

# MINUTES

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

December 14, 2006  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Diana Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Facilitator; Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Chuck Gottfried (for Joe Pishioneri, City of Springfield), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Gary Papé (City of Eugene), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District), John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Kurt Cox (McKenzie Schools), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy and Jared Weybright Council staff; Milo Mecham (City of Coburg), Peter Ruffier, (City of Eugene), Susie Smith (MWMC), Sam Fox, Chuck Davis, (Springfield Utility Board), guests.

**ABSENT:** Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust), Michael Morales (Division of State Lands), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Nancy Holzhauser (at-large stakeholder), Douglas Moser (at-large stakeholder), Erik Peterson (Army Corps of Engineers), Jerry Richeson (Bureau of Land Management), 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

Mr. Gottfried asked that the word “projects” be changed to “options” of paragraph 9 on page 2.

In the absence of a quorum, approval of the October 9, 2006 minutes was deferred until a quorum was present.

## 3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy circulated a brochure containing information about non-profit board training. She said funding was available for interested board members.

Mr. Cox reported McKenzie School District middle school students were working on their terrestrial research projects to meet the eighth grade benchmarks and seventh graders were conducting a stream study this year. Over ten thousand pounds of food was collected through the food drive for distribution at St. Benedict's. He added Susan Taylor-Green, McKenzie School District Superintendent, was retiring, and Jim Severson, McKenzie High School Principal, was moving out of state. Both the high school and middle school National Honor Societies were looking for service projects.

Mr. Highfill reported more signs and cameras were being installed at some of the boat landings in an attempt to detail theft and car clouting at the ramps.

Mr. Simpson distributed a report to the Council and announced EWEB submitted the relicensing application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project on November 22, 2006. FERC acknowledged the application on November 24. The license application contained the trap and haul provision for upstream fish passage. EWEB was undertaking further study that should be concluded by the end of December, to determine if a fish ladder could be constructed that did not compromise dam safety. The EWEB board was scheduled to discuss the results of the study at its January 16, 2007 meeting. Preparations were underway for settlement negotiations with rate source agencies and interested parties for discussions beginning in January 2007, with hopeful expectations that agreement would be reached by next summer. EWEB continued to proceed with preparatory work necessary for raising the level of Leaburg Lake six inches in late 2007. EWEB had originally proposed in the Leaburg-Waltermville relicensing application to raise the lake by eighteen inches. Although permission had been granted from FERC to do so, after additional study, it was determined that a six inch raise was all that was necessary. The smaller raise reduced the shoreline property issues around Leaburg Lake. EWEB would soon begin discussing mitigation with individual property owners. Potential impacts included some inundation, potential shoreline tree impacts, and impacts on existing septic systems. EWEB was working with the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association in this effort.

Mr. Gottfried reported the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was going to public hearing on the City of Springfield and Lane County's first joint storm water permits on January 9, 2007 at the Springfield Library. The TMDL was recently approved by DEQ and immediately appealed by MWMC, EWEB, the City of Springfield and the City of Portland.

Mr. Olander reported that seed for 500 Kincaid's Lupine had been spread at the Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America Inc. site.

Ms. Allison announced she recently signed a decision memo to issue five-year river outfitter guide permits for qualified applicants. Additionally she signed a decision for a timber sale that would remove hazardous trees while excluding lands in campgrounds. A decision would be published in 30 days.

The Council took a brief meeting break.

Mr. Papé arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Mr. Ziller arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ziller reported that the Chinook run prediction of 52,000 for the entire Willamette run had just been released.

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Finnessy noted a quorum was present.

**Council Partners approved the minutes of November 9, 2006, with the changes noted, showing Consensus Level 3.**

## **4. COBURG WASTEWATER FACILITY**

Ms. Finnessy introduced Milo Mecham from the Lane Council of Governments representing the City of Coburg. Mr. Mecham distributed the following:

- Coburg's Wastewater Treatment Options.
- Photograph depicting *Coburg Water Reclamation and Wetland Restoration (Conceptual)*.
- Diagram depicting *Proposed Coburg Reclamation System*

Mr. Mecham stated the City of Coburg did not currently have a sewer system, and all of the residents used septic tanks. Additionally, all of the employers, including Monaco Coach, Marathon Coach, as well as Truck and Travel also used septic systems. The City of Coburg was the largest city in Oregon still using septic systems.

