

# MINUTES

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

July 10, 2003

5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** John Allen, Dorothy Anderson, Dana Burwell, Kurt Cox, Pat Gripp, Ryland Moore, Leroy Peterson, Charlene Phipps, Emily Rice, Wade Stampe, Betty Taylor, Pat Thompson (for Linda Mooney), John Woodrow, Members; Jim Thrailkill, John Runyon, Staff; Steve Wildish, Randy Hledik and others in the audience.

**ABSENT:** Brent Hefty, Tom Lininger, Bob Bumstead

## **I. AGENDA AND MATERIAL REVIEW**

Mr. Thrailkill convened the meeting. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Those present introduced themselves.

## **III. OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Thrailkill distributed the MWC draft council charter to those present. He said he had gone through the records and made the material more concise and comprehensive. He noted that everything in bold and or capital text was his input as to what needed to be included in a revised MWC charter and ground rules. He suggested members review the document and send him comments before July 31, 2003. He noted the non- profit organization would have its own by-laws and articles of incorporation.

Mr. Thrailkill said the McKenzie River Cleanup had gone well. He said several dozen people had participated and had covered the river from Ollalie to Hayden Bridge. He showed some of the photos taken at the event. He said there would be signage at boat landings that would direct people to pack their trash out of the parks.

## **IV. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DECISIONS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING**

There were no decisions made at the last meeting.

## **V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2003, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Moore noted a correction on page 2 he said he had been referring to the McKenzie River Trust rather than the McKenzie Watershed Council.

**THERE WAS COUNCIL CONSENSUS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

## **VI. A DON'T MISS SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Steve Wildish spoke as a representative of OCAPA. He said the organization especially respected those who made extraordinary efforts for the environment. He said this year the organization was recognizing someone outside of the aggregate industry. He presented an environmental stewardship award the McKenzie Watershed Council and John Runyon for his efforts in environmental restoration and collaboration at the McKenzie-Willamette Confluence.. He said it took a special person to step forward and coordinate efforts to help the environment. He thanked

Mr. Runyon for his efforts.

Mr. Runyon said he was honored to accept the award but stressed that he was accepting it on behalf of the entire confluence group.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

## **VIII. STAFF AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Thrailkill presented Leroy Peterson with parting gifts. He noted that Mr. Peterson had been with the council since its inception. He passed around an old issue of McKenzie Watershed newsletter with a photo of Mr. Peterson featured on the front page. He shared excerpts of Mr. Peterson's comments from archive minutes.

Mr. Peterson shared his memories of the first meeting of the council. He said the Watershed council was all about cooperating and listening to other's viewpoints.

Mr. Ziller said the air stocking of high lakes in his area had been completed. He said 471 lakes in total had been stocked; 51 of which were in the McKenzie drainage area.

Mr. Peterson thanked the council and expressed his appreciation of the work that had been done while he was a member.

Mr. Peterson said that new legislation had been signed into law that would allow natural resource conservation easements in watershed areas.

Mr. Burwell thanked the council for its efforts in the McKenzie River Cleanup.

Mr. Burwell said grants had been written to purchase special response trailers that would be furnished with water cleanup equipment in case of chemical spills into the river.

In response to a question from Ms. Rice regarding who funded the grants, Mr. Burwell said the Department of Justice had funded the grants.

Ms. Phipps expressed her pleasure in the success of the McKenzie River Cleanup.

Mr. Cox said he had recently been to Washington DC with some students and remarked that they had been appalled at the state of the rivers in that area.

Mr. McDowell said the Mohawk Watershed Council had done a clean up of McGowen Creek.

Mr. Stampe said water flows were dropping fast in the region. He said a lot of the flows were lower than they had been in the drought of 2001. He said water had been pulled from reservoirs to supplement the flow in the Willamette.

Mr. Allen said he had seen many salmon in the river and noted that they were very active. There was general discussion over the fact that fish became more active as water temperatures rose.

Mr. Allen said the region was 4-5 weeks ahead of schedule regarding fire danger. He said it had

been a busy week for search and rescue and noted there had been one fatality and 3 rescues in the past week.

Ms. Anderson said clean up and planting along the canal would be done by fall. She said FERC was concerned about the removal of stumps and possible bank destabilization. She said EWEB had met with citizens along the McKenzie to talk about projects along the river. She said the thing that was of major concern were the Leaburg Lake level raising.

Mr. Moore said June 30 officially purchased Green Island for \$1 million. By the McKenzie River Trust. He said there was no way the transaction would have been completed without the efforts of George Grier.

Ms. Rice said a restoration plan was being developed for the BLM boat landing on Deerhorn Road. She said she would get copies of the plan for members who desired them.

Mr. Thompson said there would be no meeting with the Mohawk watershed partnership in July.

Mr. Thrailkill said two OWEB grants for education and outreach that the council had been in the process of receiving were still tentative. He said the legislature was still working on OWEB's budget and he would let the council know the results. He said the grants were for education and outreach.

