

MINUTES

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

March 11, 2004
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Betty Taylor, Eugene City Council, Facilitator; John Woodrow, Springfield City Council; Dorothy Anderson, Eugene Water and Electric Board; Glen Love, McKenzie Flyfishers; Dana Burwell, McKenzie River Guides Association; Kurt Cox, McKenzie Schools; 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; Mike Kerrick, Douglass Moser, At-large Stakeholder; Will Bondioli, 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; Jeff Ziller, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; John Lilly, Oregon Department of State Lands; Jack Harris, City of Coburg; Council Partners.

Megan Finnessy, Kate Ferschweiler, John Runyon, Juan Welsh; Staff

Guests: Dana Burwell, McKenzie Guides Association (alternate); Sally Nunn, staff for Representative Phil Barnhart; Carol Heinkel, Jeff Krueger, Lane Council of Governments; Chuck Davis, Springfield Utility Board; Carol Ach, Institute for Regenerative Agroforestry; Jared Weybright, Mohawk Partnership Coordinator; Craig Patterson, resident; Andy Grimore, resident; Jake Risley, Lane County Parks; guests.

1. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Taylor convened the meeting at 5:40 pm. There were no changes to the agenda. Those present introduced themselves.

2. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF DECISIONS MADE AT LAST MEETING

January 31, 2004 and February 12, 2004 Minutes

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

The minutes of January 31, 2004 and February 12, 2004, were approved, with a majority showing a consensus level of three.

3. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Finnessy expressed appreciation to the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) for financial assistance in acquiring geographic information systems (GIS) software and training her to use the software. She added that data entry was being done by a University of Oregon (UO) intern. She noted that the software would enable MWC to produce its own maps and provide a tool to enable staff to better communicate with the public, as well as funders.

Ms. Finnessy provided an update on Cedar Creek issues. She reported that an intern, with the help of Mike Mattick, was developing a map of water permit holders that would provide a list of the key stakeholders in the Cedar Creek area.

Ms. Finnessy reported that the MWC was very busy, and everything was going well.

Ms. Ferschweiler reported she recently presented a two-day teacher workshop attended by twenty-two people. The first day focused on watershed education tools; while the second day was comprised of a field trip throughout the watershed. The next workshop, scheduled for March 13, would be a landowner workshop, featuring Bruce Newhouse as the speaker.

Mr. Welsh reported that he was wrapping up the bulk of the planting project. He noted that 8,000 native trees and shrubs were planted at 15 sites. He said several grant proposals were in process for submission this spring to OWEB and BLM. He also described the projects scheduled for completion this summer. Mr. Welsh noted that the Green Island Technical Team was meeting March 16 to develop a long term restoration management plan.

Mr. Highfill reported on a spill incident in the Dexter area. He said the automated emergency incident notification was not used, resulting in a delay in responding to the spill. A brief discussion on how the system worked followed.

Ms. Mooney announced that the Mohawk Watershed Partnership (MWP) newsletter was distributed in early March. She also noted that the MWP would hold their annual retreat in April.

Mr. Kerrick said he was pleased to be a new member of the MWC and that though we will miss upcoming meetings due to travel plans he is committed to being a member of the council.

Mr. Cox reported that that a McKenzie School District staff member that attended the recent MWC workshop found the workshop to be very worthwhile.

Mr. Running reported that John Craft from Willamalane Park and Recreation District was leading an effort to dismantle a large homeless encampment in the riparian area along the McKenzie River.

Ms. Friesen reported that the McKenzie Watershed Open House would be held at the Walterville Community Center, featuring displays from nine partner organizations on Saturday, April 3rd.

Mr. Woodrow reported that the City of Springfield passed a resolution to file for the stormwater permit with the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Mr. Love reported on an article entitled, *As the West Goes Dry*, featured in a recent edition *Science Magazine*. At his request, Ms. Finnessey agreed to copy the article and circulate to MWC members.

Mr. Lilly reviewed the role of the Department of State Lands for the benefit of new members on the MWC. He said the Department served two roles, the first as the manager of public land, and the second as an environmental regulator. He added that the agency was asked to be a MWC partner at the inception of the MWC.

Ms. Gripp reported on the status of a new development upriver that included a pizza parlor, a real estate office, and a property caretaker. She circulated a copy of the weekly newspaper *River Reflections*, highlighting a quote by Lady Margaret Thatcher.

Mr. Hampton reported on the Matthews home. He said that the work to prevent debris from falling into and contaminating the river was a good example of private/public sector working together. He said John Brown, a local realtor, organized drift boats and jet boats to retrieve debris; SaniPac removed the debris from the property and Lane County waived the dump fees. He added that he, Commissioner Bill Dwyer and he made monetary contributions to cover the costs so the family did not have to pay the demolition costs.

4. LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Region 2050 Planning

Ms. Heinkel showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Region 2050 Planning draft, noting that it was a voluntary collaborative effort initiated by the City Councils and the Lane County Board of Commissioners in the southern Willamette Valley. She said the goal was to sustain and improve quality of life in the southern Willamette Valley. The project centered around the Eugene/Springfield area surrounded by eight small cities and fifteen rural communities, covering 1,000 square miles, inhabited by 350,000 people.