Mr. Mecham said there was a serious groundwater contamination problem downstream from the City of Coburg. Groundwater sampling by DEQ had shown there were several wells contaminated at the "warning level" stage. The groundwater contamination reached from the City of Coburg to Albany along the Willamette River. He noted while the City of Coburg did not provide all of the contamination, it was a contributor to the problem. The City of Coburg was looking for an affordable and approvable by the regulatory agencies. Until such an option was available, the City of Coburg had chosen not to rule out any option, although sewers and wastewater treatment were the preferred options. The most viable options included: discharge to the Willamette River; discharge to the McKenzie River; connect to the MWMC; reclamation/reuse. Mr. Mecham explained the positive and negative sides of each of the options, noting the preferred option was a membrane bioreactor system.

Ms. Smith and Mr. Ruffier arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Mecham said the Coburg City Council would consider other options as they became available. He said the estimated cost of connecting to the MWTC was \$16 to \$20 million for the 1,023 residents, which would cost each household \$100 per month. Other funding options included grants and borrowing. The City of Coburg hoped to begin work during the summer 2007 and finishing in 2008 or 2009.

Mr. Papé left at 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Smith distributed copies of the Agenda Item Summary for Joint Elected Officials of Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County from October 11, 2006 entitled Discussion of City of Coburg Request for Connection to the metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) Wastewater Facilities.

Ms. Smith explained the MWMC was an agency by intergovernmental agreement by Lane County, the City of Eugene, and City of Springfield. The MWMC was the policy board that oversaw the contractual operations and maintenance services work provided by the City of Eugene at the wastewater treatment plant. The City of Springfield provided administrative services including long range capital improvement planning. Together the Eugene and Springfield staffs provided all of the staff support to MWMC. MWMC did not make decisions about providing wastewater services outside of the urban growth boundary (UGB). MWMC's purview was limited to what the cities and the county vested in MWMC in an intergovernmental agreement. The county and the cities retained all authority around land use, growth, and service expansion. MWMC was limited by the agreement only to provide services only to the governing bodies inside the UGB.

Ms. Smith said she and Mr. Ruffier were representing the elected officials. The purpose of their presentation was to provide information on the position of the elected officials rather than MWMC. She added that both communities had a local collection system consisting of pipes and pump stations that collected wastewater from their respective jurisdictions that connected to the MWMC system that became the regional system.

Ms. Smith offered a history of the MWMC. She said the City of Coburg completed its wastewater

facilities plan in the late 1990's and requested costing information from the MWMC on what it would cost to connect to the MWMC system. MWMC provided estimates based upon models available at the time which the City of Coburg used to make a decision to build their own system. When the City of Coburg sought federal funding in the early 2000's, they were asked if they had looked at regionalization as the preferred option that came from the federal 1990 Clean Water Act that provided funding for upgrading treatment plants across the country. The City of Coburg asked the elected officials if it would be feasible to connect to the MWMC. In 2004, the joint elected officials directed the executive officers to develop a report that would identify all of the issues and concerns that would need to be addressed, and the relevant processes that would need to occur for all of the elected bodies to authorize the City of Coburg to hook up.

In 2005, Ms. Smith and Mr. Ruffier presented the issue to the joint elected officials in the October 11, 2005 Agenda Item Summary previously distributed by Ms. Smith. She opined the issue was a complicated one. She said the document raised questions about wastewater treatment in other local communities, urban development patterns, infrastructure, schools, and other issues, but did not resolve them. The technical committee that worked on wastewater when it made sense for a remote satellite community to hook up to the Eugene/Springfield area system, and when it made more sense from a cost or other factors for different types of facilities to be developed. The comparative environmental, public health and safety issues were raised, but not studied, in the document.