Mr. Thrailkill said the council had two proposals through the Mount Hood and Willamette resource advisory committees. He said one proposal was to replace a culvert on Simmons Creek near Blue River and the other was a collaborative grant with the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council to do a prioritization study of the rest of the culverts in the McKenzie River and Mid-Fork. BLM was likely going to cost-share some of this work.

Mr. Thrailkill said there would be a monthly column from the watershed council in *The River Reflection* newspaper. He said the name of the column would be "McKenzie Meanderings."

Mr. Thrailkill said part of the council work plan had been to replace boat landing signage graphics to show drift boats instead of motor boats. He said landings control by Bureau of Land Management, ODFW and Lane County Parks had motor boats pictured but were beyond the area designated by the State Marine Board for motorboats. He said the council needed to ask the Oregon Department of Transportation to change the signs and suggested that he write a letter that could be signed by the council.

## **IX. MCKENZIE WATERSHED MACROINVERTEBRATE MONITORING PROGRAM**

Mr. Thrailkill called attention to the Macro-Invertebrate Monitoring Program recommendations included in the meeting packet. He said the council needed to decide whether to endorse all of the recommendations or a portion of them. He outlined the history of the program and previous action the council had taken on that issue.

Mr. Thrailkill said three objectives had been outlined in the report and noted that a fourth had been added.

Mr. Thrailkill outlined the recommendations of the Water Quality Committee in the report and

called for council comments.

Mr. Ziller suggested doing work at sample sites before labor day the release of water from Cougar Reservoir.

In response to a question from Ms. Phipps regarding what would be done with the information in the report, Mr. Thrailkill said the data would be published in the newsletter and said it would be part of the role of the council to communicate the results to the local communities.

Mr. Burwell said the report needed to go past identifying problems and suggest implementation steps.

Mr. Allen said the Carmen Smith relicensing provided another opportunity to gather information since data on macro-invertebrates would be part of the relicensing effort.

Mr. Thrailkill summarized the following council suggestions:

- Synchronizing the sampling time to coincide with the management of Cougar Reservoir
- Look at including the relicensing process at Carmen Smith as a way of gathering more data
- Monitor intensively used sites more than others
- Interpretation of existing data for any implications.

**THE COUNCIL AGREED BY CONSENSUS IN APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ODFW, USFS, BLM AND MCKENZIE RIVER GUIDES SHOWING "2" INDICATING WILL BRING RESOURCES TO THE DECISION.**

**X. COUNCIL COORDINATION TRANSITION**

Mr. Thrailkill said he would be stepping down as council coordinator as of September 12, 2003. He noted that the meeting packet contained a job announcement with a description of the position and his proposal on how to hire a coordinator.

In response to a question from Mr. Burwell regarding whether Mr. Thrailkill would train his replacement. This would include a week of time in September, including a formal MWC meeting on Sept 11.

In response to a question from Ms. Taylor regarding who would do the hiring, Mr. Thrailkill said the executive committee of the council would do the hiring but added that it would be beneficial for as many members to participate in the hiring process as possible. He stressed that this would be a strictly watershed council action and he would not be participating past the time that he left the position.

Mr. Allen encouraged more council partners to participate in the selection besides the members of the executive committee. He suggested an additional two to three partners.

Mr. Woodrow and Mr. Ziller volunteered to be part of the selection process.

Mr. Thompson said he and Linda Mooney from the Mohawk Partnership would participate in the process.

**THE COUNCIL AGREED BY CONSENSUS TO ADOPT THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT, POSITION DESCRIPTION, HIRING TIMELINE, AND COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

**THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES: MR. ALLEN, MS. TAYLOR, MR. MCDOWELL, MR. WOODROW, MR. ZILLER, AND A REP. FROM THE MOHAWK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP. THE COMMITTEE IS EMPOWERED BY THE COUNCIL TO CREATE A SHORT LIST OF APPLICANTS, CONDUCT INTERVIEWS AND MAKE AN OFFER. DURING THIS PROCESS, THE FULL COUNCIL WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS, NAMES ON THE SHORT LIST, INTERVIEW SCHEDULE, AND NAME OF THE PERSON BEING OFFERED THE POSITION. AT ANY TIME, OTHER COUNCIL PARTNERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS.**

Mr. Thrailkill said the Northwest Power Planning Council and BPA were having a subbasin planning effort to help form recovery strategies for Spring Chinook Salmon. He said future BPA funds would help work towards those objectives and stressed the importance of the council being well versed in those objectives. He said the McKenzie Watershed would be a stand alone chapter in the subbasin planning effort. He said he had asked John Runyon to help with the process and data acquisition and said Mr. Runyon had agreed to help. He said it was important to the council future to be part of that process.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

It was noted that there would not be an August meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for September 11, 2003.

(Recorded by Joe Sams)

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