

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Eugene Water & Electric Board Training Room

November 10, 2005
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Dana Burwell (for Gene Highfill, McKenzie River Guides Association), Kurt Cox (McKenzie School District), Michael Kerrick (At-Large Stakeholder), Douglas Moser (At-Large Stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil Conservation District), John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy, Juan Welsh, Amanda Wilson, staff; Chuck Davis, Springfield Utility Board; Charlene Simpson, Native Plant Society; Carol Ach, guest.

ABSENT: Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Pat Gripp (McKenzie Residents Association), John Lilly (Division of State Lands), Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust); Charlene Phipps (McKenzie Residents Association), Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Chris Pryor (City of Eugene), Erik Petersen (Army Corps of Engineers), Emily Rice (Bureau of Land Management), Council Partners.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

In the absence of Mr. McDowell, Ms. Finnessy called the meeting of the McKenzie Watershed Council to order and reviewed the agenda. She called for changes to the agenda. There were none.

Ms. Finnessy noted that the Council lacked a quorum of Partners.

Those present introduced themselves.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Because of the lack of a quorum, Council Partners postponed consideration of the minutes of October 22, 2005.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy thanked Council Partners for the gift they gave her in honor of her recent wedding. She circulated a sign-up sheet and asked Partners to indicate on the sheet the number of volunteer hours they spent on Council business during the last month.

Ms. Finnessy acknowledged Mr. McDowell's offer of staff time to help the Council get its data base up and running again.

Ms. Finnessy reported on the status of the Coburg proposal to connect to the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, saying that Lane County had agreed to move forward with a memorandum of understanding (MOU), the City of Eugene had requested further study before it took action on an MOU, and the City of Springfield would discuss the MOU on November 22. She said that Milo Mecham of the

Lane Council of Governments, who was the staff assigned to work on the proposal, had suggested that Council Partners might wish to attend the Springfield City Council meeting and offer testimony. She said that Mr. Mecham hoped the issues identified by Eugene were worked out by that time.

Ms. Finnessy announced that the Council would sign an agreement with the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) for relicensing funds for articles 412 and 413 in the amount of ~\$160,000 to mitigate spawning impacts from the Leaburg/Waltermville hydroelectric project. Mr. Simpson said that \$100,000 of the funding was one-time (Article 413), and \$60,000 of the funding represented a larger total of \$1.5 million over several years (Article 412). Up to 20 percent of the funding could be used for administration and 25 percent could be used for stewardship planning.

Mr. Burwell reported that he had been working on hazardous materials planning and winding up work on three grant proposals. He noted the assistance provided by Karl Morgenstern of EWEB in equipment purchasing. He anticipated that work on radio inoperability improvements would be next, allowing first responders to communicate with each other throughout the valley. He thanked EWEB for its financial assistance on the project.

Mr. Ziller reviewed spring chinook figures, reporting that the run had been about one-half of what was experienced over the last five years, but was still 100 percent over average figures from the last 25 years. About 2,600 spring chinook went over Leaburg Dam as well as 1,200 steelhead. Bull trout spawning in Anderson Creek was down for unknown reasons. As a result of a restoration effort that commenced in 1993, 11 redds were found in Sweetwater Creek. Thirty redds were found on Roaring River. Mr. Ziller reported on a joint Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/US Forest Service experiment at Wizard Falls Hatchery on triploid brook trout, which were unable to reproduce. A similar experiment had been tried on the McKenzie with rainbow trout, and it worked out well.

Mr. Ziller said that the Army Corps of Engineers was discussing possible improvements to capture facilities at the basins of dams that were not currently fish-friendly. He said that none of the dams in question were located in watershed.

Mr. Ziller recalled the restoration project on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River and reported that monitoring indicated bull trout were spawning in the middle fork for the first time in 30 years.

Mr. Perkins announced that the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District would host a contracting seminar soon. He invited those interested to call the district office for dates and further information.

Mr. Olander reported that the Hynix facility had recently been toured by a City of Eugene stormwater advisory committee. He said that Hynix would also plant some endangered plant species in its wetlands soon.

Mr. Cox reported that little progress was being made on the coordination of additional grant proposals for the track at the McKenzie School District. He also reported that Kathy Keable of the H. J. Andrews Forest was trying to determine how to better use the facility for school district children.

Mr. Bumstead said Salmon Watch was going well. School aged children were being introduced to the concepts of riparian areas, native fish, and Native Americans.

