

MINUTES

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

September 14, 2006
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Ralph Perkins (East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District), Facilitator; Diana Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Mary Allison (United States Forest Service), Kurt Cox (McKenzie Schools), Jeff Devore (for Bob Bumstead, McKenzie Flyfishers), Gene Highfill (McKenzie River Guides), Nancy Holzhauser (at-large stakeholder), Joe Moll (McKenzie River Trust), Mike McDowell (Weyerhaeuser), Douglass Moser (at-large stakeholder), Alan Olander (Hynix Semiconductor), Kelly Reis (for Jeff Ziller of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Jerry Richeson (Bureau of Land Management) John Simpson (Eugene Water & Electric Board), Council Partners; Megan Finnessy, Kate Ferschweiler, Juan Welsh, Jared Weybright, Council staff; John Kalvelage, Josh Proudfoot, Liz Cawood, Josh Cerra, Jim Sly, Oregon Department of Transportation consultant team; John Royce, Bureau of Land Management; Phyliss Highfill, guest.

ABSENT: Michael Morales (Division of State Lands), Gary Papé (City of Eugene), Erik Peterson (Army Corps of Engineers), Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Faye Stewart (Lane County), Council Partners.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Perkins reviewed the meeting agenda. There were no changes suggested to the agenda.

Those present introduced themselves. Mr. Richeson reported that former Council Partner Emily Rice had taken a new job and he would serve as the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) representative to the Council. He introduced Acting Field Manager John Royce, who had taken Ms. Rice's position temporarily.

2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDowell noted that he was not at the meeting of June 8 but was not listed in the absent section of the minutes.

Council Partners approved the minutes of June 8, 2006, with the change noted, showing Consensus Level 3.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy said that in addition to Ms. Rice, Pat Gripp of the McKenzie Valley Residents Association had resigned from the Council. She circulated Ms. Gripp's letter of resignation and thank you cards for Ms. Gripp and Ms. Rice.

Ms. Finnessy circulated information about a Farm Records Workshop being conducted by Cascade Pacific RC&D, information about a fall woods tour at Upper Camp Creek, and information provided by Erik

Peterson of the Army Corps of Engineers showing the impact of the Cougar temperature control device.

Ms. Finnessy thanked the cities of Eugene and Springfield for their annual funding contribution and said Steve Newcomb of the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) had developed a five-year plan for EWEB match funding. She noted that each organization had funded the Council for more than a decade, and the funding they provided was more important than ever. She thanked Mr. Simpson as EWEB's representative.

Mr. Perkins said the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District (ELSWCD) Board of Directors had decided to seek a tax base in November 2006 and were developing a plan to support the effort. He anticipated he would have more information about the measure to share at the next meeting.

Mr. Moll reported that the McKenzie River Trust (MRT) would hold a River Celebration at Green Island September 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. He hoped that Council Partners and others associated with river conservation efforts could attend. He said that directions to the island and an open invitation were on the MRT Web site.

Mr. Moll said that the MRT hired Jody Limmer, formerly of the ELSWCD, to be its full-time land steward. Ms. Limmer would have increasing responsibility for Green Island and for monitoring MRT conservation easements.

Ms. Allison said that the summer was a busy one for fire fighters in the Willamette Forest. There had been several lightning fires. She estimated there had been 55-60 fires on the McKenzie River range, most of which were small except for the Lake George fire. She hoped the weather would help improve conditions.

Ms. Reis said the Springfield office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) had hired a new biologist, Brian Wolfer. She reported that the bull trout and chinook were beginning to spawn in the McKenzie, and ODFW would be seeking volunteers for spawning ground surveys around the first week of October. She invited those interested in participating to contact her office.

Ms. Holzhauser provided an update on a development proposal on King Road, saying the applicant withdrew the application because of a question as to whether the proposed facility was a public or private facility.

Mr. Highfill thanked those who attended the recent river clean-up and invited those who were unable to participate to attend next year's event, which would give them an opportunity to see the river in a different light. He noted that the life jacket program sponsored by the McKenzie River Guides and McKenzie Rural Fire Department was going well.

