

AGENDA

McKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL

October 11, 2007

Eugene Water and Electric Board
500 East 4th Avenue
Training Room, North Building

Contact: Larry Six, 687-9076, coordinator@mckenziawc.org

Website: www.mckenziawc.org

- 1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **5:30 – 5:35**
Kurt Cox, Facilitator
Action Requested: Approve agenda.
- 2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING MINUTES** **5:35 – 5:40**
Action Requested: Approve minutes. (Attachment)
- 3. PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT** **5:40 – 6:10**
Action Requested: Action may be taken on recommendations from the public and Partners.
- 4. COMMENT ON BLM PLAN REVISIONS** **6:10 – 6:40**
 - a. Report of the Ad Hoc Council Committee (Attachment) – Joe Moll
 - b. Council Discussion
 - c. *Action Requested:* If appropriate, approve comment letter to BLM.

BREAK

- 5. STATUS OF MEASURE 37 CLAIMS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES** **6:45 – 7:45**
 - a. Briefings by Kent Howe and Keir Miller, Lane County Land Management
 - b. Council Questions and Discussion
 - c. *Action Requested:* None required; the Council may wish to submit comments.
- 6. PROJECTS UPDATE -- Jared Weybright** **7:45 – 8:00**
- 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS -- Larry Six** **8:00 – 8:15**

2007 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October thru December

Event	When	Where	Contact
Mohawk Watershed Partnership	Oct. 2, 6:30p	Mohawk High School Library	Jared Weybright 505-0501
Council Meeting	Oct. 11	EWEB	Larry Six 687-9076
DEQ TMDL Group	Oct. 17	DEQ Office, Eugene	Jared Rubin 686-7838
Hazardous Waste Collection	Oct. 20, 9:00a to 2:00p	Marcola – Mohawk Fire District	Jared Weybright
Horse Creek Committee	Oct. 25, 9:00a	Council Office	Larry Six
Executive Committee	Oct. 25, 5:00p	Council Office	Larry Six
Council Retreat	Nov. 8	St. Benedict Lodge	Larry Six
Willamette Coordinators	Dec. 3	Salem	Larry Six
412/413 Technical Team	Dec. 5, 9:00a	EWEB	Jared Weybright
Recovery Plan Stakeholders	Dec. 11	ODFW, Salem	Larry Six
Council Meeting	Dec. 13	SUB, Springfield	Larry Six

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Springfield Utility Board
223 A Street, Suite F
Board Meeting Room

September 13, 2007
5:30-8:20 p.m.

PRESENT: John Simpson, facilitator (Eugene Water & Electric Board, Jeff DeVore (McKenzie Flyfishers), Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Kurt Cox (McKenzie School District), Mary Allison (U.S. Forest Service), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Steve Raymen (at-large stakeholder), Bill O'Sullivan (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), , Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Nancy Holzhauser (at-large stakeholder), Mike Friese (Hynix Semiconductor), Kelly Reis (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District), Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust), Chuck Davis (Springfield Utility Board), Council Partners; Larry Six, Jared Weybright, Amanda Wilson Council Staff; and Carol Ach, Steve Mealey, Katie Mader, Nancy Toth and Karl Morgenstern, guests.

ABSENT: Michael Morales (Division of State Lands), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Erik Petersen (Army Corps of Engineers), Alan Zelenka (Eugene City Council), and Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Council Partners.

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Members provided introductions.

The Council minutes of June 14th were considered with one correction requested in reference to Jeff Ziller's comment on Page 2: change '18,000 in wild origin,' to '1,800 in wild origin over Leaburg Dam'

The minutes of June 14, 2007, were approved as amended, with Council Partners showing Consensus Level 3.

2. PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Allison updated the Council on the reconstruction for River Rocket and Paradise Park; it will be for two boat landings. She also stated that Salmon Watch began that day. Carmen-Smith spawning channel is full of fish.

Ms. Ach asked about the Trapper Sale. Ms. Allison responded that it is logging based on the Blue River Logging Plan.

- Mr. Cox updated the Council on the new Superintendent for the McKenzie School District.

He also mentioned that his 7th graders will be going up to the salmon spawning channel on the following Monday.

