

MINUTES

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

November 9, 2006
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Facilitator; Diana Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Bob Bumstead, McKenzie Flyfishers, Chuck Gottfried (for Joe Pishioneri, City of Springfield), Nancy Holzhauser (at-large stakeholder), Douglas Moser (at-large stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Gary Papé (City of Eugene), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District), Erik Peterson (Army Corps of Engineers), Jerry Richeson (Bureau of Land Management) John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy, Tony Anderson, Council staff; Sam Fox, Emily Rice, Chuck Willard, David Rodriguez, guests.

ABSENT: Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Kurt Cox (McKenzie Schools), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust), Michael Morales (Division of State Lands), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Council Partners.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Finnessy reviewed the meeting agenda. Council Partners had no changes to suggest to the agenda.

Those present introduced themselves.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Finnessy noted changes to the minutes offered by Joe Moll of the McKenzie River Trust. Referring to page 3 of the minutes, she said that Mr. Moll asked that the last five sentences in paragraph 2 be replaced with the following: “In 2007, the trust will host another tree planting event on February 3 at which 10,000 trees will be planted. Plantings will be a mix of over story and under story plantings. The MRT also cut down non-native poplar trees and treated the stumps in the center of the island.”

Ms. Finnessy reported that Mr. Moll had also asked that the word “reach” be changed to “breach” in the first sentence of paragraph 4 on page 5.

Council Partners approved the minutes of October 12, 2006, with the changes noted, showing Consensus Level 3.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy reported that Andy Whipple’s book on watersheds was complete. She distributed information about the book and how to order it.

Ms. Finnessy said she, Ms. Albino, and Ms. Holzhauser had attended the Oregon Watershed Enhancement

Board Conference and would be sharing information from the conference.

Ms. Finnessy noted the Council's participation in the Lane County Hazardous Waste Roundup event and said participation was good.

Ms. Finnessy called the Partners' attention to an article in the meeting packet from *The Oregonian* entitled "Restoring Oregon Rivers: Changing our system of water management."

Ms. Finnessy called attention to easel pads in the meeting room on which suggestions for columns and agenda items could be listed by Council Partners. She also reviewed upcoming meeting topics.

Mr. Simpson acknowledged controversy about the Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) Carmen Smith relicensing application due to the fact a trap and haul facility was now being proposed after the utility had initially contemplated a fish ladder. He said that the decision was reached after consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and he attributed it to concerns about the structural impact of the fish ladder on the earthen dam. Due to the concerns raised by federal and state resource agencies and some nongovernmental organizations about the decision to omit the fish ladder, EWEB would be doing further analysis of upstream passage options. The application submitted to FERC by the end of the month would include the trap and haul facility with the understanding changes could result. He expressed appreciation for the concerns expressed and promised to keep the Council updated.

Mr. Simpson noted that Tuesday was the final day of the Agricultural Chemical Clean-up Program for the McKenzie Valley. He said that farmers were offered an opportunity to dispose of unwanted agricultural chemicals for free, reducing the potential of impact to the area's groundwater. He said that Karl Morgenstern of EWEB coordinated the event, which was accomplished in Partnership with the McKenzie Valley Hazardous Material Team, Oregon State University Extension Service, Lane County Waste Management, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Springfield Utility Board.

Mr. Simpson noted EWEB's participation in the Metro Waterways Project with several other MWC Partner agencies, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Springfield Utility Board, the City of Eugene, and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The project was a long-term habitat protection project focused on the Amazon drainage and the McKenzie River/Cedar Creek drainage. A brainstorming session regarding the McKenzie/Cedar component of the study had been held to identify possible projects to protect the drainage and an effort was planned to identify which projects could actually be accomplished. He anticipated that a public discussion of the project would occur in spring 2007.

Mr. Simpson suggested that the Council hear a presentation on the study. Ms. Finnessy added the project to the list of meeting topics.

