

# MINUTES

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

June 8, 2006  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Diana Albino, Facilitator (Mohawk Watershed Partnership); Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Kurt Cox (McKenzie Schools), Jeff Devore (for Bob Bumstead, McKenzie Fly Fishers), Pat Gripp (McKenzie Valley Residents Association), Nancy Holzhauser (At-large Stakeholder), Douglas Moser (At-large Stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), John Otsyula (for Michael Morales, Department of State Lands), Gary Papé (City of Eugene), Erik Petersen (Army Corps of Engineers), Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District), Andy Reasoner (for Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust), Emily Rice (Bureau of Land Management), John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Jeff Ziller (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Council Partners; Juan Welsh, Kate Ferschweiler, Jared Weybright, Council Staff; Chuck Gottfried, City of Springfield; Jeff Krueger, Lane Council of Governments; Chuck Willer, Coast Range Association; Bob Magne, Peter and Kitson Graham, Jennifer Gericke, Wendy Cecil, guests.

**ABSENT:** Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Partners.

## 1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Albino facilitated the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.

## 2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

**Council Partners approved the minutes of May 11, 2006, showing Consensus Level 3.**

There was no objection to the decisions reached at the last meeting.

## 3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Welsh announced Council Coordinator Megan Finnessy recently gave birth to a baby girl, Clare Ellen. He said Ms. Finnessy was expected back to work in August.

Mr. Cox announced that school ended that day for the McKenzie School District. He said that middle school students had completed the first year of native plantings. He anticipated another forestry component would be added to next year's curriculum with the aid of a County grant. He characterized the recently completed school year as successful.

Ms. Holzhauser said she recently received a telephone call from Bob Magne, a McKenzie resident, about a fishing lodge development being proposed across from Deerhorn Island. Mr. Magne was present at the meeting. Ms. Holzhauser called for Council examination of the proposal, and associated it with the Council's goals related to water quality and habitat. She described the size of proposed development, noting it was on land zoned F-2. She pointed out that Deerhorn Island already had significant riprap and riparian removal issues and had experienced flooding. Ms. Holzhauser believed the river in this vicinity

was good habitat for bull trout. Her concerns were the project's impacts regarding water quality. She asked the Council if it had a vision for the upper McKenzie. Ms. Holzhauser said the Council did not seem to have much of a presence in the upper watershed. She suggested it might be appropriate for the Council to prepare something for the upcoming public hearing before a Hearings Official.

Mr. Welsh questioned if the Council could take a position on the issue given the lack of time it would have to process the issue. He noted the Council's emphasis on the lower part of the river in regard to restoration and enhancement work and agreed that the Council had not had the same presence in the upper watershed as it had in the lower portion of the watershed.

Mr. Papé suggested that the Council invite the developer to provide a presentation. He determined from Mr. Magne that the proposed use was allowed on the site in question. Mr. Magne opposed the development due to what he believed its impact on the side channel would be and speculated that the developer would apply to install rip-rap in the future. Mr. Papé suggested that the Council could ask the County to leave the record open for comment.

Mr. Magne asked the Council to provide the opponents of the development with better information about the nature of the area in question. He solicited ideas and suggestions about how to stop the development.

Mr. Ziller acknowledged that the proposed use was an outright use under the Lane Code under what he characterized as a "loophole." He noted that another, similar development occurred on Horse Creek but that operation did not succeed because of the lack of year-round fishing on the creek. The proposed lodge was on a part of the river with year-round fishing.

Mr. Welsh did not think the Council would have an opportunity to offer comment in a timely way, even if the record remained open. He pointed out the Council would take a tour of project sites rather than hold a regular meeting in July and the Council did not meet in August, meaning the soonest it could address the issue was September. He suggested that Mr. Magne approach Council Partners individually rather than the Council collectively.

Ms. Rice asked if the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would comment on the proposal. Mr. Ziller said yes, adding that the agency would express its concerns about the floodplain and integrity of the side channel. He pointed out that anyone could comment about the application, and Mr. Welsh added that there would be other regulatory processes associated with any riprap installation that would occur that would also include an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Simpson reported that the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) was taking a hard look at its projects and priorities in light of a potential employee strike. EWEB was focusing on its core competencies and some employee reassignments and retraining were occurring. He said the Carmen Smith relicensing effort was not affected by the potential strike.

Mr. Simpson said the contract had been let for the in-stream chevron work at the Walterville Power Canal intake. He anticipated that work would occur in July or August.

Mr. Simpson thanked the Council for its get-well card following his May accident.

Mr. Otsyula indicated he was sitting in for Mike Morales. Mr. Magne asked for information about a riprap project on the river. Mr. Otsyula indicated he had a map he could share showing the site. He said that his agency generally worked to seek a positive outcome as opposed to imposing a penalty and it had been

trying to work with the property owner and gave him some time to put in an application. The property owner had run out of time and enforcement would begin the following week.

Mr. Ziller reported that Cedar Creek experienced an incursion into the McKenzie River earlier that week at the head gates. He did not know the reason for the incursion, but speculated it was associated with the irrigation district. He circulated photos of the site in question.

