

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Eugene Water & Electric Board Training Room - North Building
500 East 4th Avenue, Eugene

March 13, 2003
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Wade Stampe, Facilitator; Dorothy Anderson, Dana Burwell, John Allen, Bob Bumstead, George Grier, (*for Ryland Moore*), Pat Gripp, Mike McDowell, Leroy Peterson, Emily Rice, Betty Taylor, Pat Thompson, John Woodrow, Cindy Weeldreyer, Jeff Ziller, Members; Jim Thrailkill, Council Coordinator; Sally Nunn, Chuck Gottfried, Carol Ach, Douglas Moser, Jack Harris, Kate Ferschweiler, Gary Gripp, Laurie Power, and other guests

ABSENT: Brent Hefty, John Lilly, Ryland Moore,

I. Agenda and Material Review

Opening remarks was moved to Item 3 on the agenda.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Opening Remarks

Mr. Thrailkill reported that BPA was honoring its contract with the MWC for 2003 and said he had negotiated contracts for a new projects manager and a refilling of the Mohawk Watershed Partnership Coordinator.

Mr. Thrailkill introduced Lori Mullen who was taking over as the Partnership's new coordinator. He said the project manager position would focus on working with private landowners in developing water quality and habitat improvement projects.

IV. Further Discussion of Decisions Made at the Last Meeting

There was no further discussion of decisions made at the last meeting.

V. Approve The February 13, 2003 Meeting Minutes

It was noted that Tom Linniger had been present at the previous meeting.

**THERE WAS CONSENSUS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 13TH AS CORRECTED.**

VI. Public Comment

Chuck Gottfried, City of Springfield, said that Springfield had filed its phase two NPDES permit application. He said Springfield was also developing a stormwater management plan which would have a significant public input component. He urged the council members to participate in that public process.

VII. Staff and Council Partner Announcements

Ms. Ferschweiler said she had started an evaluation process of the methods she uses in the Council's education program. She said started an evaluation of the Salmon Picnic. She distributed evaluations that had been done since the month of October. She said she had made presentations with the Salmon Picnic to 90 classrooms and over 2,000 students. She said it was a very interactive presentation for students of all age levels. She remarked that she had gotten good feedback from the presentations.

Mr. Bumstead said the confluence committee had met 2 weeks previously and discussed the problems around the purchase of Green island. He said he was optimistic about getting the state to go ahead with funding the purchase. He said the aggregate representatives were firmly in favor of the purchase.

Mr. Grier said the OWEB technical team had made a site visit and remarked that it was a good visit. He said they would make a recommendation to the OWEB board who would make a final decision. He said if the recommendations indicated that modifications needed to be made to the proposal he would contact council members to address the OWEB Board and help things go smoothly.

Mr. Thrailkill said that it was his understanding that Wildish, Delta, and Eugene Sand & Gravel were sending a joint letter supporting the acquisition.

Ms. Weeldreyer reported that Mr. Linniger had participated in a meeting the previous Saturday regarding EWEB issues on the river.

Mr. Thompson welcomed Ms. Mullen to the council.

Mr. Thompson said the Partnership held its first tree planting of the year. He noted many of the volunteers were familiar faces. He said 1.5 acres of riparian area had been planted on the Mohawk River.

Mr. Stampe said the snow pack was at 55 percent of normal for the year. He noted that rainfall had also been less than expected.

Mr. Allen said the Forest Service was continuing to examine the log jams at mp 44 to see what options they had.

Mr. Burwell said the McKenzie River guides were starting their life jacket program again for the upcoming season. He said life jackets would be distributed to local stores and businesses along the river.

Mr. Thrailkill reported that the watershed council had applied for a technical assistance grant to replace fish barrier culverts in the watershed. He said four culverts in the Mohawk, one on the McKenzie and one on Lost Creek would be designed for replacement this year. He said the BLM

would also donate funding and technical assistance to help replace the culverts. He noted that the grant for hydrologic work at Green Island was not funded.