- Mr. Simpson reported that EWEB was holding a public meeting on September 20th about the new boat landing. He also read an excerpt from article about diverting more water to Leaburg Lake. He then passed around the article for the Council to finish reading themselves.
- Mr. Highfill announced that he was stepping down from the Council and introduced his replacement, Steve Mealey.
- Ms. Reis updated the Council on the details of Salmon Watch.
- Ms. Holzhauser reported on the art festival.
- Mr. Raymen suggested that the Council seek out more at-large members to sit on the Council.

He also discussed the Weyerhauser clear cutting near Gate Creek. He explained how there was confusion and no positive feedback from the community regarding this clear cutting. He said there should be a better solution. He suggested the Council be a conduit and a contact when major things like this are going to happen.

- Ms. Albino reported that there has been a lot more logging in Marcola. There has been a huge clear cut on private land. There are scars on the hills when you drive out on the McKenzie Hills.
- Mr. Perkins reports that ELSWCD lost their technician and will hire an Americorps person part time. The ELSWCD is also looking into possibility of easements.
- Mr. Moll reported that Oregon chub have been found on Green Island, and that this is great news.
- Mr. DeVore informed the Council that there was to be a Monday night meeting of the McKenzie Flyfishers. The meeting will be held at Mallard Hall.
- Mr. O'Sullivan informed that the Resource Advisory Council had approved the Long Creek culvert to be completed this coming fall. There will be restoration projects also at Cealing Creek and Shotgun Creek. They will include closing illegal trails and enhancing legal trails. These projects will start next week. Another project being worked on is the McKenzie Assessment (does this refer to the Plan revisions or something else?) going out for public review.
- Nancy Toth of EWEB discussed septic assistance funding. EWEB provides a free/reduced septic system analysis to interested landowners. Some monitoring is being done to see if there is an impact to river and well water.
- Karl Morgenstern of EWEB discussed the new water monitoring program being put into use. This process of passive monitoring takes about 30 days to accomplish.

3. BLM PLAN REVISIONS

Bill O'Sullivan of the BLM presented to the Council the BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions. A packet of information on the Revisions was provided to members. The purposes of this meeting are to share why they are revising the Resource Management Plans, describe the four alternatives, and explain how to comment on the plan. Mr. O'Sullivan explained that this was not an occasion to provide comments at this time.

Mr. O' Sullivan gave some history of the O&C Lands and how the current land management system came to be. This included the formation of the Association of O&C Counties in 1926 and the 1937 passage of the Oregon & California Revested Land Act also known as the O&C Act. The O&C Act provided permanent forest production and the timber thereon shall be sold, cut and removed in conformity with the principal of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, contributing to the economic stability of local communities, and providing recreational facilities. To contribute to local economies the Act states that the annual production capacity shall be determined and declared, that amount will be sold annually, and receipts from timber will be shared with 50% going to the counties with revested lands.

Mr. O' Sullivan presented charts showing the various changes in the past of allowable sales quantities. Another chart presented showed the historical timber harvest levels from 1970-2002.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that plan revisions are needed because harvest levels have not been met under the NW Forrrest Plan, it is an opportunity to coordinate plans with the recovery plan, and the agency is refocusing efforts to meet goals of sustained yield management for these lands. Due to a litigation settlement, the BLM is required to revise their plans by 2008. This must include one alternative that will provide permanent forest production across the O&C lands without reserves except as required to avoid jeopardy under ESA.

Mr. O'Sullivan presented the four alternatives including the no-action alternative. The no-action alternative would leave the plan the way it is now with no major changes. Alternative 1 land allocations are for Late-Succession Management Areas to remain similar to existing levels, Riparian Management Areas would be reduced by ½, and Timber Management Areas would be intensive forest management. Alternative 2 land allocations are for Late-Succession Management areas to meet the need for the NW spotted owl large block suitable habitat, Riparian Management Areas down to about 6% of total lands, and intensive Timber Management Areas. Alternative 3 would allocate 72% of the lands to general management, with the remaining lands withdrawn from timber use.

Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative in the DEIS. This alternative has the highest economic return to communities, contributes to the recovery of species, maintains and improves water quality, meets recreational demand, and reduces fire hazard and risk. Public comment on the plan will be accepted through November 9. The final EIS/RMP and ROD will be published in 2008.

Mr. O'Sullivan provided examples and instructions on how to post public comments to the BLM website as well as gave the address if mailing in comment would be preferred.

Discussion then took place to decide if the Council should make a comment as a group. Diane Albino suggested holding the final decision over to the next meeting. Joe Moll suggested creating a committee to investigate further into this topic and, if appropriate, draft a comment letter for the Council to consider at its October meeting.

ACTION ITEM VOTE: all members voted to approve holding the topic over to the next meeting and convening a committee. Members voting 1 or 2 were

asked to sit on the committee. The committee includes Joe Moll, Nancy Holzhauser, Jeff Devore, Ralph Perkins, Diane Albino, and with Larry Six to coordinate the group.

4. STATUS OF EWEB FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Weyebright provided an update on the EWEB Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (Articles 412/413). He explained what areas this project covered, the limitations with funding, and how and when funding will be received by the Council. He also highlighted proposed project areas suggested by the EWEB Technical Team.

The 412 agreement period is 5 years and may be extended for additional 5-year periods for a total of 20 years. Payments are made each year, starting at \$64,192 and increasing 2.5% per year over the period of the agreement. The goal is to improve ecological conditions in the lower McKenzie River (Gate Creek to the confluence) with emphasis on salmonids.

The 413 agreement period is 5 years and may be extended for additional 1-year periods. This is a one-time grant of \$100,000. The goal is to improve water quality and/or fish and wildlife habitat in the main stem and tributaries between Leaburg Lake and the confluence of the Walterville canal tail race.

The Technical Team consists of Karl Morgensten, Suzanne Pearce, Nancy Toth and Andy Talabere of EWEB, Jeff Ziller of ODFW, Andy Reasoner of the McKenzie River Trust, and Larry Six and Jared Weyebright of the MWC. The prime objectives of this group are to identify enhancement objectives and priorities, identify focus areas, and select projects. The group meets quarterly. The priorities right now are to “Think Big” to pursue projects that provide dramatic benefit to fish habitat and watershed conditions, to focus on easement and acquisition opportunities, to identify high priority sites within project area, and to use funds to leverage additional dollars from other sources. The suggested areas of focus are the Springfield Oxbow, Chub Slough, Camp Creek confluence, and the McKenzie Oxbow.

Up next for the group is landowner outreach including involving the Council Partners in the process, seeking Council input on suggested projects, the McKenzie Oxbow project and seeking out additional funding partners.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. Mr. Six discussed the need for a fundraising committee. He informed the Council that this matter was going to be thoroughly discussed at the Council retreat in November.
- b. Mr. Six announced that the Board of Directors had approved an amendment to the MWA Bylaws. Amendments to the Bylaws require prior written approval of the Council. A new purpose would be added to the Bylaws as follows: “To assist and work cooperatively with other watershed councils and organizations in other watersheds.” This provision broadens the purposes to allow the MWA to enter into agreements with organizations outside of the McKenzie watershed.

ACTION ITEM VOTE: all members voted to approve.

- c. Mr. Six announced that John Woodrow had stepped down from his position on the Finance Committee. He encouraged the Council to name a replacement for Mr. Woodrow.
- d. Mr. Six said that he is working on October and November agenda items, and M37 was a top priority expressed by members. Lane County Land Management will make a presentation at the October meeting on the status of M37 claims and will describe future activities relating to development in the riparian zone. Mr. Six said the Council could then discuss its potential involvement in this issue. The November 8 meeting will be this year's retreat held at St. Benedicts Lodge.
- e. Mr. Six distributed an excerpt of the proposed draft of the Upper Willamette River Recovery Plan for Chinook describing management actions for McKenzie River spring Chinook.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

(Recorded by Amanda Wilson)

DRAFT
For Council Review
October 11, 2007

October xx, 2007

Edward W. Shepard, State Director
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Shepard,

The McKenzie Watershed Council has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) and would like to offer several observations and suggestions for further consideration. In general, our comments relate to four aspects of the draft EIS:

1. Riparian area management strategies would benefit from greater sensitivity to risk.
2. The costs associated with the spread of invasive species deserve special consideration.
3. As very important references for historic conditions, lands currently managed as Late Successional Reserves provide critical baselines for watershed restoration projects.
4. Cumulative effects across the broader landscape of actions on BLM lands merit further analysis and discussion.

