

# MINUTES

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

February 12, 2004  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** John Woodrow, Springfield City Council, facilitator; Ron Farmer (alternate), Eugene Water and Electric Board; Bob Bumstead, McKenzie Flyfishers; Dana Burwell, McKenzie River Guides Association; Kurt Cox, McKenzie Schools; Dave Kretzing (for Cheryl Friesen), Willamette National Forest; Pat Gripp, McKenzie Residents Association; Don Hampton, Lane County Board of Commissioners; Gene Highfill, McKenzie River Guides Association, Mike McDowell, Weyerhaeuser Company; Linda Mooney, Mohawk Watershed Partnership; Douglass Moser, At-large Stakeholder; Ralph Perkins, East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District; Charlene Phipps, McKenzie Residents Association; Emily Rice, Bureau of Land Management; Mike Running, McKenzie River Trust; Wade Stampe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Betty Taylor, Eugene City Council; Jeff Ziller, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Council Partners.

Megan Finnessy, Kate Ferschweiler, Juan Welsh; Staff

Guests: Fred Swanson, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station; Tina Nunez, University of Oregon graduate student; George Regas, U.S. Forest Service; Sally Nunn, staff for Representative Phil Barnhart; Sam Fox, University of Oregon; Karl Morgenstern, Eugene Water and Electric Board; Camille Morgenstern, student; Craig Patterson, resident.

## **1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS**

All those present introduced themselves.

Ms. Finnessy showed a short video from a recent television news report that featuring McKenzie Watershed Council staff planting trees in an alcove on Delta Sand & Gravel property at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers.

## **2. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF DECISIONS MADE AT LAST MEETING December 11, 2004 Minutes**

There were no objections or further discussion of decisions made at the last meeting.

The minutes of December 11, 2003, were approved, with a majority showing a consensus level of three.

## **3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Ferschweiler reported that she was working with Joseph Calbreath, KMTR-TV weatherman, on a watershed weather forecast program based on a similar program on the east coast. The program will focus

one week each month on Lane County watershed weather and provide an opportunity to educate the public about watershed concepts.

Ms. Ferschweiler announced two upcoming MWC workshops in March one for teachers and the other for landowners. The landowner workshop will concentrate on native and invasive plant species in riparian areas and be publicized through flyers, email list serve, and possibly advertisements in *McKenzie River Reflections* and the *Springfield News*.

Mr. McDowell noted the request for help with cold storage mentioned in the December minutes and said Weyerhaeuser had storage available, if it was required.

Ms. Taylor expressed concern about the removal of trees on a property in southeast Eugene near the headwaters of Amazon Creek in anticipation of site development. She said that property owners were permitted to log five trees per lot/per year and Southeast Neighbors were attempting to form a trust, but were interested in McKenzie River Trust taking over temporarily.

Mr. Bumstead commented that the Nature Conservancy was used in the 1980s to protect the Morse Ranch.

Mr. Running stated that the McKenzie River Trust had strict rules preventing it from operating within the City limits, but would like to discuss the issue further with Ms. Taylor.

Ms. Mooney announced that the Mohawk Watershed Partnership newsletter would be going to press the following week and encouraged members to submit articles and information.

Mr. Bumstead asked about the status of the Rosboro bridge and resident access. Ms. Gripp replied that no access was permitted because of the company's concerns about safety and liability issues.

There was a general discussion of other possible access points on the river and County parks that were abandoned or no longer maintained, such as the Carr property, Whitewater Park, and Deer Creek property.

Mr. Hampton asked members to email him about specific properties and he would check on the status.

Mr. Bumstead said the McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Partnership was a collaboration of Lane County Parks, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), and the Forest Service to maintain sites along the river. He suggested the Partnership might be able to help with maintenance of the park properties.

Mr. Burwell remarked that the McKenzie River Guides had begun maintenance of boat landings along the river before handing that project over to the Partnership.

