

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Eugene Water & Electric Board Training Room—500 East 4th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon

January 12, 2006
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Kurt Cox (McKenzie School District), Pat Gripp (McKenzie Residents Association), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Michael Kerrick (at-large stakeholder), Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Douglas Moser (At-large stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Erik Petersen (Army Corps of Engineers), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District), Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Emily Rice (Bureau of Land Management), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy, Juan Welsh, Kate Ferschweiler, McKenzie Watershed Council Staff; Chuck Davis, Springfield Utility Board; Shelley Hansen, Army Corps of Engineers; Phylliss Highfill, Guest.

ABSENT: John Lilly (Department of State Lands), Charlene Phipps (McKenzie Residents Association), Chris Pryor (City of Eugene), John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Faye Stewart (Lane Board of County Commissioners), Council Partners.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Perkins facilitated the meeting. He called the meeting of the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) to order.

Mr. Perkins reviewed the agenda, and determined there were no additions.

Those present introduced themselves.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2005 MINUTES

Ms. Finnessy noted that Mr. Highfill was present at the last meeting but was not listed in the present section; Mr. Welsh's name was spelled incorrectly; and on page 3, the reference to the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District should be to the Eugene Water & Electric Board.

Mr. Moll corrected the spelling of the McKenzie River Trust's stewardship coordinator, which should be Jessica Neff rather than Knapp.

Mr. Ziller corrected page 6 of the minutes, saying that no single city, rather than no single county, had take advantage of the expanded riparian tax incentive program.

Mr. Perkins determined there was no Council Partner absent from the last meeting who objected to any decisions made at that time.

Council Partners showed support for approving the amended minutes by showing Consensus Level 3.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy announced an upcoming meeting sponsored by the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District regarding planning for Rough Park, which would be held at Thurston Middle School on January 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Perkins announced the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting scheduled for January 14th.

Responding to a question from Mr. Bumstead, Ms. Finnessy said that Milo Mecham of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) was working on a wastewater treatment plan for the City of Coburg and was not likely to make a presentation to the Council until later in the year. Mr. Pishioneri added that the City of Springfield was ready to proceed but other jurisdictions requested additional study, which he thought unfortunate. He thought it best for the jurisdictions to work together when possible to see if they could make things better for all parties.

Mr. Ziller said those he spoke with were disappointed by the lack of agreement on the part of the local elected officials in regard to the Coburg connection issue. He believed the best alternative was for Coburg to be connected to the MWMC.

Ms. Allison reported that the placement of woody debris in the upper McKenzie was completed and the debris was staying in place.

Ms. Allison also reported that a major film starring Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson was being shot in the upper McKenzie area at Koosah Falls and the first week of filming was in process. The filming had created a lot of energy and excitement locally and it was bringing money into the community.

Mr. Ziller noted the extreme fluctuations in river levels due to the Army Corps of Engineers' flood control efforts.

Mr. Ziller reported that a screw trap had been set up at Delta Ponds and was catching chinook fry being washed down the Willamette River due to flooding, which was unusual.

Responding to a question from Mr. Highfill regarding the toilet at the Taylor boat landing, Ms. Rice indicated it had been pumped and locked and should not have an impact on water quality. She acknowledged that at this time the facility was underwater. Mr. Highfill asked if the facility could be moved. Ms. Rice agreed to look into the question. She said the facility needed to be pumped and sealed earlier in the year. There was general concurrence.

Mr. Moll reported that access to Green Island was lost due to flooding across the old channel on January 1st. He said that a decision would be made later in the month as to whether to proceed with the January 21st planting. He said the situation was actually very exciting and the flood conditions amazing to see. He said that good data was being gathered with the electronic gauges.

Mr. Moll said that the McKenzie River Trust had transferred the White Branch parcel to the US Forest Service.

Mr. Kerrick reported that the recent story in *The Register-Guard* regarding a study of the Biscuit salvage logging and a subsequent editorial had caused some controversy among the forestry community. The study indicated damage to seedlings resulted from such logging. He recalled a 1971 study involving Oregon State University that addressed regeneration in conifer forests in southwestern Oregon, which was

not mentioned in the current study. He indicated he would circulate comments on the study made by faculty of the Department of Forestry at Oregon State University.

Mr. Cox agreed with Ms. Allison that the filming occurring upriver was very exciting for local residents.

Mr. Cox determined from Mr. Ziller that fish generally do fine in high water, and indicated he would pass that information on to his students.