It is the Mission of the McKenzie Watershed Council to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie Watershed resources through voluntary partnerships and collaboration. Among other functions, the Council serves as an advisory body to established decision-making authorities and makes recommendations concerning the protection, restoration and enhancement of watershed resources. The Partners of the Council represent McKenzie Valley residents; recreational and commercial interests; water utilities; conservation groups; water consumers; and city, county, state and federal government agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management.

Riparian Area Management

The WOPR EIS proposes a selection of riparian area management zones, all of which are reductions in area from the current status (No Action Alternative). From the Council's perspective, the cumulative impacts in a watershed are distilled in stream and river water itself, and the riparian area is the most critical point to manage those impacts. For the McKenzie River these impacts influence a fish community that includes many aquatic species of concern,

but also the drinking water for more than 200,000 residents of the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area and communities upstream.

Council staff and volunteers regularly work in riparian area management and restoration projects to help maintain this high quality water resource and the fish populations it maintains. Based on that experience, we are concerned that the segregated analyses in the WOPR EIS of water quality impacts (sedimentation impacts, the provision of woody debris, the loss of shade and subsequent heating of water, and the introduction of pollutants via surface run-off) do not recognize the significant cumulative risks posed by increased harvest-related activity in these zones. The proposed riparian zone distances in each of the alternatives do not clearly factor in the risks associated with machinery and other operator errors; seasonal shifts in stream channels; and the width of riparian zones in adjacent properties. We encourage the BLM to apply the precautionary principle when establishing riparian area management guidelines. The current guidelines' reliance on two site-specific tree-heights is a good example of that principle in practice.

Invasive Species

The Council works regularly with landowners to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant species. The increased levels of forest activity among all of the proposed management alternatives will lead to increased spread of invasive species and subsequently to increased levels of herbicide and other applications. This is particularly risky given the checkerboard distribution of BLM lands across the landscape. We encourage the BLM to work with its partners, especially the watershed councils, to assess the impact of these decisions not only on O&C Lands, but across the landscapes they occupy.

Baseline Reference Conditions

The Late Successional Reserve forest lands currently provide good examples of reference condition when assessing ecological processes of structurally advanced forests. The loss of this reference condition as proposed in several of the alternatives is troubling from an adaptive management and research perspective. This is an area that deserves attention from an independent review scientific review panel.

We commend the BLM staff for gathering this information. In and of itself, the EIS provides great reference material for all of us working in the natural resources field. However, it is unclear whether or not the analyses and subsequent strategic options presented in the EIS have been reviewed by independent scientists. Such a review might help answer many of the questions we've raised relative to the risks associated with different management scenarios and actions. Such a review would also likely lead to broader and more lasting public support for forest management alternatives that are ultimately applied on the ground. We encourage the BLM to submit the EIS to an independent scientific review committee.

Although the WOPR EIS was prepared to cover management actions on BLM lands, we understand that NEPA guidance calls for consideration of cumulative effects on adjoining and other lands nearby that could be affected by those actions. Given the checkerboard distribution of the BLM O&C lands across western Oregon, this attention to the impacts to the broader landscape in the watershed is particularly critical. We believe that the alternatives proposed in the WOPR EIS could be strengthened substantially by looking at that broader watershed context.

Our goal is collaboration that leads to improved fish and wildlife habitat and water quality conditions across the watershed. That demands good communication and cooperation among all landowners. The BLM's O&C lands distribution brings it into contact with many landowners. Focusing on the management of these lands without consideration for adjoining land management limits the potential for this synergy. The plan would benefit from greater attention to partnership opportunities and impacts on adjoining areas.