Ms. Finnessy announced that the next meeting of the Partnership was on March 9, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Rice stated there were some deed restrictions on the site by Eagle Rock rapids, on the north side of the river, reserving it for use by senior citizens.

Mr. Burwell announced that he was resigning from the Council to work on a new watershed protection program and introduced Gene Highfill, who will be his replacement on the Council. Mr. Burwell's new responsibilities will involve coordinating a number of grants to enhance fire departments along the river and to purchase three new response trailers. He reported that the McKenzie River Guides' life jacket

program, which placed 200 life jackets in local stores for free loan to the public, had received recognition as an innovative safety program and is gearing up for 2004.

Mr. Kretzing said Ms. Friesen had asked him to report that she was working with other agencies to organize an open house to publicize watershed activities. The event is planned for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Interested Partners should contact Ms. Friesen for more details.

Mr. Running said there would be a tree planning on the Big Island Property on February 21, 2004 and invited members to participate. Mr. Welsh asked anyone who was interested to contact him.

Mr. Woodrow announced that at the annual retreat Douglass Moser and Michael Kerrick had been voted by consensus as the At-large Stakeholder Partners on the Council. He asked if there were any objections. Noting there were no objections, he welcomed Mr. Moser and Mr. Kerrick to the Council.

Karl Morgenstern, EWEB staff, notified the Council that a joint project with the Eugene, Springfield, Lane County, Lane Council of Governments, and EWEB had produced detailed aerial photographs of the McKenzie River and the metropolitan area. He said the orthorectified images would be available, but a price had not yet been determined.

#### **4. H.J. ANDREWS EXPERIMENTAL FOREST**

Fred Swanson, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, presented an overview of activities in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. Project partners of the Andrews Forest include: Willamette National Forest, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon State University, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Swanson said the core of the Andrews Forest science program consists of long-term ecological research that began in 1980 and is funded through the National Science Foundation. The central question considers how natural disturbance processes, land use (forestry, roads), and climate variability affect key ecosystem processes and properties such as biodiversity, carbon dynamics, nitrogen dynamics, and water.

Continuing, Mr. Swanson said the Andrews Forest was established in 1948 and comprised 16,000 acres within the Willamette National Forest. The facilities include a laboratory and office complex, bunkhouses, and a meeting space that accommodates 100 people, which the Council is encouraged to use. He said other special features included the world's largest experimental landslide facility and meteorological stations at different elevations.

Mr. Swanson described several elements of the work program, including management of young stand plantations, landscape management, the history of forest fires and other disturbances, hydrology, silviculture, morticulture, biodiversity, and the social sciences.

Mr. Running asked if research was done on the economic benefits of various stand management techniques. Mr. Swanson responded that research had primarily focused on the trade-offs between ecological objectives and wood quantity objectives.

Mr. Swanson illustrated the history of fires in the Pacific Northwest from 1400 to 2000 and described the landscape activity occurring within the context of the adaptive management area with the effects of various percentages of cutting being monitored. Other projects include a meadow restoration project, a road ecology study, experimental watershed and airsheds, and a recent collaboration between scientists and creative writers exploring the language used to think about restoration and our relationship to nature.

Responding to a question from the audience, Mr. Swanson said that some of the vegetation study sites were burned, such as those inside of the B & B complex, and since the fires additional plots have been included to look at vegetation succession. He said one of the values of long-term studies was having context when an event such as a fire or flood occurred.

Mr. Swanson said that tours of the Andrews Experimental Forest facilities could be arranged and asked Council members to let Ms. Finnessy know of their interest.

## **5. MWC FY04 BUDGET**

Ms. Finnessy presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Budget, October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, pointing out that the BLM local match of \$10,000 was still being negotiated. Ms. Ferschweiler's salary funding was explained.

Ms. Rice asked if any of the funds were in an interest bearing account. Ms. Finnessy said they were not.