Mr. Cox reported that saturation caused by rainy conditions had led to several power outages, leading to some school opening delays.

Mr. Petersen overviewed the ACOE's flood control efforts during the recent rain events, anticipating that more rain in the near future would require ACOE to release more water from Fern Ridge Reservoir than downstream residents would prefer.

Mr. Petersen reported on a recent tour he took of the gulf coast to view the damage created by hurricanes. He said that he attempted to bring back with him lessons learned from those events and appreciation for local conditions in regard to facility designs. He said that the ACOE facilitated the quality of life in the valley and its work was critically important.

Mr. Petersen offered to have George Miller of the ACOE make a presentation on the temperature control device at Cougar Dam to the Council. He said the ACOE was working on a post-authorization change that involved development of a trap and haul facility and staff was currently debating different approaches.

Mr. Petersen anticipated that the new regional head of the ACOE, Colonel Tom O'Donovan, would accompany him to the next Council meeting. He had the opportunity to tour the local area with Colonel O'Donovan and found him to be very receptive and challenging. He said he believed the MWC was unique and productive and he wanted to demonstrate that to Colonel O'Donovan.

Mr. Bumstead asked if the ACOE would request Council endorsement of the proposed trap and haul facility. Mr. Petersen noted the uncertainty of funding, and suggested the Council could hear a presentation on the topic when the focus was narrowed, and discuss the issue then.

Mr. Ferschweiler noted that monitoring efforts in Cedar Creek were being hampered by high water.

Mr. Welsh reported that he was in a 'wait and see' mode in regard to planting. He further noted that all the plantings were on Green Island and could not be reached at this time.

Mr. Davis reported that the Gossler property was being impacted by the high water conditions and the Springfield Utility Board (SUB) was working with EWEB, the City of Springfield, the ACOE, and the Gosslers to do emergency repairs, depending on how quickly the ground erodes. He noted that the location of the site was close to an EWEB transfer station and a SUB wellfield.

Mr. Davis reported that the Springfield Drinking Water Plan and ordinance update would be the subject of a public hearing on January 17th. He noted that SUB had hired recently Amy Chinitz for the Drinking Water Protection Coordinator position, Amy was the former watershed coordinator for the Middle-Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Mr. Petersen introduced Shelley Hansen of the ACOE, who was present at the meeting.

4. SPRINGFIELD STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Gottfried provided a PowerPoint presentation that overviewed highlights of Springfield's Stormwater Management Plan. He noted the origin of the plan in federal stormwater regulations and said that the City was moving forward with the plan in advance of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Mr. Gottfried emphasized the Plan's focus on education and compliance.

Mr. Gottfried called attention to the six minimum measures, which included citizen involvement, public education, post construction runoff control, construction site runoff control, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and internal housekeeping.

Mr. Gottfried indicated the illicit discharges were regulated under the City's nuisance ordinance, which appeared to be adequate, and provided for the levying of fines against companies that were not cooperative.

Mr. Gottfried noted key Council outcomes and seven goals that addressed flooding, compliance with State and Federal law, water quality and beneficial uses, protection from third-party liability, and making waterways community amenities.

Responding to a question from Mr. Bumstead, Mr. Gottfried indicated that Springfield did not do vector control. He said that very few cities do, often because the control methods involved were controversial. He said that Springfield encourages residents to minimize standing water.

Mr. Pishioneri noted a dog walk proposed near Splash, and asked if that could create a potential nitrate problem. Mr. Gottfried acknowledged those plans had caused some concerns. Mr. Pishioneri said that were also wellheads on the school grounds nearby. He hoped someone was looking into the situation. Mr. Gottfried said that some management practices could mitigate the impact, but he indicated he was not comfortable with the additional bacteria load that the dog park would produce. He said that to challenge the project from a health perspective might be difficult due to the maintenance practices that exist, and said that the City works closely with Willamalane Parks and Recreation District on such projects. The District has well-developed pet waste stations.

Responding to a question from Ms. Rice, Mr. Gottfried indicated that outflows were monitored but not continuously, and most of the monitoring was done by Ms. Ferschweiler.

Mr. Gottfried reviewed a list of projects impacting the McKenzie River, which included the Metro Waterways Project and partnering on Cedar Creek water flow and quality monitoring.

Responding to a question from Mr. Moll about the education program, Mr. Gottfried acknowledged that staff turnover had affected the program. Responding to a question from Ms. Gripp about single-family education, Mr. Gottfried said that the City responded to complaints and had good luck in educating citizens on a one-to-one basis.