We look forward to continued cooperation on projects throughout the watershed and appreciate this chance to weigh in at this stage. Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Larry Six
Executive Director

McKENZIE Watershed Alliance
Board of Directors
MINUTES

July 26, 2007
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
McKenzie Watershed Council Office

Attendance

MWA Board of Directors: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, Ralph Perkins, and John Simpson
MWA Finance Committee:
Staff: Larry Six, Jared Weybright, and Amanda Wilson

May Minutes

The MWA Board of Directors reviewed minutes from the May 2007 meeting.

The MWA Board called for a motion to adopt the May meeting minutes.

The motion was approved with 4 yes votes: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, Ralph Perkins, and John Simpson.

Fundraising Opportunities

The MWA Board of Directors discussed the need for a fundraising committee and recommended that the entire Council be involved in this. There were several suggestions for fundraising opportunities. Mike McDowell suggested soliciting funds from other timber organizations, and Ralph Perkins suggested an annual fun auction with big ticket items. Staff will prepare a list of all businesses in the Watershed. Fundraising will be discussed briefly at the September Council meeting and put as an agenda item for the October Council meeting.

FY08 Budget Planning

The MWA Board of Directors discussed the need for a special Board meeting in September to finalize the budget. The meeting was set for September 20, 2007 at 5pm.

MWA Third Quarter

The MWA Board of Directors reviewed the MWA Third Quarter Financial Report; the report was previously reviewed by the Finance Committee. There was one change that was noted on language used on the Expense by Vendor Sheet. The dates should be changed from Jan-March to April-June.

The MWA Board called for a motion to approve the MWA Third Quarter Report with the one amendment to the Expense by Vendor Sheet.

The motion was approved with 4 yes votes: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, Ralph Perkins and John Simpson.

MWC Third Quarter

The MWC Executive Committee reviewed the MWC Third Quarter Financial Report; the report was previously reviewed by the Finance Committee.

They called for a motion to approve the MWC Third Quarter Report.

The motion was approved with 4 yes votes: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, Ralph Perkins and John Simpson.

Coast Fork Management Request

The MWA Board of Directors reviewed the proposal from the Coast Fork Watershed Council for the MWA to become their fiscal agent. This would have to be approved by the Council at the September meeting which would also require a By-Law Amendment.

The MWC Board called for a motion to approve the Coast Fork Watersheds request.

The motion was approved with 3 yes votes pending MWC approval: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, and John Simpson. Ralph Perkins requested to abstain from the vote.

Larry Six will draft a MOU between the Coast Fork Watershed and the MWA for Board approval. The MOU must contain an opt-out clause for both parties, details of what both parties are responsible for (reporting, grant writing), cost involved (10% admin fees), and process for receiving funds.

The MWC Board called for a motion to approve the By-Law Amendment to allow the MWA to manage money for other agencies. The amendment adds a new purpose “to assist and work cooperatively with other watershed councils and organizations in other watersheds.”

The motion was approved with 4 yes votes pending MWC approval: Diane Albino, Mike McDowell, Ralph Perkins and John Simpson.

Projects Update-Jared Weybright

- Outreach Events- Mary Cole Days and Leaburg Fair to talk about invasive species and how they affect the area. May attend Walterville Fair and Eugene Celebration as well.
- Landowner Workshop- to teach landowners correct restoration practices. Workshop will hopefully include a tour with two current projects. Most likely in the Mohawk. To take place in Late September to early October.
- 412/413- Putting together a presentation of work to date for the Council to be presented at the September meeting.
- OWEB Mohawk Restoration- General Maintenance, fighting weed canary grass, blackberry control will start in September.
- Jared will meet with someone at the Sheriffs office to maybe use the Sheriffs work crew for labor as a long term solution to contractor costs.
- Revisiting old projects and checking and doing maintenance when needed.

Grant Update-Jared Weybright

- OWEB Lower McKenzie Mohawk Grant- the grant has been approved; contracts are waiting to be signed; and a few landowner cooperative agreements are still needed to finalize grant.
- OWEB- Fall- Possible projects in the confluence area coupling those projects with the MRT at Green Island. Will meet in August.
- RAC and Technical Assistance Grant are pending approval.