Mr. Thraikill reported that the annual river clean up was scheduled for June 28, and would focus on the area between Forrest Glen and Hendrick's Park. He said the day would end up with a large barbeque.

Mr. Thraikill said the council had sponsored a planting event on the previous Saturday where over 400 trees had been planted on a portion of Cedar Creek.

Mr. Thraikill said the previous Tuesday was watershed council day in Salem. He said he had appointments scheduled with legislators to discuss the watershed and the role of the watershed council .

Mr. Thraikill said a gravel pit would be re-opened near Horse Creek. He noted that the written comment period was still open.

Mr. Thraikill said the April meeting would have a discussion on the South Sister Bulge.

In response to a question from Ms. Rice regarding water quality issues around the reopened gravel pit, Mr. Allen said there was an old development to the west of the quarry which was a pond throughout the year. He said the soils were highly permeable and the major impacts could be mitigated if properly handled. He said he was more concerned over the effects of blasting on nearby wells.

VIII. City of Coburg's Proposed Effluent Disposal to the McKenzie River

Mr. Thraikill noted that the City of Coburg was constructing a sewage treatment plant with a number of options on how the effluent was disposed of. He stressed that the agenda item was informational only and asked members to notify him if they felt that the entire council needed to comment officially on the issue.

Terry Gould, of Brown and Caldwell, said he had been working with the City of Coburg in planning the project. He introduced Tom Nevens, Charles Wright, Fred Costello, and Jack Harris who were also involved with the project.

The group provided a powerpoint presentation on the proposed sewage plant. The presentation included;

1. Information on the need for waste water treatment in Coburg

He said Coburg was using septic tanks which were contaminating the groundwater with nitrate. He said the pollution was more complicated by the fact that Coburg also got its drinking water from groundwater sources. He said Coburg was solving the problem by creating a wastewater management program. He said the system would have to be built from scratch and was a huge public works project for that City.

Service Population and Project Components.

- **Collection system**

- **Treatment System**
- **Effluent Disposal Options**
- **Expected Discharge Requirements McKenzie or Willamette**
- **Outfall Location**
- **Expected Discharge Rates**
- **River Diffuser Design**
- **Future Reuse Opportunities**

In response to a question from Mr. Bumstead regarding the reason why there was no tertiary stage in the treatment process, Mr. Wright said the primary pond would handle most of the settling that was required. He said the secondary pond would provide some treatment. He added that there would be aerated caps to minimize odors. He stressed that the ponds could be closed and the ponds filled up during peak running times to minimize the runoff into the river.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson regarding whether the constructed wetlands would be lined or open pits, Mr. Wright said they would be lined wetlands.

In response to a question from Mr. McDowell regarding the percentage meant by 10 milligrams per liter of effluent, Mr. Wright said it amounted to 10 parts per million.

In response to a question from Mr. Gottfried regarding how the constructed wetlands would be lined, Mr. Wright said there would be a membrane lining for the constructed wetlands.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson regarding whether the nitrate levels in the ground water were expected to change after the construction of the treatment ponds, Mr. Gould said the nitrate level currently in the ground water would eventually be reduced and the effluent draining from the sewage system would be so minimal as to not have an impact on the river.

In response to a question from Mr. Allen regarding the three basin rule and measurable increases in Total Maximum Daily Loads, Mr. Wright said the three basin rule area was above where the City was planning to release its effluent.

In response to a question from Mr. Bumstead regarding impacts of peak storm events and whether the effluent would be dumped directly into the river, Mr. Gould said Coburg had the advantage of building a new system that would not have those impacts. He stressed the importance of proper maintenance to the system to make sure that those overflows did not happen.

In response to a question from Mr. Bumstead regarding whether there was a possibility of another source of funding associated with endangered species that would provide the extra funding to Lane's Turn outflow location, Mr. Gould said it was not incompatible to outflow directly into the McKenzie. He said the outflow would be almost negligible. He said there was a series of funding sources and grants that were financing the project. He said if anyone could think of other sources of funding the City would be happy to hear them.