Mr. Ziller also reported that the Oregon contingent making funding recommendations to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) considered many projects to recommend and funding for the McKenzie Watershed Council received a high priority in that process. He anticipated that most of the money coming to Oregon would be dedicated to wildlife projects. Mr. Ziller said that the NPCC had an open forum on its Web site where people could offer comments, and he recommended that Partners offer comments in that venue: <http://www.nwCouncil.org/library/isrp/isrp2006-4.htm>

Mr. Reasoner said that the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) had finished its support letter for Council funding and would mail it the next day. He reported that on June 3, the MRT conducted a successful volunteer weed removal project on Green and Big islands and he anticipated monthly projects would occur in the future. He said the Deputy Secretary of the US Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted on a tour of Green Island and Mr. Reasoner said the individual “left with a smile on his face.” He thanked Mr. Papé for attending the tour. He thought the tour that might open some opportunities for federal funding for restoration. He announced that on June 28, the MRT would conduct an informal tour of Green Island for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) staff and State legislative staffers. Mr. Welsh would be there representing the Council.

Ms. Gripp said that every year the Council gave a scholarship to a high school or college students going into a natural resource field. The Scholarship Committee met with Ms. Ferschweiler to review the applications and selected the recipient, who would be announced later in the meeting.

Mr. Ziller reminded the Council that the upcoming weekend was free fishing weekend.

Ms. Allison said that the United States Forest Service Partnered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters for the free fishing weekend at Carmen Smith reservoir. She provided copies of the agency’s letter of support for the Council’s BPA funding.

Mr. Papé noted that he had also sent a letter in support of Council funding on behalf of the City of Eugene.

Mr. Peterson said the system looked good in regard to water storage. He reported that a series of public meetings was held in Creswell, Pleasant Hill, and at Mount Pisgah to discuss the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) floodplain restoration study. The intent of that effort was to identify areas where floodplain ecology and function could be restored in conjunction with the management of stored water.

Mr. Weybright said the Mohawk Watershed Partnership’s annual community meeting and barbeque occurred on Tuesday, and about 55 people attended the event and heard a well-received presentation on the results of water quality monitoring in the watershed. He said that many new people attended the event.

Ms. Albino called for comment from members of the public.

Bob Magne noted the funding the ACOE spent on the temperature control device at Cougar Reservoir and suggested that the proposed fishing lodge development was at odds with that and with the preservation of

habitat. Mr. Welsh noted that Mr. Magne had provided the Council with some information about the proposal that Partners could view at the break or following the meeting.

Chuck Willer said he attended the ACOE's Creswell presentation and found the agency had no funding for restoration at the present time. He suggested that the Oregon Congressional delegation need to be reminded of the ACOE's needs.

#### **4. LANDOWNER AWARD PRESENTATION**

Mr. Welsh presented the annual Landowner Award to Peter and Kitson Graham, who owned land on Mill Creek, a tributary of the Mohawk River just north of Marcola. He said he often wished every owner he worked with was like Mr. Graham, who was a very hands-on owner. He said that if there were more owners like him, a lot more could be accomplished in the watershed. He said that Council staff needed to spend little time with Mr. Graham, who was well-prepared and knew of his needs. Mr. Weybright spoke of Mr. Graham's contributions in the Mohawk watershed and noted his participation in the State highway clean-up program. Mr. Welsh noted that Mr. Graham was also willing to open his property to others so they could view his restoration efforts.

Mr. Graham thanked the Council for the award. He called his participation in the Council's restoration programs a "no brainer." Ms. Graham emphasized their interest in riparian restoration and education and said the Council was a natural conduit for education.

#### **5. METRO WATERWAYS STUDY—CEDAR CREEK**

Jeff Krueger of the Lane Council of Governments provided a presentation on the Metro Waterways Study, noting the study was the result of a Partnership between Eugene, Springfield, EWEB, Lane County, and the ACOE. The purpose of the study was to better understand the existing problems and opportunities and to identify projects and solutions. He noted the study breakdown, saying that the ACOE provided about 50 percent of the total. The study was a multi-objective study and its solutions would be multi-objective. He shared maps delineating the study area, including the priority planning areas.

Mr. Krueger shared a study time line and noted the public design work shops that had occurred.

Mr. Krueger shared a quick tour of the Cedar Creek Planning Area. He shared the results of the comments made by participants at a planning meeting for the Cedar Creek area, who indicated that they were concerned about poor water quality, illegal camping, flooding, wildlife habitat, revetment failure, water rights, pollution, and the failure of the intake due to the revetment failure.

Mr. Krueger provided an overview of physical conditions, biological resources, and water resources at Cedar Creek.

Mr. Krueger shared a picture of the intake to Cedar Creek, pointing out the moss line that delineated normal summer time water levels. The downcutting that occurred on the McKenzie dropped water levels considerably. Current water rights are insufficient to keep water flowing in Cedar Creek, and the rights expire in 2009.

Mr. Krueger shared a map showing property ownerships in the Cedar Creek planning area, noting that only 6.1 percent was in public or private trust ownership.