Administrative Update

- Mike McDowell handed out information on a potential education project at Carmen-Smith spawning channel..
- Discussed the changes in the Council meeting minute’s process.
- Confirmed future committee meeting dates
- MWC September Meeting Facilitator – John Simpson
- MWC October Meeting Facilitator – Kurt Cox

- John Woodrow resigned from the finance committee. Council decided that they want him to be replaced. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

McKenzie Watershed Council Water Quality Committee

September 18, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Amy Chinitz, SUB; Chuck Gottfried, Springfield; Dave Kretzing, USFS; Lauren Leighten, WeyCo; Mike McCaan, EWEB; Maryanne Reiter, WeyCo; Nancy Toth, EWEB; Jared Weybright, MWC

Public Announcements

City of Springfield – Chuck Gottfried provided the following updates: The City has hired a new technician to run the Clean Water Business program. The program certifies business and provides them with a poster to display. The City is beginning a bank stabilization project along the Millrace near 2nd street using barbs and shrub planting. Springfield is also looking to hire a new technician to serve as an assistant project manager to the Waster Water Commission as well as additional tasks.

Eugene Water & Electric Board – Mike McCann provided the following updates: Carmen-Smith re-licensing is ongoing, as is the process of locating a site for a new boat ramp near Leaburg Lake. Both Carmen-Smith and Clear Lake were included in a joint DEQ/EPA lake study over the summer. Salmon Watch has begun at the spawning channel located directly below Carmen-Smith, and initial reports indicate lots of fish are using the channel, and the volunteer turnout has been very high. EWEB will be building a new entrance to the tailrace on the Waterville Canal in October. A new aerial photo fly-over of the McKenzie River is planned for 2008.

EWEB met with DEQ as part of an ongoing appeal of the TMDL implementation. EWEB is one of four groups, Northwest Pulp and Paper Mills, City of Albany and Eugene/Springfield Wastewater, currently suing the DEQ over the TMDL process. NWPP is leading the process in court.

Nancy Toth stated that EWEB is beginning a new septic monitoring and landowner outreach program and working group. The group met for the first time on September 17th. The goal of the project is to expand on recently completed work that identified several “hot spot” areas of concern in the McKenzie Watershed. The program seeks to contact landowners in the targeted areas, offer free inspections along with information on maintenance. Funding levels will dictate further assistance, such as free pump out, to landowners.

Nancy also noted that EWEB baseline monitoring is continuing. EWEB recently completed joint sampling with USGS where multiple passive sampling devices were installed at Hayden Bridge, Cedar Creek and Camp Creek. These types of devices are designed to capture pollutants missed in grab sampling and can detect very low levels of contaminants. One set of samplers will be taken out after the first storm event and the others will remain in the water for a month.

Weyerhaeuser Company – Maryanne Reiter stated that Weyerhaeuser will be pulling their stream temperature loggers in October, and that the data will be available upon request.

Lauren Leighten provided an update on WeyCo mill operations; he stated that the mill is in the process of moving their intake for Keizer Slough to the mainstem McKenzie River. The permit is complete and work is expected to begin next summer during the in-water work period. It was noted that Keizer Slough is expected to silt in over time.

McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest – U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Dave Kretzing noted that the McKenzie Ranger District will be pulling their temperature loggers soon as well.

McKenzie Watershed Council/Mohawk Watershed Partnership – Jared Weybright noted that Camp Creek and Cedar Creek monitoring both recently wrapped up their summer monitoring periods. Summer monitoring is slightly different in that students actually get paid through a EWEB PIE grant administered by the Council. The Camp Creek Watershed monitoring project will likely expand this coming school year to include macroinvertebrate and riparian/in-stream habitat monitoring as well as a restoration and GIS component.

Mohawk Watershed Partnership monitoring is continuing, but due to funding and quality control concerns the MWP is looking to combine its student and community monitoring components. One anecdotal piece of data from summer temperature monitoring in the Mohawk; the water temperature gradient from the upper-most site at river mile 20 to the lowest sample site at river mile 1.6 were notable in both July and August. Temperature reads taken at the upper site at roughly 8:00 a.m. were around 13.5 C in both July and August. Temperature at the lower site taken on the same day at roughly 7:00 a.m. was over 21.0 C.

Springfield Utility Board – Amy Chinitz had no report at this time.

