts, climate experts, the whole range. Basically, we're asking: Who's interested? What capacity/expertise do you have? The goal is to pull this team together within the next month.***
6. ***Let WCSSP staff know if there are any ways they can help the Lead Entities on Lead Entity Day, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Miles plans to be there all day and can spell you if needed.***
7. ***LECs as well as Nancy agreed to call their state legislators to encourage them to drop by the Lead Entity tables on Lead Entity Day.***
8. ***Please consider nominating a citizen from the Coast Region for the Outstanding Citizen Award.***

**UPCOMING MEETING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2009	Location: Port of Grays Harbor 111 S. Wooding St., Aberdeen
9:00 am – 12:50 pm:	WCSSP Monthly Regional Meeting including working lunch, which will be provided
12:50 – 4 pm	Technical Meeting with Tony Hartrich's assessment presentation , Lee Benda about Net Map and sub- allocation criteria discussion/determination

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Nancy Allison convened the meeting at about 10:10 am, welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Attendees introduced themselves.

Nancy asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda; there were none.

A final vote was taken on the four logo options. The logo chosen was LOGO BETA.

Nancy asked if there were any corrections to or comments about the Summary of the January 2009 meeting. It was suggested and decided to approve the meeting Summaries at the end of any meeting to give folks one more chance to review them.

### **Director's Report**

#### ***Status of WCSSP Regional Strategic Planning Process***

Nancy Allison outlined the current status of our Regional Planning Process, which was formally begun at last month's meeting January 21, 2009. In the Concept Paper, our facilitators John Kliem and Debbie Holden of Creative Community Solutions summarized and structured the decisions made by the group in January. John does not feel that the group needs to meet again before beginning the actual development of the Regional Plan. The Concept Paper will be used to guide this process. It is generally agreed that the Needs Assessment being done through the Wild Salmon Center, funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, must be completed before we begin developing the Coast Region Strategic Plan. Therefore our focus at this time should be on assisting this effort, not hurrying into creating a Regional Plan.

In the meantime, however, Nancy would like everyone to start thinking about options available for creating the Regional Plan. She reported that, if their resources allow, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has graciously offered to facilitate the creation of the Plan at no charge to us. This would utilize the extensive experience and professional expertise they have in helping many regions in the country develop Plans using the CAP (Conservation Action Plan) process. Alternately, we could put the process out to bid, requesting for example that John Kliem and Debbie Holden of CCS, and Bob Wheeler of Triangle send in proposal bids.

Katie Krueger expressed concern that we cannot use the term "conservation" because it is in conflict with the Bolt federal court decision. Others think that the term, used in this context, would not be a problem because it is being used here in the wider, non-legal sense of the definition and because it is used in the name of a planning "process" not in the name of the "plan" itself. It was generally agreed that this would need clarification.

John Sims wanted to get a sense of the timetable for these activities. Devona estimated that the Needs Assessment would be done by summer 2009. April Aboe estimated that TNC would know the availability of its resources by the end of April 2009. So it's reasonable to assume that we can start the development of the Regional Plan by late summer 2009, whether the TNC or some other group does it. April said that it takes TNC an average/minimum of 9 months to produce a draft Plan. John observed that this meant we would've made substantial progress on our Plan by the middle of the next fiscal biennium, summer 2010.

Key McMurry asked Nancy whether we'd be missing any opportunities for funding if we waited to see if TNC had the resources to help us. Nancy said that she didn't think so; she is working with the Council of Regions to determine if we can use unspent funds from this biennium, and looking for other sources of funding.

Nancy noted that no matter how we proceed, the Concept Paper developed by CCS out of our January workshop will be the basis for our decision making process, and all decisions will be that of this Coast group. Debbie Holden provided a summary of the Concept Paper, after which there was a discussion of what to call the Plan. It was suggested and generally accepted that we continue to call it the Regional Plan until we develop the specifics of it, at which time it might be clear that we want to rename it.