Mr. Bumstead said the Confluence Committee met earlier that day to discuss the restoration efforts at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers. A representative from Delta Sand and Gravel, Louise

Solliday of the governor's office, a representative from US Fish and Wildlife Service, three representatives from the ACOE and a representative of the McKenzie River Trust also attended the meeting. The group discussed the need to increase communication in light of the recent setback created by Wildish Sand and Gravel's decision to pull out of the fish channel project. He characterized the discussion as a good one. Mr. Bumstead anticipated the Committee may need to involve the Council in a large potential restoration project in the area.

Mr. Simpson reported that EWEB would meet on November 21-22 to discuss the cost of moving all or part of its operations. He said that on October 26, EWEB sponsored an emergency response drill on Leaburg Lake as part of a two-day training session to familiarize first responders to the use of the emergency response system. Karl Morgenstern of EWEB coordinated the drill. He thanked the agencies who participated.

Mr. Simpson said that EWEB received a request from the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association requesting the Board's assistance in coordinating enforcement of speed limits on the lake. EWEB agreed to help coordinate such an effort with the State Marine Board and Lane County Sheriff.

Referring to the emergency response drill, Mr. Olander confirmed with Mr. Burwell that all major users would be notified of an emergency.

Mr. Burwell reported that the life jacket program went well over the summer. About 100 new jackets were purchased. He noted that about 70 jackets were not returned, noting it was the first time so many jackets were missing at the end of the season.

Mr. Welsh reported on recent riparian restoration activities, saying that he was preparing for the spring planting season. He said that there were more than 10,000 plants to plant, including many willow cuttings.

4. RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS OF THE MCKENZIE WATERSHED

Ms. Simpson provided a presentation on rare and endangered plants of the McKenzie watershed, focusing on three regions, the high Cascades, western Cascades, and Willamette Valley. Ms. Simpson noted the many values of plants and briefly discussed the causes of plant extermination, both natural and human-caused. She reviewed the existing endangered species lists and showed the Council Partners slides of a variety of plants living in the three regions of the watershed.

Responding to a question from Ms. Finnessy, Ms. Simpson said that the degree of fragmentation that causes a plant population to stop being viable depended on the distance that pollinators, such as birds and small mammals, could travel.

Responding to a question from Mr. Olander, Ms. Simpson noted some of the endangered plants in the west Eugene wetlands area, which included Bradshaw's *Lomatium*, Kincaid's Lupine, the Willamette daisy, and *Aster curtis*. She said that the federal list was essentially being "defanged" so it was losing its power to protect rare species.

Mr. Simpson asked if it was legal for someone or a company such as Hynix to plant rare plants. Ms. Simpson said that it was illegal to harvest such plants but their seeds could be gathered. There were nurseries doing just that to increase plant populations in order to get them delisted. Mr. Olander noted that his company was working with Applied Resources of Corvallis. He said that seeds could be frozen and maintained their vitality for several years.

Mr. Cox asked if Ms. Simpson had information on the number of species that had gone extinct since European settlement. Ms. Simpson indicated that she did not know, adding that it was difficult to define “extinct” and she preferred “extirpate.” If a plant was not seen for 30 years, it was generally spoken of as scarce or rare.

Ms. Finnessy thanked Ms. Simpson for the presentation and called for a ten-minute break.

5. FISH OF THE MCKENZIE WATERSHED

Mr. Bumstead shared a PowerPoint presentation from the US Forest Service on fish of the McKenzie watershed. He noted the 22 native and 10 nonnative species in the basin and showed the Council Partners slides of each fish.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Ms. Finnessy said that the Executive Committee discussed the Water Quality Program, reviewed the upcoming newsletter, reviewed the annual report, reviewed the support requests, and transferred funds from Cascade Pacific to the McKenzie Watershed Alliance. She referred Council Partners to the minutes of the meeting for more detail.

Ms. Finnessy noted the Projects Committee did not meet.

Ms. Finnessy called Partners’ attention to the *McKenzie Watershed Sampling and Analysis* authored by Karl Morgenstern of EWEB. She said that the report anticipated a more local approach to water quality monitoring funded by several agencies. An annual report would be issued and she anticipated the Council would hear periodic presentations on the monitoring effort.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Finnessy called the Council’s attention to the final drafts of the 2006 annual Work Plan and budget, and indicated that the information was in a new format that included Partner roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Finnessy reported on the upcoming Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) application process, saying that all BPA contracts would be terminated and all contracting agencies will have to reapply for funding. She anticipated more groups seeking fewer available dollars. She said that as a part of that process, she was required to report on all past grants and justify past BPA funding.

Ms. Finnessy announced that the McKenzie Watershed Alliance was up and running and the Council now had a source of revenue through administrative fees of the Alliance. She noted the Board of Directors would continue to meet quarterly.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
(Recorded by Kimberly Young)