Future Agenda Items

Members of the Committee asked that the Council provide more direction and guidance for how to make the Water Quality Committee useful and relevant to Council activities. Members felt that while the Committee provides a good information sharing forum, the group has moved away from some of its initial objectives. Jared agreed to take this concern and the Committee's request back to the Council.

One suggestion for future Council discussion is an update on the DEQ TMDL implementation process and the role of DMAs (Designated Management Agencies). A second suggestion was to invite LCOG to discuss the effects of the TMDL implementation on small towns throughout the watershed. The Council and the WQ Committee could potentially play a role in the development and implementation of restoration plans that the TMDL will require of these small towns.

Administration Update

No future meeting date was set at this time.

**MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL
PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes
September 21, 2007
ODFW – Springfield**

Present

Ralph Perkins
Jeff Ziller
Larry Six
Jared Weybright

Jared Weybright, MWC Projects Coordinator, summarized currently funded projects, pending grant applications and potential future projects.

Current Projects

Lower Mohawk Enhancement Project OWEB 207-304

- Invasive control, mainly blackberry and reed canary grass, is ongoing at all but one of the 12 different sites.
- Using three main contractors;
 1. Walama Restoration Project, \$675/day 4 man crew. Restoration based outfit that really knows native plants and habitat.
 2. Adult Work Crew (formally Sheriffs Work Crew), \$750/day for 12 man crew. Crew is becoming more competitive now that they can use power tools. Plan is to try to use them more in the future.
 3. IMG, \$135/hr. Mechanical operators, who use an adapted Bobcat and a circular flail type blade to run right through the blackberry. Well worth the expense when the terrain allow the use of the machine.
- Landowners and a rancher who is leasing the pasture are also working on some mechanical blackberry removal.
- Plan to plant trees at 2-3 of the enhancement sites this late October and early November. Idea is to get an early start on the planting workload and to give the roots more time to establish prior to the dry summer. Flooding is a concern and planting will only take place in areas where the risk is minimal.
- Plan is to use volunteer and landowner labor to plant the trees.

EWEB Habitat Enhancement

Outreach letter will go out to lower McKenzie River landowners in late September or early October. Letter will primarily go to larger landowners, while also targeting smaller landowners in the key focus areas.

Camp Creek WQ Monitoring

- Summer monitoring just finished up. Thurston students were paid to monitoring on both Camp Cr and Cedar Cr for the July and August runs. Funds came through a PIE grant from EWEB.

Pending Grants

- OWEB Technical Assistance Grant for Wolf Creek redesign and permit work has been recommended by both OWEB staff and review committee. Awaiting final word from the OWEB Board. (Note: OWEB subsequently approved this grant.)
- RAC/Title II Funding Request for Lower McKenzie Project Maintenance is pending.
- Fish America Grant for ongoing maintenance at the Mohawk/McGowan project site was denied.

Potential Future Grants

- Camp Creek Watershed Monitoring Project. MWC is teaming with Springfield Public Schools, EWEB and other Partners (WeyCo, BLM) to undertake a wide ranging study of the Camp Creek Watershed. Funding is in place to create student teams to begin study in a number of different areas, notably; water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrates, riparian and channel habitat, GIS, and riparian restoration. The MWC will be working with partners to secure additional match dollars to fund both staff time and equipment/supply needs.
- McKenzie River Projects. A potential multi-landowner project is beginning to develop in with landowners in Leaburg, Horse Creek and along Swamp Creek just upstream from the South Fork McKenzie. Most of the projects focus on riparian enhancement, while the Swamp Creek project would include a fish passage component. The idea here is to bundle all the projects together for a proposal to funders, likely OWEB, some time next year. Other watershed councils have had success with this approach and OWEB seems to favor it as well.
- I-5 Bridge Restoration. MWC staff has met with Hamilton Construction and Good Company several times to discuss the potential for the Council to assist and/or manage the riparian tree plantings associated with the bridge replacement. The potential project is still developing and staff will bring the proposal before the Council and/or Projects Committee prior to moving forward.

Discussion

Jeff Ziller and Ralph Perkins provided Jared with a number of ideas and comments. It was agreed that this forum served as a useful “sounding board” for the Projects Coordinator and that the committee should meet either on a quarterly or as-needed basis.