Nancy pointed out that our current task is to help put together the team that will carry out the WSC Needs Assessment. To that end, she will send out the Request for Technical Expertise spreadsheet that Devona developed. Both Nancy and Devona asked that everyone here forward the sheet to any other technical experts who might be interested in helping. Devona said that the regional assessment will not require a high degree of involvement and time from those interested, perhaps a couple of workshops and a teleconference. The Assessment needs fish experts, habitat experts, climate experts, the whole range. Basically, we're asking: Who's interested? What capacity/expertise do you have? It was agreed that the goal should be to pull this team together within the next month.

### ***Partnership with National Fish Habitat Action Plan***

Nancy reported that she has become aware of a national group with whom we could perhaps partner, but she wanted to know what the group thought. The organization is the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). As far as she could tell in initial research, the most strenuous requirement they require for Partner status is the development of a strategic plan, which Nancy pointed out we will fulfill with our Regional Planning process. James Schroder offered the help of The Nature Conservancy in obtaining NFHAP Partner status for WCSSP. The benefits of being a Partner would be access to funds beyond SRFB.

Nancy asked for feedback and discussion, and was given the names of other organizations who are pursuing Partner status. In addition, Carrie Cook-Tabor reported that her organization had decided to not pursue Partnership because of the tremendous amount of work involved and the fact that in this slowing economy, the funding possibilities were not stellar.

It was agreed that Nancy should research these concerns further; Jason Lundgren suggested that she talk to other regions in Washington who had considered applying for Partner status.

### ***Habitat Work Schedule***

Miles Batchelder reported that he has joined the Advisory Committee for the Habitat Work Schedule in the hopes that we can better use the HWS for our purposes, both Lead Entities and as a Region. He asked that WCSSP members give him any feedback, ideas, concerns, or problems with the HWS so he can most effectively represent the Coast Region at the HWS Advisory Committee.

He also reported that he has arranged with Erik Neatherlin to give a presentation at our April 22, 2009 Regional Meeting. Erik's presentation will be about both the basics of the system and its new features, such as entering projects that are in the "Conceptual" stage, a "Validation" tool that quickly tells you if any project information is missing, and improved mapping capabilities. Miles strongly urged Lead Entities to encourage their project sponsors to attend the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Christine Daniels, the public relations person for the HWS Software developer Paladin Data, is now working with local newspapers, reporters and Lead Entity Groups to create a series of newspaper articles showcasing Lead Entity projects. She will be contacting each LEC, and Miles hopes that each will take advantage of this opportunity.

He thinks HWS can be a highly effective communication tool not only with the public, but also among ourselves, and he encourages us all to use it. There was a discussion about increasing its effectiveness by making legislators aware of it, providing mechanisms for feedback and making sure that everyone continues to get new training as required.

Rich Osborne noted that it's difficult for sponsors to get projects entered into the HWS, so the LECs tend to do it. For example, he has all the current projects in, but not the historical ones which would provide invaluable information. Miles offered that, if we have time, perhaps WCSSP can help with input.

Lee Napier suggested that Erik include some discussion of the hierarchies for entry that can be used. A similar discussion was very helpful to her, resulting in her using a geographic hierarchy scheme (e.g., all projects in the Chehalis Watershed) rather than a hierarchy based on type of project (e.g., basin). Rich Osborne pointed out that you don't have to use any hierarchy system, just keep all projects at level 3.

### ***Lead Entity Day***

There was some discussion of Lead Entity Day being held March 10, 2009 in Olympia. WCSSP staff asked if there were any ways they could help the Lead Entities. In addition, all LECs as well as Nancy agreed to call their state legislators to encourage them to drop by the Lead Entity tables. Finally Nancy asked that Lead Entities consider nominating a citizen from the coast for the Outstanding Citizen award.

### ***Meetings with federal legislative staff***

Nancy reported that she and Miles will be meeting with staff members of federal legislators over the next two months: with Cantwell's, Murray's and Dicks' in March in Tacoma March 6<sup>th</sup> and with Baird's in Olympia on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Ed Bowen has offered to accompany them as a citizen representative, and The Nature Conservancy Washington Chapter's Federal Government Relations Director Lisa Bellefond will also be present on our behalf. Nancy is open to any input concerning these meetings, and asks each Lead Entity to provide Miles with 3-4 projects that have been particularly successful, plus a project(s) that is substantial and probably beyond SRFB funding ability, in order to demonstrate our need for funding outside SRFB.