Ms. Smith said the impacts of connecting the City of Coburg to the existing and planned customer base for MWMC set the issues of capacity and cost equity among past, current and future users. Under statewide land use planning laws, MWMC had planned to serve the capacity requirements of the UGB. Thus, all of the capacity developed, including the 2004 Facilities Plan developed and approved by the MWMC, and currently underway, was spoken for by users in the UGB. Additionally, there were existing capacity constraints on the system in certain areas and in current jeopardy of violating the waste load allocation in both the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers.

Following the joint elected officials meeting, the Eugene City Council asked for a decision model with criteria and a construct developed under which the elected officials would make decisions about whether the City of Coburg or other satellite community would be connected. There was a willingness to look at the issue in the context of the 2050 planning study and whether or not other communities would have similar criteria. She added that the state prison in Junction City had also made inquiries. The City of Springfield said it was more than willing to entertain the possibility to move forward with the decision making processes without giving an indication of what a foregone outcome would be, because there were many public process that would take place. Both Eugene and Springfield City Councils were clear that full cost recovery would be achieved so that a connection fee or buy-in cost would be established that would not create any subsidy from the taxpayers who have been paying off the local general obligation bonds and all of the user rate funds that had contributed to building and expanding the system for future capacity requirements.

Ms. Smith stated all of the decision making processes were neither simple nor short. Any timeline in a best case scenario in which the City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane County and the Lane County Boundary Commission approved applicable Metro Plan Amendments, public facilities plan amendments, and other decisions, was 2009 or 2010.

Mr. Ruffier said the cost issue was a complex one. He said the connection cost for the City of Coburg ranged from 6 to 12 million dollars, depending upon whether it was considered a new customer requiring a new increment of capacity in treatment, an existing customer or a combination. He said a consultant had been retained to refine the cost estimates, and Lane County was facilitating the effort with funding and collaborating with the State of Oregon to have a refined cost estimate by early 2007 to forward to the governing bodies for consideration.

The Council took a brief meeting break.

## **5. MWC PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Weybright offered the Projects Coordinator report. He said the site visit with OWEB had been successful. Funding notification would occur in early March. He said the DSL permit had been approved and would be in hand by December 15, 2006. A new University of Oregon intern would be on board for the winter term. EWEB and the Springfield public schools had developed a long term program for five to ten years for Camp Creek to study water quality parameters, habitat monitoring and restoration. Four thousand trees would be in the ground in the lower Mohawk area in February and March 2007.

Ms. Finnessy directed those present to the MWC Charter Review Task Force Minutes from December 1, 2006.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

- **Fourth Quarter and Year End Budget Reports**

Ms. Finnessy said the Fourth Quarter and Year End Budget Reports had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. She said fiscal year 2006 fiscal reports were at the auditors, and that the Article 413 and 413 final reports were due to EWEB by December 31, 2006.

Ms. Finnessy said the intended final Confluence steering committee meeting had occurred earlier in the week. John Runyon was completing an evaluation of the process which would be sent to the Council in January 2007. The group would reconvene when the new Executive Director was hired. She said the Council intended to maintain relationships with the aggregate companies and work with them individually as projects came up.

Ms. Finnessy said she had submitted the OWEB Council support application with the assistance of several Council members.

Ms. Finnessy reported the hiring process for the Executive Director position for the Alliance had begun. A draft position announcement was out for review by the hiring committee. It would be posted in early January through a variety of recruiting venues.

Ms. Finnessy said that a \$5,000 grant had been awarded from Spirit Mountain Community Fund for Education and Outreach. Additionally, an OWEB grant proposal had been submitted.

Mr. Simpson said the educational presentations at the Council meetings were always valuable and informative, and opined they would be of interest to others. Ms. Finnessy reviewed the meeting notification process used to notify the public.

- **Education and Outreach Plan**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

(Recorded by Linda Henry)

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