Mr. Gottfried noted that five projects for the Metro Waterways Project had been identified in Springfield.

Mr. McDowell arrived.

Mr. Bumstead said the McKenzie Flyfishers continued to be busy with Salmon Watch. The rain had helped increase the number of fish being seen by participating students.

Mr. Bumstead said he looked forward to working with EWEB on the relicensing issue.

Mr. Petersen said the ACOE had published an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the Cougar Dam trap and haul facility. The agency was currently in the design phase. He asked if the Council

wanted to support the facility, which he thought was needed to get funding. He said the facility was 80 percent designed. He suggested it might be a good subject for a presentation to the Council. Ms. Finnessy added the Cougar trap and haul facility to the list of meeting topics.

Mr. Papé arrived.

Mr. Mosher recommended the book *The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices* by Sara James to the Council, and suggested its teachings could have applicability at Cedar Creek.

Mr. Ziller was glad to hear the door was still open to a fish ladder at Trailbridge. He hoped to help find a ladder design that worked. He maintained that the dam was one of the few in the Northwest that could accommodate a fish ladder. He said that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) preferred not to see trap and haul facilities.

Mr. Ziller said that the ODFW moved a number of fish upstream and had seen good survival rates. Survival rates above the dams this year equaled the survival rates in the main stem of the McKenzie River. That was very encouraging, and he anticipated there would be much fish production as a result.

Responding to a question from Mr. Gottfried, Mr. Ziller confirmed that ODFW was able to track wild production from above the dam.

Ms. Albino said that at its last meeting, the Mohawk Watershed Partnership decided to hold four meetings annually, the next to be in January. Four issues of the newsletter would be printed, and she offered to add Council Partners to the mailing list. She also invited the submission of articles.

Ms. Holzhauser updated the Council on the Blue River track project, reporting that it turned out a wetlands fill permit was not needed for the project after all because the minimum fill amount was not exceeded.

Mr. Perkins reported on the failure of the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District's tax base proposal. He acknowledged that the election would cost the district a significant amount. However, four other Oregon soil and water conservation districts had successfully passed tax base proposals.

Mr. Papé reported that the citizens of Eugene had supported the City's parks and open space bond proposal, and he anticipated some open space purchases would be made soon.

Mr. Papé said that the Eugene City Council was meeting with the Eugene Water & Electric Board commissioners the following week to discuss the ultimate disposition of the EWEB property as well as other issues.

David Rodriguez, a Waltherville resident, noted that the Council's Web page had not been updated for some months. Ms. Finnessy believed that the site was up-to-date and said she would follow-up. She indicated she would e-mail the agenda and minutes to Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez reported on his work and activities in the lower river to educate people about the movement of the river in that area.

Chuck Willard, Coast Range Association, presented Ms. Finnessy with a data disk in support of a map of the upper basin he had provided to her earlier.

Ms. Finnessy spoke to the contributions of former Council Partner Emily Rice to the McKenzie Watershed Council and presented her with a large-scale photograph showing a waterfall on the McKenzie River in acknowledgment of her service and leadership.

Mr. Bumstead read a poem in honor of Ms. Rice:

Tribute to Emily

*Any tribute for Emily Rice
Would have to say that she's just so darn nice.
So nice, in fact, that she would volunteer
Her time and talents so dear
To meet second Thursdays for so many years
And be ensnared in all the government gears
Service for how many years, Oh Lord,
On the Council's interminable Executive Board,
With meeting after meeting
Chasing ideas so fleeting
And trying to make some sense
Of the issues so darn dense
That John and Jim and Megan
Would always find a way to drag in.
She really, though, lived in fear
Of the return of the infamous George Grier
Remembering all of the egregious spats
About his work on Human Habitat*

*Her work was almost always outstanding
But she did rename Mud Hole Landing
To honor some guy named Taylor,
Her only linguistic failure.*

*And then we know her dedication
To the total renovation
Of every faulty culvert
That could even possibly subvert
The frustrated longings
Of any amorous cutthroat foundlings
Trying to get their say in
The genetic load of the Mohawk basin.*

*So here's to Emily
To us you're family.
The Council will never again be as good
As when you were in the hood.*

Ms. Rice thanked the Council for the recognition and made personal contact with each member and staff.