### ***SRFB Updates***

Nancy and Miles attended the two-day Quarterly SRFB meeting in Olympia last week. One issue being discussed was the current bill in the legislature to move the Lead Entity Program under RCO, and to incorporate the functions of GSRO into RCO.

In addition, the SRFB approved an 8% overall budget cut dependent on what the legislature eventually approves for a budget. This would be for Regions and Lead Entity Groups, for "Infrastructure" (capacity) and Projects, but not for Monitoring which is a fixed, legislated 10% amount. If the 8% works out with the Legislature's final budget, then the regions and Lead

Entities will work out between themselves how to distribute this 8% overall cut. Some regions can absorb cuts more easily than others, and have already stated that they are willing to do so.

Nancy displayed spreadsheets of how this might play out statewide, showing different options. In addition, she displayed WCSSP's current budget, the amounts already spent and those amounts unspent. She asked for suggestions on items that might serve us well. Lee Napier clarified that we could not use current funds to contract for services now that would be delivered after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Several good suggestions were made:

1. A webcam system for meetings so that the extensive amount of driving could be reduced, cutting both driving reimbursement costs and personnel/time costs.
2. The NetMap watershed planning tool that could be used for all kinds of things: Lead Entity strategy building, Regional Planning, Limiting Factors Analysis, etc. Devona has recently priced this out and it's about \$80,000 for 4 million acres of our area. It would require hiring a technical GIS expert, but it can link up with Google Earth for use. It was agreed to have Devona arrange for Lee Benda to give a presentation on NetMap at our March 18, 2009 meeting. It was also agreed that we should research answers to questions like: What are ongoing costs? Cost of updates? Cost of subscription? Would one license provide access for multiple users?
3. There was a discussion as to whether engineering services for projects can be obtained through WCSSP technical funds. After a quick call to Brian Abbott, Jason Lundgren reported that engineering services could not be paid for if not specifically outlined in a SRFB proposal. Nancy said she would look closely at our contract and talk to Brian Abbott about both the NetMap and the engineering services ideas, and bring answers back at our next meeting.
4. Lee brought a sample of an inexpensive logo bag that has been a successful giveaway for a local conservation effort for several years. They are \$1.75 per bag, and she thinks they're a good way to raise public awareness.

Jason noted a couple SRFB items: Manual 18, the same as last year, is going to be used. PRISM is now open for input. And total amount for projects will be about \$16 million, which is approximately half of last year's.

### **WCSSP Board Structure**

Nancy pointed out that although we weren't going to make a decision about Board composition today, everyone needs to start thinking it through. To that end, Miles directed everyone's attention to two documents that were in the agenda packet: a distillation of Board Members' Responsibilities and a chart showing the composition and nature of the Boards of the other regions in Washington.

The document summarizing Board Members' Responsibilities is a generic list, some of which applies to WCSSP, some of which doesn't. It's up to our Interim Advisory Committee to decide what our Board will look like and how it will be initially determined.

Several points requiring research and clarification were brought up: the requirements in “The Report on Consideration...” signed off by local government agencies, and whether “The Report on Consideration...” explicitly delineates Board composition or whether it only talked about the composition and functioning of the Interim Advisory Committee. Lee Napier noted that section 3.1.3 of the Report speaks to these issues. Katie Krueger of the Quileute Tribe vigorously made the point that co-managers need to be members of the Board. This is a point that needs clarification, and will be discussed during the March meeting.

It was agreed that Phil Miller of GSRO will be able to provide a lot of insight and historical perspective in this process. It was generally agreed that, no matter how the Board is formed, there needs to be equity among the four Lead Entities – each Lead Entity is to have equal representation.

Nancy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Summary of last month’s meeting. There were none, and the Summary of the Meeting of January 21, 2009 was approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Dietz