Council Partners,

Please add the following message and attached editorial to the package of meeting documents. This relates to the BLM agenda item. See you on Thursday evening at EWEB. Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. -- Larry

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2007 9:51 PM

To:

Subject: Re: Register Guard editorial on BLM WOPR and related issues

Hello Larry, Nan, Joe, Diane,

In case any of you folks did not see it, I am forwarding to you a recent Eugene Register Guard editorial that addresses the BLM WOPR as well as related matters.

I would suggest this editorial be shared with our board members either by email or by including it with the minutes and agenda for this week's meeting. (I cannot download the attachments already sent for this meeting, so will need to go to town to find an Internet cafe for that purpose. If I am duplicating anything in this request, my apologies.)

This editorial and the entire matter of watershed quality again leads me to the idea that I addressed at our last meeting--namely that we as a watershed council should be formulating our own paradigm for good watershed maintenance that we can hold up as a standard against any future proposals or actions that impact our watershed and the people who live in it.. This paradigm need not, and probably would not, conform to any of the current federal or state laws, which are politically and lobbyist driven and not necessarily science-based.

See you folks at our meeting this week.

Steve Raymen

Member At-large

Owl plan doesn't fly

A Register-Guard Editorial

Published: Saturday, October 6, 2007

The Bush administration's efforts to reduce protections for the northern spotted owl in order to open Western Oregon's old growth forests to clear-cut logging have drawn well deserved allegations of political interference and tainted science by independent scientists and lawmakers from across the nation.

The administration proposes lifting restrictions on logging in 23 percent of the land now designated as critical owl habitat, arguing that spotted owls do not necessarily require large tracts of old growth forest. The draft plan for saving the owl is also based on the industry-favored premise that the invasion of the barred owl represents a more serious threat to spotted owls than habitat loss.

To say scientists haven't embraced this plan is an understatement. Six separate peer reviews by outside researchers - five of them funded by the federal government - have agreed that the draft recovery plan wrongly downplays the importance of protecting the Northwest's remaining stands of old-growth forests.

This week, 113 scientists sent a letter urging Interior Department Secretary

Dirk Kempthorne to toss out the agency's draft recovery plan and replace it with one free of political manipulation. "We are greatly concerned that, according to scientific peer review recently conducted by owl experts and three of the nation's leading scientific societies, much of this science was ignored," the letter states.

The scientists also asked Kempthorne to review the owl plan to determine whether high-ranking administration officials politicized what should have been a purely scientific plan.

Given the Bush administration's record of politicizing scientific decisions, whether they involve salmon survival in the Columbia River Basin or mercury emissions from power plants, the scientists would have been better advised to inquire which government officials messed with the science - and their respective ties to the timber industry.

Another letter to Kempthorne from 23 Democratic members of Congress was more direct and included a short list of administration officials who they believe may have politicized the plan.

Not surprisingly, they include Julie MacDonald, a former deputy assistant interior secretary, who resigned last spring amid allegations that she had intimidated and overruled scientists working on recovery plans for endangered species. MacDonald was a member of the Washington Oversight Committee, which directed the spotted owl recovery team to add an option to its draft recovery plan that would open Northwest forests to increased logging.

Others on the list include Interior Deputy Secretary Lyn Scarlett and Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey. Scarlett is Kempthorne's top assistant, and formerly headed a California think tank that opposes government regulation, while Rey is a former timber industry lobbyist who now oversees the Forest Service.

The recovery plan is vitally important for Oregon. It lies at the heart of the administration's push to dramatically increase logging on federal Bureau of Land Management lands and to restore timber revenue to Lane County and other rural counties throughout the Northwest.

It should be clear to the administration by now that there is little chance that the draft plan will survive judicial review. By moving forward with it, the administration is missing a prime opportunity to achieve a much needed increase in timber production by means other than bringing back clear-cut logging in old-growth forests and putting the spotted owl at heightened risk of extinction.

Kempthorne should heed the concerns of scientists and lawmakers, and send this flawed plan winging back to the drawing boards. Meanwhile, he should suspend any major forest management decisions regarding BLM lands until the government produces a new recovery plan, one based on scientific evidence rather than political machinations