Mr. Cox said that McKenzie School students would be doing some native plant re-seeding in the upcoming week. He had been at work on research areas and projects for students to do on the school grounds, and they would be working with researchers from H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, who would serve as mentors.

Mr. Cox noted that the Oregon State University offered a summer class on stewardship practices, which he commended to the Council.

Mr. Cox reported that the middle school students would take a salmon watch trip to Carmen Smith on September 20.

Mr. McDowell said the Forest Practices Act was recently changed to require anyone operating under the act to protect the streams that would be fish streams except that the fish were artificially blocked from reaching it. The protection zone was based on habitat that would support fish if fish would get there. He did not know the impact of the changes, noting that Weyerhaeuser was already protecting such streams.

Mr. Welsh thanked the Council Partners for their support during his contract. He said he had enjoyed his work in restoration but it was time to move on. He said his work with the Council was the most satisfying such experience he had.

Mr. Weybright said that macro invertebrate collection would occur at two locations in the Mohawk Watershed on September 23, and more volunteers were needed.

Ms. Ferschweiler announced that it was macro invertebrate collection time, and the Cougar temperature control sites would be sampled on September 15. She solicited volunteers for that effort. Ms. Ferschweiler announced that on September 28, the McKenzie High School biology class would collect macro invertebrates on the main stem sites. She offered fliers about the events for distribution.

Ms. Ferschweiler also bade the Council goodbye for personal and funding reasons. Ms. Finnessy thanked Ms. Ferschweiler and Mr. Welsh for their service to the Council.

4. PREVIEW OF THE BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS AT THE INTERSTATE 5 CROSSING OF THE MCKENZIE RIVER

The Council was joined by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) consultant team members John Kalvelage, Josh Proudfoot, Liz Cawood, Josh Cerra, and Jim Sly. The consultant team provided a presentation on the proposed bridge replacements on Interstate 5 over the McKenzie River. The bridges were being replaced for capacity and condition issues.

Mr. Kalvelage shared slides of the proposed bridge construction schematics.

Responding to a question from Mr. McDowell as to what part of the existing structure could be retained in the new bridge, Mr. Sly said the superstructure could be reused and other materials would be recycled. The substructure would be removed.

Mr. Kalvelage provided an overview of the improvements proposed for the Goshen Interchange.

Mr. Simpson asked if ODOT had considered building an off-ramp near Short Mountain. Mr. Kalvelage said it was not raised in the context of the project and he was unsure if it had been discussed.

Mr. Kalvelage reviewed ODOT's design build project process.

Mr. Sly reviewed the schedule for the replacement bridge and Goshen interchange projects.

Mr. Kalvelage used slides of the area of the replacement bridge and the Goshen interchange to demonstrate how traffic would operate during construction.

Mr. Proudfoot shared ODOT's plans for accommodating boats and river floaters through the replacement bridge construction area during construction of the temporary bridge. He invited input regarding signage through the area.

Responding to a question from Mr. Simpson, Mr. Sly described the steps that were taken during construction to protect the river from vehicle motor oil and surface runoff.

Mr. Sly shared a slide showing an example of a work bridge, which was required for construction of the replacement bridges. He described ODOT's plans for demolition containment, sharing slides from a bridge demolition project on the Illinois River to illustrate his remarks.

Mr. Proudfoot solicited ideas on how to reach those who floated the river in this area about the construction project, noting the consultant team's concern about how to reach the youth that used the river during the summer. Suggestions from Council Partners included signage at the middle and high schools, notices at the University of Oregon's Outdoor Program, signs along the river itself, signs far enough up river to allow floaters to leave the river, signs on islands in the river, creation of a temporary boat pull-out upstream of the project, hiring guides to take people through the construction area, and signage of water elevations during the summer months for larger boats. Ms. Finnessy recommended that the consultant team contact Lane County Parks about the potential of using the gravel bar upstream of the existing bridge for a pull-out.