Mr. Ziller remarked that no matter where the effluent was piped into the river it would need to be clean enough to allow fish to live in the river downstream from where the entry point.

In response to a question from Mr. Grier regarding water quality at the discharge point and

whether there were other options to construct additional treatment, Mr. Wright said extra treatment meant extra funding needs. He said that the first treatment wetland was designed to meet or exceed the discharge requirements and noted that the other two wetlands were “belt and suspenders” to the first treatment.

In response to a question why Muddy Creek was not examined as a discharge point, Mr. Wright said there was not enough water in the creek to provide the required dilution.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson regarding how the size of the ponds was determined, Mr. Wright said the size was determined from both solid and liquid flow volumes.

In response to a question from Ms. Gripp regarding possible temperature rising in the water of the ponds, Mr. Wright said there was potential for a temperature gain in the first pond but noted that there would be a net decrease in temperature as the effluent flowed through the rest of the system.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson regarding how the water would leave the system, Mr. Wright said the water would finally be pumped into the river from a closed pipe system.

In response to a question from Mr. Greer regarding how the system would compare with the system used by Weyerhaeuser, Mr. Ziller said it was similar to the Weyerhaeuser’s new system.

In response to a question from Mr. Burwell regarding what the temperature of the effluent would be at the discharge point, Mr. Wright said 68 to 75 degrees.

In response to a question from Mr. Bumstead regarding how maintenance of the system would be assured, Mr. Gould said Coburg had committed to appropriately maintaining the new system. He added that DEQ would also require monthly reports.

IX. Siletz’s Tribe Cultural Resources in the McKenzie Watershed

Robert Kinta provided a presentation on the cultural resources of the tribe in the McKenzie area. He provided a history of the local tribal groups and language areas. He stressed the importance of the linguistic variation of the tribal groups signifying their cultural differences.

Mr. Kinta said the month of September would mark the 150th anniversary of the treaties that ceded the Willamette Valley to the United States. He said the cultures of the tribes had rules regarding the use of resources in their areas which took on physical manifestations such as burning meadows to maintain them. He added that there was a spiritual side as well and noted that the annual burning of the banks of the Rogue River was viewed as a signal for the Salmon run to begin. He said that the low intensity fires that periodically burned in the past were needed to propagate certain plant and insect communities.

Mr. Kinta said the McKenzie people had been significantly reduced by the time they were forced to reservations but noted that there some survivors who had never moved to the reservation.

Mr. Kinta stressed the importance of taking care of the watershed and noted that a lot of the Indian activities such as periodic burnings to clear land had made the local environment dependant on those activities. He said the result of not maintaining those activities could be seen in the area

today and added that low intensity fire were the only thing that allowed certain species to survive.

In response to a question from Ms. Fershweiler regarding trade in obsidian, Mr. Kinta said there were a number of sources in the area that could have provided trade goods. He said there were intricate trail systems and trade routes to a multitude of trade resource areas that were known to many tribal groups.

In response to a question from Mr. Thraikill regarding how active the tribes were in efforts of watershed councils, Mr. Kinta said the tribal groups were involved in a number of watershed councils and restoration efforts.

In response to a question from Mr Thraikill regarding how the confederated tribes would react to an invitation to be a stakeholder in MWC efforts, Mr. Kinta said the tribes' best effort was to make people aware of resource issues. He said it was unlikely to be able to accept membership on the watershed council.

Mr. Thompson suggested future cooperative efforts with the confederated tribes and the watershed council which could work to the benefit of both.

In response to a question from Mr Peterson regarding what percentage of the tribe was within the watershed area, Mr. Kinta said approximately 700 lived within the area.

X. Executive Committee Report

There was no report.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 10, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

(Recorded by Joe Sams)

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