Mr. Krueger provided an overview of the channel assessment done for Cedar Creek to provide a base line of information for evaluation. He shared a map showing water quality levels in the creek and emphasized the opportunities for enhancement because of the poor scores found.

Mr. Krueger noted the recent design charette involving multi-agency personnel during which many good ideas were suggested, and said a number of good design ideas were proposed to address the problems in the area. Over the next few months staff would review that work and prepare a package of alternatives for the ACOE to evaluate. He offered some examples of the types of projects that might occur in the creek, such as the Springfield Millrace Section 206 Restoration Project, Delta Ponds Habitat Enhancement Project, and Meadowlark Prairie. He added that such projects did not have to be large projects but could be small riparian restoration projects, for example.

Mr. Krueger reviewed next steps in the process, which were to develop potential solutions and evaluation measures for Cedar Creek, develop potential projects and solutions, select and evaluate the preferred alternative, gather public input, and design the refinement and implementation in Partnership with the local sponsors. He shared a Web site address for the study: [www.metrowaterways.org](http://www.metrowaterways.org). Mr. Krueger invited Council Partner participation in future workshops.

Mr. Magne asked the origin of the study and how such studies got started. Mr. Krueger said that often, such studies were a product of a partnership. The ACOE had partnered with both the cities of Eugene and Springfield on earlier projects. It took many years of dialogue between the partners to get the study underway. In order to start such a study in the upper McKenzie, the ACOE must have a local sponsor. Mr. Peterson offered to provide Mr. Magne with contact information. Mr. Krueger noted that a portion of the lower McKenzie was included in the study area.

Mr. Gottfried thanked Mr. Krueger for the work he had done in managing the study.

Mr. Cox asked how staff anticipated the impact of land use. Mr. Krueger said that staff looked at land use designations. It was hard to predict land use given the passage of Measure 37. He said that it was possible the urban growth boundary could be expanded in that area, creating more impervious surface. It was an inexact science.

Responding to a question from Mr. Papé, Mr. Krueger said that the intake was more than 100 years old and the problem had happened before and manipulation of the intake occurred before.

The Council took a brief meeting break. Ms. Allison, Mr. Moser, Ms. Rice, and Mr. Simpson left during the meeting break.

## **6. COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Mr. Welsh called attention to the Council's summer schedule, reporting that this year the Council would tour the riparian projects at the confluence of the Mohawk and McGowan and Partners should assemble at 5:30 p.m. at the church on the corner of Hill and Marcola roads on July 13. He asked that Partners RSVP staff regarding the event by the Friday before the meeting (July 7). It was a good opportunity for Council Partners to meet with the landowners involved.

Mr. Welsh announced that the Council was experiencing difficulty with its e-mail system and he hoped to see improvements in the next week. He encouraged Partners to contact him at his e-mail in the meantime.

Mr. Welsh said that the news about the BPA funding was good news and he found it encouraging. He asked that Partners offer comments on the Web site in support of the Council funding.

Mr. Welsh said that the Council submitted two large projects, one at Green Island and one for riparian projects to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and would provide a project tour on June 28. He asked that Council Partners attempt to attend the tour to show their support for the projects to OWEB.

Mr. Welsh invited questions about the second quarter fiscal report. He said that staff was working toward phasing out its funding with the Cascade Pacific RC&D, and everything would be in-house with the McKenzie Watershed Alliance. Council Partners had no questions.

Mr. Welsh asked that Council Partners sign a card of thanks to Jenny Ayotte of Cascade Pacific RC&D, who was retiring and had been very helpful to the Council over the last few years.

Mr. Otsyula reported that the Division of State Lands was now the Department of State Lands.

Ms. Ferschweiler said that she conducted her last field trip of the year earlier that day. She said she had been conducting macroinvertebrates monitoring for fifth graders, and late in the day some dragon fly nymphs began to emerge, which was fun. She said that school was ending and events were winding down. She announced that she would have a booth on Saturday at the Leaburg Hatchery for Free Fishing Weekend and invited Partners to come and “talk bugs.”

Ms. Ferschweiler reported as a result of Council discussion, the next land owner workshop would be focused on fire prevention. It was scheduled for July 22 at a location to be announced, and would be conducted in conjunction with the Department of Forestry and McKenzie Rural Fire Department.

Ms. Ferschweiler reminded Council Partners of the upcoming Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, tentatively scheduled for June 24. She encouraged Council Partners to attend.

Mr. Cox noted that Ms. Ferschweiler had helped McKenzie students redo the trail near the hatchery. The students enjoyed the experience very much and felt good about what they did there.

Ms. Ferschweiler announced that the Council’s scholarship was awarded to Derrick Robertson, a graduate of Mohawk High School who was currently attending college at Oregon State University. Mr. Robertson could not attend the meeting because of final examinations, but would be present at the next meeting. Ms. Ferschweiler said the Scholarship Committee had discussed the fact the college students outscored graduating high school seniors in the application scoring, and she would ask the Education Committee to address the issue soon as she did not think it fair to ask high school students to compete with college students. Mr. Perkins noted his past experience on scholarship committees, and pointed out that sometimes high school students did not use their scholarships. He suggested perhaps it was a better investment to direct the money to college students who had already committed to their education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)