Responding to a question from Mr. Cox, Mr. Gottfried was not sure of how much pipe was laid annually in Springfield to accommodate growth, noting that much of it was in privately built systems.

Mr. Perkins called for a brief break.

5. WILDISH SUPPORT LETTER

Mr. Bumstead called the Council's attention to a letter drafted by a committee that included himself, Mr. Moll, Mr. Ziller, and John Runyon, at the direction of the Council. He asked the Council to endorse the

letter, suggesting two goals to keep in mind, that of recognizing Wildish's good faith effort without rolling over and playing dead as there were still serious concerns about the project.

Partners discussed the letter and their concerns about the project. Council Partners acknowledged that mining operators owned the property around the confluence and had the right to mine gravel. However, Partners also expressed concern about the impacts of mining on the river and the proposed dike. Mr. Bumstead emphasized the importance of collaboration. Responding to a question from Ms. Hansen, Mr. Bumstead said that Wildish had indicated willingness to discuss restoration of the reclaiming pits on the south side of the river.

Mr. Moll said that cooperation was possible, and the letter attempted to demonstrate the Council's support for Wildish's work while at the same time raising the issue of the cumulative impacts of such mining on the river.

At the request of Mr. Olander, the Council agreed to delete the term to "human activity" and replace it with a reference to "development activity."

Council Partners showed Consensus Level 3 for replacing "human activity" with "development activity."

Council Partners indicated support for sending the letter to Wildish as amended, with Mr. Highfill showing Consensus Level 4, Mr. Bumstead, Mr. Ziller, and Mr. Moll showing Consensus Level 1, and remaining Partners showing Consensus Level 3. Mr. Petersen abstained from the decision.

Mr. Moll noted that the Board of County Commissioners would act on approvals for the needed work soon, and if approved Wildish would begin dike construction immediately. He was not sure how of the phasing of that construction, and suggested there were still opportunities for cooperation.

Mr. Welsh encouraged the examination of more restoration opportunities in this area. Ms. Finnessy indicated that grants were being sought for that purpose.

6. HUMAN HABITAT ACTION PLAN ATTACHMENT

Ms. Finnessy called the Council's attention to the Human Habitat Action Plan Amendment, included as an attachment in the meeting packet. She called for comments and questions.

Responding to a question from Mr. Moll about how items in the Plan Amendment would be implemented, Ms. Finnessy indicated that it was her task to determine how to implement the plan, and she invited ideas from Council Partners. She believed that the Human Habitat Action Plan had been the most difficult of all the Council's plans to develop and constituted a sort of "laundry list" of ideas the Council thought were good. Mr. Ziller agreed. He said the Plan had been both controversial and, in the end, disappointing.

Council Partners showed Consensus Level 3 to adopt the Human Habitat Action Plan.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- *Projects Committee*

Mr. Welsh reported that the 412/413 Technical Committee had focused on the application of the EWEB 412 and 413 funds. He characterized the meeting as productive and said another meeting would be held on March 2 to discuss the list of projects to match to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board dollars. He indicated there was nothing above Leaburg Dam in terms of projects due to the fact that the funds were to be spent downstream of the hydroelectric project.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Finnessy reported that the fiscal year 2007 Bonneville Power Administration grant had been submitted. She said the Council would not know the results of the submittal until October 2006.

Ms. Finnessy said that the Council received funding from the EWEB Partner and Education Program for 2006-07. She said that as a result, the Executive Committee would consider an amendment to Ms. Ferschweiler's contract.

Ms. Finnessy reported that she and Ms. Ferschweiler had been working with Weyerhaeuser, the Wet Wild Program, and EWEB to develop a Camp Creek study plan to determine where different high school disciplines could be involved. She understood that monitoring would not occur at the same levels as previous at Cedar Creek, and a final report would be issued soon.

Ms. Finnessy reported that she was working with Cascade Pacific RC&D on a series of workshops focusing on sustainable agriculture for agriculture producers in the Willamette Basin.

Ms. Finnessy anticipated that the Executive Committee would review applications for the At-Large Partner position at the next committee meeting. The deadline for applications was January 31.

Ms. Finnessy said that staff was working on year-end processes and determining audit needs for the Watershed Alliance. The Alliance's fiscal year was changed to align with the federal fiscal year.

Ms. Finnessy announced that she was expecting a baby in mid-May and Mr. Welsh would fill in for her during her absence. Partners congratulated Ms. Finnessy on the upcoming happy event.

Mr. Perkins adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.