Ms. Rice left the meeting.

4. MWC EDUCATION-OUTREACH PLAN

Ms. Finnessy reviewed the components of the Education-Outreach Plan and solicited suggestions for additions and revisions. She recorded the suggestions.

Council Partners approved the MWC Education-Outreach Plan, with the changes recorded by Ms. Finnessy, showing Consensus Level 3, with the exception of Mr. Ziller and Mr. Petersen, who showed Consensus Level 2.

5. MWC AND MCKENZIE WATERSHED ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP

Ms. Finnessy introduced the topic, recalling that the Council had discussed the formation of a nonprofit organization for some time and shortly after she was hired the task had been accomplished, resulting in the establishment of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization. She noted that Mr. McDowell, Ms. Albino, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Perkins were on the Board of Directors of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance. Ms. Finnessy was the Executive Director.

At the request of Ms. Finnessy, Partners briefly discussed their level of understanding of the Alliance. Ms. Finnessy indicated the Alliance was formed primarily to serve as the fiscal agent for the Council, saving the money formerly directed toward Cascade Pacific RC&D for that work, and was also necessarily for fund-raising.

Mr. Papé left the meeting.

Ms. Finnessy sketched an informal flow chart to illustrate the relationship between the Council and Alliance and to demonstrate the cash flow between the funding agencies, the Council, and the Alliance. She noted the assistance of David Atkins in establishing the Alliance.

Ms. Finnessy shared a chart showing the organizational framework of the Council and Alliance.

Mr. Simpson noted that he was the President of the Board of Directors of the Kakegawa Sister City Committee and had to disagree with a remark made earlier by Ms. Finnessy that Eugene did not fund nonprofits as that organization received money from the City of Eugene.

Ms. Finnessy responded to Partner questions regarding the operational details of the Alliance.

Mr. Perkins commended the leadership of Ms. Finnessy in regard to the Alliance. She had done much to educate herself about the formation of nonprofit organizations and in turn helped to educate the board of directors. Mr. Perkins said that the organization was up and running and beginning to operate smoothly.

Ms. Finnessy noted the fiduciary responsibility that fell on the Alliance's Board of Directors under federal law. Mr. McDowell noted that the organization was insured against liability for the directors. Ms. Finnessy expressed concern about the rising cost of insurance and indicated staff would be seeking insurance quotes.

6. MWC COMMITTEE REVIEW AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Finnessy thanked all those Council Partners who participated on Council committees. She provided an overview of the MWC's committee structure, which included the Executive Committee, Education-Outreach Committee, Projects Committee (including 412-413 Technical Team), Water Quality Committee,

and Fundraising Committee. Council Partners briefly discussed the purpose, value, and future of each committee.

In regard to the Education-Outreach Committee, the Council acknowledged the departure of Council staff Kate Ferschweiler, who had responsibility for much of that area. The Council discussed various forms of public outreach, including the possibility of holding an open house. Ms. Finnessy reminded the Council that an open house had been held before with all the involved public agencies and there was very poor attendance in spite of the fact the Council did extensive outreach. She attributed the lack of attendance in part to the location of the open house and said perhaps it could be tried again. Mr. Ziller suggested the Council piggyback on another event, such as a fundraising wine tasting. Ms. Holzhauser suggested the McKenzie Arts Festival, which the Council had been part of in the past, offered such an opportunity. Mr. Petersen emphasized the need for leadership on the committee to keep it active and maintain the Education Outreach Plan. Ms. Finnessy said she would contact Mr. Cox about his degree of interest.