Ms. Cawood said that the consultant team would be at the upcoming River Celebration on September 17, and two public information workshops were scheduled, one at the Coburg School on October 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the second at the Goshen Fire Hall on October 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Ms. Cawood encouraged Council Partners to contact her with suggestions and comments, noting that the team had left business cards at the back of the room.

The Council took a brief meeting break.

5. COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM UPDATES

- **Education**

Mr. Cox said the Education Committee met at Ike's Pizza and attempted to develop a plan to transition from Ms. Ferschweiler's era to the future, which was somewhat unclear at this time. The committee discussed the distinctions between education and outreach and the appropriate mix. The committee had agreed with a statement by Mr. Simpson that outreach was always education, but education was not always outreach.

Ms. Ferschweiler said she was working with Ms. Finnessy to complete the plan, which would be reviewed by the committee again before the Council saw it at the retreat. Ms. Finnessy anticipated the Council would prioritize the plan to guide staff in its grant writing applications.

- **Projects**

Mr. Welsh reported that the Projects Committee met the previous week and heard project updates. He reviewed the status of several projects, including culvert replacement projects at Tom's Creek and Parsons Creek. He noted that work on Parsons Creek would occur in summer 2007.

Mr. Welsh said that the Council's two grant submittals to the OWEB were not approved, probably due to the amount of money involved and a lack of hydraulic information regarding one of the projects. He said that a lack of stable funding affected the Council's ability to do projects because granting agencies did not want to provide so much project management funding. He encouraged the Council to find the money to

pay a staff person to find the money needed to do projects.

Mr. Welsh thanked the Council for attending the July tour, held in lieu of a Council meeting.

Mr. Welsh said that Mr. Weybright would carry on the projects program at a smaller level. Ms. Finnessy concurred, saying pieces of both the outreach and projects program would be assumed by Mr. Weywright through a contract with the Council. The work plan the Council would see at the October retreat would reflect the changes.

- **Water Quality**

Ms. Finnessy said the committee met the previous day and heard a presentation from the Xerces Society, which had created a macro invertebrate model based on three basins, one of which was the McKenzie. Data from the monitoring would be used to redirect the Council's future sampling efforts. Ms. Finnessy said that the data would also be available on line. Tributary monitoring down on Mohawk, Cartwright, and Camp Creek would continue into 2007. The main stem ambient monitoring program and the Council would have the first full year's worth of data at the next meeting.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- **Executive Committee Membership**

Ms. Finnessy reported that there were four positions on the Executive Committee, and Ms. Rice had been a member of that committee. She said that Mr. Simpson was nominated by the Executive Committee to fill an open position on the committee. She requested Council approval of that action.

Council Partners indicated support for adding Mr. Simpson to the Executive Committee showing Consensus Level 3, with the exception of Mr. Simpson, who showed Consensus Level 1.

- **Third Quarter Fiscal Reports**

Ms. Finnessy called the Council's attention to the third quarter reports, included in the meeting packet. She noted that the coordination budget included EWEB Partners in Education Grant and the EWEB 412/414 moneys as being completely spent, but the funding was still in place awaiting project implementation to be spent.

- **2007 Annual Retreat**

Ms. Finnessy reminded the Council of the upcoming retreat, scheduled for October 12 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Benedict Lodge in McKenzie Bridge. She briefly reviewed the retreat agenda. Ms. Finnessy said that it was clear to her from her conversations with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that the Council was not going to receive any BPA funding for the next fiscal year, but it would provide three months of transition funding at current levels. The Council had nine months to approximately \$31,000. She proposed to create another part-time position using a nine-month contract to assist with the projects program, do the outreach associated with the program to find new projects, and write grants. There was no objection from the Council.

Ms. Finnessy indicated that she continued to work on grant proposals to maintain the Council's programs.

Ms. Finnessy thanked Mr. Welsh and Ms. Ferschweiler for all the work they had done for the Council, and

presented them with gift certificates on behalf of the Council. The Council applauded Mr. Welch and Ms. Ferschweiler.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)