

MINUTES

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

March 8, 2006
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Kat Beal (for Erik Petersen, Army Corps of Engineers), Kurt Cox (McKenzie School District), Chuck Gottfried (for Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Glen Love (for Bob Bumstead, McKenzie Flyfishers), Nancy Holzhauser (At-large stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Gary Jensen (for Ralph Perkins, East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District), Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust), Alan Zelenka (City of Eugene), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy, Jared Weybright, Josh Micheli, Council staff; Eric Bergland, United States Forest Service; Josh Micheli, U of O volunteer; David Rodriguez, Andy Gilmore, Jonni Gratton, guests.

ABSENT: Diana Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Michael Morales (Division of State Lands), John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Council Partners.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Finnessy introduced Mr. Zelenka, the new Council Partner from the Eugene City Council. She also introduced Larry Six, the new Executive Director of the McKenzie Watershed Council, who would take her place after she officially stepped down at the end of March. She indicated she would still be available until August to assist Mr. Six.

Ms. Finnessy announced that Council Partner Douglas Moser had passed away the previous weekend, and asked the Council Partners to sign a card of sympathy to send to his wife, Carol Ach.

Those present introduced themselves.

Mr. McDowell noted that Council Partner Ralph Perkins was ill and he wished him well on behalf of the Council.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of December 12, 2006, and February 8, 2007.

Ms. Finnessy noted that intern Josh Micheli was not listed as present at the February meeting. She thanked Mr. Micheli and his team of University of Oregon students for getting out volunteers to the recent Mohawk volunteer planting events.

Mr. O'Sullivan corrected the minutes of February 8 to indicate that he was the field manager for the Upper Willamette Resource Area.

Also referring to the February 8 minutes, Mr. Ziller noted that Mosby Creek was misspelled, and Trail Bridge should be two words, not one.

The minutes of December 2006 and February 2007, were approved as submitted and amended, with Council Partners showing Consensus Level 3.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy said that Kate Ferschweiler was seeking volunteers to accompany her on a field trip with Springfield School District students to McGowen Creek and offered to share information about the event with interested Partners.

Ms. Finnessy said that John Moriarty of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board had sent out an e-mail to watershed coordinators with information about House Bill 2105, which would increase Division of State Lands fill permit fees. She offered to forward his e-mail on to the Council.

Mr. Cox reported on the recent nonprofit conference at Oregon State and commended the event.

Mr. Cox reported the McKenzie High School boys basketball team came in fourth at the recent State tournament and the Mohawk High School team came in first. He reported that the McKenzie girls team also did well.

Mr. Cox said there would be several staff changes at McKenzie High School next year and several openings would occur.

Mr. Cox noted that it was Classified Employees Week and he thanked them for their work.

Mr. Cox said that students were asking about when work would occur on the trail at the Fish Hatchery, and it was good to see their enthusiasm.

Mr. O'Sullivan reported that the Bureau of Land Management had a couple of projects in the watershed. Internal planning was occurring for Codjil Creek and Hatchery Creek for commercial thinning and habitat restoration, with some in-stream restoration associated with the thinning. He anticipated the Environmental Analysis (EA) would be available for public review in September 2007. The BLM had also finished an EA for a Camp Creek project that involved thinning, restoration, and eradication treatment for black locust that would be out for public review in 30 days.

Mr. O'Sullivan said he received a call from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, which was planning a tour of the McKenzie to view sustainable forestry practices on different sites this fall.

Mr. Jensen said the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District was going to attempt to place another funding measure on a future ballot and would hire an AmericCorps volunteer to develop promotional programming to gain the district more public recognition. He said that Mr. Perkins had asked him to fill in and he hoped to be back next month.

Ms. Holzhauser said she would be working with a botanist from the USFS on eradication of false brome and blackberries in the Horse Creek area.

Mr. Moll used a large-scale photograph to describe recent changes at Green Island resulting from recent flood activities. He asked people to get the word out so that people floating through the area were aware

of the changes.

Mr. Moll reported that the McKenzie River Trust's Director of Resources position was still open.

Mr. Moll announced the upcoming Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) meetings at The Mallard Banquet Hall, which was located in the Whiteaker neighborhood, on March 14th and 15th. He reported that MRT's grant application to fund the partial acquisition of a conservation easement upstream of Green Island was likely to be approved by OWEB, while another grant application would likely not be approved but would probably be resubmitted. He also announced that OWEB had asked the watershed Council and MRT to present to the board on Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a PowerPoint presentation had been put together to demonstrate how OWEB funds had been used and leveraged for other funds in the basin. A reception was planned later for 5:15 p.m. Mr. Moll encouraged people to look at the OWEB website to learn more about the schedule and encouraged Partners' attendance at both the presentation and the later reception.

Mr. Zelenka thanked the Council for the work it did to keep Eugene's drinking water clean and pure.

Mr. Ziller reported that the recent Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting was well-attended and he termed it a tremendous meeting. He had convened a meeting on spring chinook salmon recovery in the McKenzie basin and four presenters representing the ACOE, ODFW, and NOAA discussed possibilities for salmon restoration, particularly above the dams.

Mr. Ziller said that one salmon had gone over Willamette Falls this year, and he expected to hear any day that it had been caught.

Ms. Allison said the USFS had released an EA that analyzed the relocation or reconstruction of three boat launches along the McKenzie River, including the Frissel, Paradise, and Ruckard boat launches. She briefly described the improvements associated with each launch site. All three new ramps would be made of prefabricated concrete. The comment period would end March 30. She anticipated all three ramps would be complete in two years.

Mr. McDowell solicited public comment.