Ms. Heinkel explained how the various growth scenarios had been developed since the inception of the study in 1999. She added that all of information was on the Region 2050 website. She said the draft Region 2050 Plan would be presented to the Region 2050 policy advisory board on March 31.

Rivers to Ridges

Mr. Krueger showed a PowerPoint representation on the Rivers to Ridges program initiated in 1999 by the Lane County Board of Commissioners. He provided a brief history of the project that was cooperatively funded by the City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane County and Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and endorsed by the McKenzie River Trust, the Lane County Parks Advisory Committee, the Long Tom Watershed Council and others. He described the planning framework and the seven guiding principles for the project and noted the goal of the project was to create a park and open space vision for the region. He concluded saying that the vision would be implemented through a collaborative effort of many groups including the McKenzie River Trust, the BLM and USFWS.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Rice said Dana Burwell was leaving the MWC.

Jim Thrailkill, a McKenzie Watershed resident, past MWC coordinator, and current Board member of the McKenzie River Trust, highlighted Mr. Burwell's accomplishments as a member of the MWC and the community in general. Ms. Rice read a poem written by Bob Bumstead in Mr. Burwell's honor. Ms. Finnessy presented Mr. Burwell with a framed print depicting the 1995 Oregon Trout Stamp.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Following the break, Ms. Heinkel and Mr. Krueger responded to questions about their earlier presentations.

In response to Mr. Running's question regarding how the processes regarding impervious surface runoff issues were being coordinated between the Region 2050 Plan and the Rivers to Ridges Plan, Mr. Krueger replied that he and Ms. Heinkel were coordinating efforts.

In response to Ms. Friesen's question regarding how this work meshed with the work of the Willamette Basin Futures Project and the Centers for Wildlife, Mr. Krueger responded that LCOG staff member Steve Gordon was lead on that project.

In response to Ms. Gripp's question regarding whether there was a connection between the Pacific Crest to Mt. Pisgah, Mr. Krueger replied that the work was not quite completed.

7. MCKENZE RIVER COOPERATIVE MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Jake Risely distributed a handout entitled, *McKenzie River Cooperative Maintenance Plan May, 1992*. He reviewed the information in the handout and provided an overview of the history of the project, which provided a framework for coordinating the various maintenance activities for 55 recreation sites along the McKenzie River and its tributaries managed by six different agencies. He added that a primary challenge was to identify funding for capital improvements.

8. CONFLUENCE STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE WILLAMETTE SUBBASIN PLANNING/EDT UPDATE

Mr. Runyon explained his roles with the MWC, one as the staff and facilitator for the McKenzie Willamette Confluence Steering Committee and the second as the at-large staff project manager.

Mr. Runyon reported that the McKenzie Willamette Confluence Steering Committee spent the last couple of years going through a planning process and were beginning implementation. He described various projects including creation of a back-water alcove created at the Delta Sand and Gravel Company site on a side channel of the Willamette River which is being monitored for fish use; habitat enhancement on Green Island in collaboration with the McKenzie River Trust; and studying the impacts of Wildish Sand and Gravel's relocation of operations to the north bank of the river. Mr. Runyon distributed two photographs, one from 1943 and one from 2000 that illustrated the changes in the river over that period of time. He noted that a lot of habitat had been lost over time, although some new opportunities had been designed for habitat restoration.

Mr. Runyon reported on the Willamette Subbasin Plan, which was a comprehensive planning process for fish and wildlife restoration throughout the Willamette Valley. He said the McKenzie and Clackamas watersheds had been chosen for detailed habitat analysis called ecosystem diagnosis because of the importance to salmon.

Mr. Runyon explained the grant funding process for these projects. He said the draft report was due May 28, 2004.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Taylor reported that the Executive Committee had met on February 17th. She said the Friends of Leaburg Lake wanted to become members of the MWC and that the Committee decided to reevaluate the request in six months.

Ms. Taylor said the newsletter distribution was being evaluated. Ms. Finnessy added that over 6,000 newsletters currently were printed and an effort would be made to better target newsletter recipients.

Ms. Taylor reported that the Executive Committee discussed having an awards dinner in 2005, and solicited feedback from MWC members.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Executive Committee had completed Ms. Finnessy's performance evaluation and noted that the Committee was pleased with her work.

10. BUSINESS PLAN COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Phipps reported that the committee had met with a UO student who will help them develop a business plan for the MWC. She noted that six key decision elements had been identified. The draft plan would be presented to the MWC at a future meeting.

11. UPDATES ON MWC ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Finnessy reported on various future events.

March 13	Landowner native plant workshop
April 3	Restoration Projects Open House
April 17	Adopt-A-Highway
May 22	Down by the Riverside
June 26	Annual river cleanup

Ms. Finnessy said the MWC was behind in its Adopt-A-Highway duties and asked for volunteers for the upcoming April 17th event.

Ms. Finnessey said EWEB and Peace Health would be agenda items for the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
(Recorded by Linda Henry)