

## **MINUTES**

McKenzie Watershed Council  
Water Board Park - Leaburg Lake - Shelter 4

September 11, 2003  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** John Allen, Dana Burwell, Kurt Cox, Pat Gripp, Ryland Moore, Charlene Phipps, Emily Rice, Wade Stampe, Betty Taylor, Pat Thompson, John Woodrow, Betty Taylor, Members; Jim Thraikill, John Runyon, Staff; Patrick Lanning, Marty Douglas, Gale Banry, Eugene Water and Electric Board; Dane Palmer, Jim Palmer, Ron Welch, Guests

**ABSENT:** Brent Hefty,

### **1. AGENDA AND MATERIAL REVIEW**

Mr. Thraikill convened the meeting. Those present introduced themselves. There were no changes to the agenda.

Mr. Thraikill distributed copies of the MWC and Mohawk watershed newsletters.

### **II. OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Thraikill thanked John Vaugner from Bonneville Power Administration for attending the meeting. He said he and Mr. Vaugner would be discussing MWC administration and budget items the following day.

### **III. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF DECISIONS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING**

There was no further discussion called for.

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

Mr. Thraikill said the council partners would review the work plan at the October meeting.

Mr. Thraikill said MWC T-shirts were now available to members and were on sale to others for \$10.

Cheryl said the B&B complex fire had slowed down due to the recent rain. She said it had currently covered approximately 100,000 acres. She said a team would make recommendations about public safety in the area that would be implemented in the next week. She stressed the

importance of maintaining public safety. She said summer residence homes in the area had been saved from the fire.

Kate Fershweiler distributed a report on salmon figures that had traversed Leaburg Dam. She said the number of marked salmon was 3,560. She said the salmon watch program would be starting up the following week and encouraged volunteers to get involved with the program.

Ms. Furshwiler said the annual macroinvertebrate collection was coming up. She said this year there would be collection and identification of species. She distributed flyers with dates and times of trainings.

Mr. Stampe said water storage would run out earlier than expected. He said a quarter of the water flow in the McKenzie was coming out of Blue River Reservoir.

Juan said 10 small OWEB projects had been funded that involved a number of different land owners. He said he would keep the council apprised as projects developed.

Mr. Moore provided an update on the Green Island Technical Team. He said the team was working on a procedure for restoring 500 acres of farm land on Green Island. He said he had no examples of outcomes yet but noted that memorandums of understanding were being signed to ensure that the restoration work would progress into the future.

## **V. LEABURG LAKE AREA PROJECTS**

Mr. Thrailkill introduced Judy Olsen of the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association requested MWC support on the following local issues:

- **Keeping Ike's Landing as a boat ramp**
- **Encouraging EWEB to use a third party in evaluating the need for a new boat ramp in Lloyd Knox park if the ramp at Ike's Pizza was to be discontinued.**
- **Encourage EWEB to create an ombudsman position to represent McKenzie residents served by that utility.**
- **Encourage EWEB to convene a panel consisting of one city councilor, one county commissioner, one EWEB board member, and three McKenzie River residents to conduct a feasibility study for creating a McKenzie River EWEB board position.**
- **Request that EWEB develop and present a new engineering study exploring alternative methods of creating additional power generation other than raising the level of Leaburg Lake.**
- **Encourage EWEB to show present costs and benefits of a lake raise versus buying energy off the power grid.**
- **Work with Leaburg Lake residents for independent mitigation activities.**
- **Improve existing old McKenzie Fish Hatchery/Chamber of Commerce by re-creating the fish hatchery as a visitor destination/information center with additional kiosks, video information, picnicking, hiking, and fishing.**
- **Support local resident's petition to the Oregon State Marine Board requesting only the use of electric motors only on Leaburg Lake.**

**Petition for intervener status with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in regard to issues of local concern.**

Judy Olsen thanked Mr. Thrailkill for facilitating the meeting and for having the meeting at Leaburg. She said the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association was just learning about the watershed council. She said her association had formed from people that had concerns about the Leaburg Lake area.

Ms. Olsen said part of the licensing projects had a proposed boat ramp. She said EWEB had previously suggested putting a new boat ramp near Water Board Park. She said the association had concerns about this because of traffic congestion and adverse impacts of extra that extra traffic. She said the association was asking for MWC support in promoting use of the boat ramp near Ike=s Pizza on Highway 126. She remarked that a lower speed limit in that spot would make that boat ramp even more usable. She said if a new boat ramp were to be constructed in any event then independent opinions should be sought as to its possible location. She requested the input from the council on that matter.

Ms. Olsen noted that the Leaburg area had no representation at the board level with Eugene Water and Electric Board. She stressed that EWEB decisions impacted the Leaburg area and suggested creating an ombudsman position on the EWEB board or forming a group of people from the area combined with EWEB staff and look at the possibility of getting a new board member at EWEB. She noted that this would take a change in the EWEB charter and asked for MWC support for these ideas.