Andy Gilmore expressed concern about the potential impact of Ballot Measure 37 claims filed in the basin. Ms. Finnessy said that the Council had discussed the issue at its last meeting and planned to have a presentation on the topic and what role the watershed Council might play.

David Rodriguez discussed current conditions near the Thurston meander, saying they were generally stable this year.

The Council took a brief break.

4. ANCIENT OBSIDIAN WORKING AND THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF THE OREGON CASCADES

Eric Bergland of the United States Forest Service provided the Council with a presentation on the use of the obsidian found in the Cascade Mountains by Native American peoples and demonstrated tool making using local obsidian found at Obsidian Cliffs in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area and tools of the materials that would have been used by American Indians.

The Council took a brief break, during which Council Partners examined the materials used by Mr. Bergland in his demonstration.

5. PROGRAM UPDATES

- **FY06 Annual Report**

Ms. Finnessy called attention the Council's annual report, included in the meeting packet. She said it was organized accordingly to *Conservation Strategy* goals and she used the report as an outreach tool in communicating with local elected officials as well as the Council. She said the report would be posted on the website soon and would be distributed to area decision-makers as well.

- **Education and Outreach Committee**
 - **Natural Resources Scholarship**

Ms. Finnessy said the Education and Outreach committee met in early February and discussed the 2007 Ken Robinson Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship applications were included in the Council's packet, and she encouraged Council Partners to get the word out about the scholarship to interested students. Ms. Finnessy noted that she had also mailed information about the scholarship to local area schools. She said that a committee that included Mr. Six would be making the final selection of the individual granted the scholarship, which would be awarded at the June Council meeting.

Ms. Finnessy said the Education Coordinator position was also discussed by the committee but no funding was available from OWEB for that purpose. She was working to reroute the funds awarded to the Council by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund to pay Mr. Weybright's to conduct the work.

Ms. Finnessy said the committee also discussed the potential of tying the Horse Creek subbasin restoration project into the charter revisions/outreach process.

Ms. Finnessy did not anticipate the committee would meet again until needed, but staff would continue to seek funds for education and outreach.

- **Projects Program**

Mr. Weybright provided an update on the Projects Program.

Mr. Weybright discussed Parsons Creek culvert replacement project, reporting that the project would not go forward after all. He said that Council and Bureau of Land Management staff had been working on the reallocation of the remaining funds, which would be returned to the RAC and pooled with other funds to underwrite the costs of replacing the Walker Creek culvert in the Siuslaw basin.

Ms. Finnessy reviewed the minutes of the 412/413 Committee, included in the meeting packet.

- **Executive Committee**

Mr. McDowell said Council Partner John Simpson had asked to be relieved of his duties on the Executive Committee due to other pressing commitments and a replacement was needed. He noted that Mr. Simpson had served as secretary to the committee. Ms. Finnessy noted that the individual would also serve on the McKenzie Watershed Alliance Board of Directors. She said that another person was also needed to serve

to ensure there were an odd number of members; Mr. Simpson had represented the elected officials serving on the Council, but the committee recommended that the next board member could be drawn from the entire Council. Mr. McDowell recommended that he and Ms. Finnessy work together to solicit Partners to serve on the committee an individual basis. The Council had no objection.

Ms. Finnessy briefly reviewed the minutes of the Executive Committee, which were included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Finnessy noted that at prior meetings staff had provided the Council with a monthly listing of their accomplishments, which had been a Bonneville Power Administration requirement. Given the ending of the Bonneville Power Administration's support, that would no longer occur; however staff would continue to provide that information to the Executive Committee. Mr. Weybright emphasized that Council and Alliance staff would continue to provide oral reports at each meeting on their accomplishments. Ms. Finnessy encouraged Partners to call staff at any time with questions and concerns.

Responding to a question from Ms. Holzhauser regarding the McKenzie Stewardship contract, Ms. Finnessy said the Council was pooling money from the USFS and Eugene Water & Electric Board to hire Marcus Kaufman to facilitate the development of the stewardship contract. The Alliance would manage the grant and take ten percent for administration. She confirmed, in response to a follow-up question from Ms. Holzhauser, that staff had time to manage the contract.

6. MCKENZIE WATERSHED ALLIANCE UPDATE

- **Annual Bylaws Review**

Ms. Finnessy called the Council's attention to three revisions proposed for the McKenzie Watershed Alliance By Laws. One proposed change increased the number of directors on the Board; another change changed the Alliance's voting method from a consensus model to a majority vote model; and the last change added the Executive Director to the list of those who could call a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Council Partners indicated, showing Consensus Level 3, approval of the revisions to the By Laws.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- **At-Large Partner Update**

Ms. Finnessy said that following the close of the recruitment period, the Executive Committee had agreed to recommend Douglas Moser for reappointment, but unfortunately Mr. Moser had passed on. Mr. McDowell said the committee recommended Steve Raymen in his stead.

Council Partners indicated, showing Consensus Level 3, approval of Mr. Raymen's selection as the new At-Large Partner.

- **Coburg Wastewater Facility Update**

Ms. Finnessy reported that Coburg was moving forward with the Muddy Creek facility discharge alternative. Engineers were developing a facility design and the City of Coburg was seeking \$16 million in funding.

Ms. Finnessy reported that the Council had received approximately \$1,000 in the memory of McKenzie basin resident Celia Roberts, whose family authorized the use of those funds on existing Council restoration sites.

Mr. McDowell provided some background on the hiring process used for the Executive Director position. He introduced Mr. Six, who provided the Council with some information about his professional background.

Ms. Finnessy noted that this meeting was her last as the Executive Director and she had enjoyed her experience working for the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)