Ms. Finnessy emphasized the importance of having a Fundraising Committee and indicated that staff had brainstormed many ideas for the Council to follow-up. Using the Alliance as a fundraising tool had been put aside while the Alliance was being established, and she suggested the Fundraising Committee was the best approach to fundraising. Currently, only Mr. Petersen and she served on the committee. She assumed the committee would meet on an as-needed basis to flesh out some ideas to recommend to the full Council. Mr. Simpson recommended that Ms. Finnessy schedule a committee meeting and invite all Council Partners.

Mr. Bumstead suggested that the Council consider a calendar along the model of the Long Tom Grange.

The Council briefly acknowledged the Confluence Steering Committee, which had one last meeting scheduled before it would sunset, and the Lane County McKenzie Maintenance and Security Partnership, which met so infrequently Ms. Finnessy had not listed it as a Council committee. She said the Partnership was a good one in that pooled limited maintenance and security dollars for the watershed, and it would be unfortunate if it ended. She noted that Lane County Parks was the lead entity for the Partnership.

Ms. Finnessy reviewed a list of Council task teams, including the Horse Creek Task Team, Charter Revision Task Team, and a Hiring Task Team. She solicited volunteers to serve on the Charter Review Task Team, and several Council Partners volunteered, including Mr. McDowell, Ms. Holzhauser, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Ziller, and Mr. Mosher.

Speaking to the subject of a Hiring Task Team, Ms. Finnessy announced with regret that she was leaving her employment with the Council but planned to stay through mid-February or early March. She solicited volunteers for that task team. Mr. McDowell, Ms. Albino, Ms. Holzhauser, and Mr. Mosher volunteered.

Mr. Weybright provided an education update, reporting on the upcoming publication of the Mohawk Watershed Partnership's upcoming newsletter and encouraging Partners to contribute articles, which went to more than 1,500 property owners in the Mohawk Valley.

Mr. Weybright said the water quality monitoring effort was up and running at the Marcola High School; he was mostly working with freshman students. The first collection occurred on November 7.

Mr. Weybright said he visited Cedar Creek with the Thurston High School students in October. He anticipated he would be spending more time on the Camp Creek project in the future.

Mr. Weybright provided a projects update, reporting that staff re-submitted an OWEB grant for a series of

restoration projects in the lower Mohawk. OWEB staff would be visiting to view some of the sites in question on November 12. He invited Council Partners to join the visit. He reported that planning for future plantings in February and March was underway and he anticipated that the Council would rely heavily on volunteers for the plantings.

Mr. Weybright reported that the issues raised by the landowner at the Parsons Creek culvert had been resolved. Most of the concerns revolved around trespassing at the weir. He anticipated the solution could include fencing.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- **I-5 Bridge Project**

Ms. Finnessy reported that the Council was working with Good Company about the potential of becoming a vendor for the vegetation work needed under the new I-5 bridge with Hamilton Construction as the lead entity. Good Company was working to determine the landowner on the southeast side and Ms. Finnessy hoped to eventually realize her goal of moving the cows from the site. It was possible the inside the right-of-way project could be a Council money-maker.

Ms. Finnessy recalled the Council's discussion of Council membership at its retreat and reported that she had contacted Mr. Pishioneri and Mr. Stewart about the possibility of securing a staff person as alternatives when they were unable to attend. She had not yet discussed the subject with Mr. Papé.

Ms. Finnessy noted that she had listed the Council with the University of Oregon Community Service Program for interns in various disciplines.

Ms. Finnessy reported that she had followed-up on Mr. Ziller's suggestion for a general presentation on watersheds by bringing the idea to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils.

- **Fiscal Year 2007 Work Plan**

Ms. Finnessy called attention to the inclusion of the work plan in the meeting packet.

- **Fiscal Year 2007 Budget**

Ms. Finnessy called attention to the inclusion of the budget plan in the meeting packet.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)