Regarding the potential raising of the level of the lake, Ms. Olsen stressed that this would impact the quality of life in the area for people as well as animals in the area. She remarked that she was unaware of any studies that had been done to show the effects of a raised water level in the lake. She stressed the importance of examining other alternatives as well as having a feasible plan before doing anything with the water level of the lake. She asked that the MWC do mitigation work if the level of the lake were indeed raised. She said an independent appraisal of impacts of raised water levels would be valuable.

Ms. Olsen said the association was in favor of only allowing electric motors on the lake. She raised concern over wildlife and erosion impacts from gas engines used on the lake. She noted that a request had been sent in to the Oregon State Marine Board.

Ms. Olsen asked for MWC to be interveners with FERC. She noted that it may be too late but noted that the time to intervene would be when new projects were applied for. She said intervenor status would mean information updates on new developments and recognition of interveners.

Dane Palmer said EWEB had already spent millions of dollars on Leaburg Dam without any idea of how those dollars would affect generation. He said local residents did not want money but wanted the impacts to their own property mitigated.

In response to a question from Mr. Moore regarding the boat ramp and reasoning behind a boat ramp at Leaburg, Ms. Olsen said she did not know the reason. Gale Banry, of EWEB, said there had been concern over traffic at the landing near Ike=s Pizza. He noted that the Historic nature of the Goodpasture Bridge was a factor and said that any new landing would require a public process.

In response to a question regarding the latest information on the potential raising of the lake, Marty Douglas of EWEB said testing needed to be done to get a true reading of what level was needed. He said the testing would need to see various levels of the lake. He noted that the equipment had to be installed before the testing could begin. He said the testing was not currently being proposed before 2005. He said no level changes would actually take effect before 2006. He said some assessments had been done for lake level changes but nothing definitive could be done before the testing took place.

Ms. Olsen reiterated her desire to see more engineering tests done before any water level changes.

Mr. Banry noted that EWEB was not trying to increase generation but was trying to reach levels that were usual before the fish screen construction had been done. He said there had been engineering studies that had shown that the lake could be raised 12 to 18 inches. He reiterated that EWEB was trying to reach 2500 CFS which had previously been the normal amount of generation.

Ms. Olsen reiterated her desire for independent studies to be done. She said there was a local lack of confidence that EWEB could get the project completed effectively.

Mr. Palmer stressed that even five or six inches of increased water level would have serious impacts on local residents. He cited a recent level raise and noted those impacts.

Mr. Thrailkill called for a decision from council partners. He said the decision would take place on items 4-10 of the association list. He recommended that the council vote to consider the items at a later date when more information on the individual topics had been gathered.

Commissioner Lanning of EWEB said he was there to take notes and was not filling in for Commissioner Anderson who was a voting member.

In response to a question from Ms. Olsen regarding what would happen if there was not vote that evening, Mr. Thrailkill said the council would gather information and vote at a future meeting.

Ms. Rice moved to use Mr. Thrailkill's recommendation seconded by Mr. Woodrow. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Burwell showed fours while the remainder showed a general consensus of threes.

Regarding Item 1c, Mr. Thrailkill called for a consensus vote, there was general consensus to ask ODOT for an evaluation of lowering of speed limit.

Mr. Burwell remarked that ODOT would not consider lowering the speed limit. He said the request had been made before and there had been no progress. Mr. Burwell showed a four which meant he had reservations but would not block the vote.

In response to a question from Mr. Woodrow regarding whether the MWC had the resources to conduct a survey about a new boat ramp.

Mr. Banry noted that the re-licensing agreement had an option for no boat ramp at all.

Ms. Olsen said there should be a survey to see if a boat ramp on the stretch of the river was needed at all.

Mr. Burwell noted that the state Marine Board had identified a new boat ramp as a high priority.

Cheryl ? said the council had already been asked to a boat ramp study and had already written an evaluation of alternative sites. She said she was not willing to spend funds to do another study.

Mr. Douglas said EWEB intended to involve as much public participation as possible in its own assessment. He said no boat ramp remained an option but noted that this case would have to be made to FERC.

There was general consensus to table the item until EWEB had gone through its process. Mr. Burwell showed a two and Mr. Moore showed a four. Ms. Phipps showed a four.

Mr. Burwell stressed the importance of making MWC data available to EWEB during its assessment process.

Regarding the request for an ombudsman position at the EWEB board level. There was general consensus to start the process which would include the council and Leaburg association. Mr. Moore showed a two.

Regarding the request that the friends association was included in the hatchery group, there was general consensus.

## **VI. UPDATES ON MWC ADMINISTRATION**

Members presented Mr. Thraikill with a gift of appreciation for his work as council coordinator. Ms. Rice read a letter from John Allen thanking Mr. Thraikill. Mr. Thraikill said the MWC had accomplished a lot and said he had only been along for the ride. He thanked the council for its activity.

Mr. Thraikill noted that the meeting packet included a budget update, work plan, and non-profit bylaws.

Mr. Thraikill introduced Megan Finnessy who would be the new council coordinator.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.  
(Recorded by Joe Sams)