Mr. Perkins commented that the State offered interest bearing accounts to certain organizations and suggested that Ms. Finnessy contact his office to see if the Council would qualify.

Mr. Running said he would like to see a comparison of the FY04 and FY03 budgets and asked if the other income sources shown in the budget were secure. Ms. Finnessy said they were.

Ms. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Mooney, moved to approve the FY04 budget. The motion passed with a consensus level of 3.

## **6. MWC FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Tina Nunez, University of Oregon graduate student, presented the concept of financial planning to the Council. Tina's graduate thesis is focused on financial planning for watershed councils with the intent of helping them increase organizational capacity, focus strategies, and achieve goals and objectives. Within the context of the presentation the terms "financial plan" and "business plan" were synonymous.

Ms. Nunez said that a business plan was a powerful tool for providing clarity and direction. A business plan can help the Council attract investments, identify risks and opportunities, measure outcomes, and build alliances. Business plans cover a specific period of time, typically three to five years, and should be updated periodically. Stakeholders should be involved in the development.

Ms. Nunez outlined several discussion topics related to development of a plan:

Where is the Council today and where does it want to go?

Identify the Council's strengths, weakness, threats, and opportunities.

Ensure understanding of the Council's mission and strategic vision.

How can the Council work with other watershed stakeholders in the development of the plan?

Ms. Nunez suggested the Council identify Partners interested in forming a subcommittee to work on the business plan development process.

Mr. Perkins supported the idea of a financial plan saying it would provide credibility with funding agencies, some of which require organizations to have a business plan in order to apply.

Mr. Stampe stated he did not want to see too much time spent on planning, rather than implementation of

watershed activities.

Ms. Rice said that while funding was currently stable, a business plan would help identify risks to traditional funding sources and assist the Council in determining whether capacity should be expanded.

Mr. Woodrow observed that at last year's retreat the Council had looked at alternatives to Bonneville Power Association (BPA) funding and decided that developing a business plan could help facilitate long-term sustainability.

Mr. Ziller commented that a plan would consolidate information and organize it in a useful manner.

Mr. Perkins remarked that funders wanted business plans to help identify long-term goals and provide focus and direction. He said that his organization had recently gone through the process of developing a plan and while it was difficult, the result was worth the effort.

Ms. Nunez stated that it was a unique opportunity for the Council to develop a business plan. She said she had reviewed existing documents, such as the Strategic Plan, and much of the work had already been done; developing a plan would include bringing all of the existing information together and quantifying goals.

Mr. Running said he supported development of a plan and that the McKenzie River Trust was also developing a business plan. He said a business plan would help present a story to funders, one that includes numbers. It was also pointed out that much of the work could be done in the subcommittee and brought back to the Council for consideration.

Mr. Farmer agreed that a plan was needed to take advantage of funding opportunities. He said that once the plan was completed it could be used to measure accountability and success.

Ms. Finnessy noted that Ms. Nunez would be available until June 2004 and could help the Council get a good start on developing its plan.

Mr. Perkins added that the U.S. Department of Agriculture sponsored workshops for water conservation districts and he would check to see if any assistance was available for watershed councils.

There was a consensus level of 3 to form a subcommittee for the business plan development process.

The Business Plan Subcommittee will consist of: Charlene Phipps Mike Running, John Woodrow, Tina Nunez and Megan Finnessy.

## **7. UPDATES ON MWC ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Finnessy reported that the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association (FOLLA) had requested a seat on the Council and suggested that a subcommittee be formed to review their request.

There was a consensus level of 3 to let the Executive Committee review the FOLLA request.

Ms. Finnessy noted that a statewide meeting of Oregon watershed councils was being held on February 26-27, 2004, and asked if there were any objections to her attendance. There were no objections.

Mr. Running expressed his interest in response to Ms. Finnessy's request for a Council member attendance.

Ms. Finnessy said that the Adopt-a-Highway application was being renewed and a date for a spring event would be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.  
(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)