

MINUTES

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

January 9, 2003
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Pat Gripp, Facilitator; John Allen, Bob Bumstead, George Greer, (*for Ryland Moore*), Mike McDowell, Leroy Peterson, Emily Rice, Wade Stampe, Betty Taylor, Pat Thompson, John Woodrow, Jeff Ziller, Members; Jim Thraikill, Council Coordinator; Sally Nunn, Tim Shinabarger, Chuck Gottfried, Nancy Holzhauser, Carol Ach, Jason Seals, Kelly Reis, Andy Gilmore, Gary Gripp, Karl Morganstern, Ray Rivera, Tim Wright, Guests

ABSENT: Dorothy Anderson, John Lilly, Dana Burwell, Ryland Moore,

1. Agenda and Material Review

Ms. Gripp convened the meeting.

2. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

3. Opening Remarks

Mr. Thraikill welcomed members to the meeting. Mr. Thraikill asked Mr. Bumstead to outline the consensus decision process to refresh everyone. Mr. Bumstead outlined the process for consensus on votes taken by the council.

Mr. Thraikill distributed a report on long term monitoring trends in the watershed.

Mr. Thraikill noted that funds had been allocated from lottery funds to do watershed restoration work. He said there was a board to review small grants, (\$10,000 each), and noted that there was \$100,000 to spend. He said 10 grants had been proposed in the McKenzie area. He said each watershed council was only allowed to submit 10 grants and noted that no other watersheds had submitted any proposals to date.

In response to a question from Mr. Greer regarding who could apply for the grants, Mr. Thraikill said anyone could apply for the grants and reiterated that watershed councils were limited to 10 grant proposals. However, to date, not all of the funds had been expended, so that it was likely that these funds would be released and the 10 limit guideline removed.

Mr. Thraikill said the McKenzie Arts Festival had been held in October. He noted that one of the venues at the arts festival was a 25 foot fish that had murals of watersheds inside that the MWC had sponsored..

Mr. Thraikill took an opportunity to recognize members who had participated in the delegation from Borneo and the presentation to that group. He also thanked Jeff Ziller for help in assessing

different projects and John Allen for helping staff the arts festival.

4. Further Discussion of Decisions Made at the Last Meeting

There was no further discussion.

5. Approve the November 14, 2002 Meeting Minutes

There was general consensus to approve the minutes of November 14, 2002.

6. Public Comment

Karl Morgenstern, EWEB, said he had been working on mapping the slow moving water areas in the river and complimented that Weyerhaeuser had loaned them a helicopter to map those areas and take some ariel photos so that any spills that made it to the river could be better addressed.

7. Staff and Council Partner Announcements

Mr. Bumstead reported on Salmon Watch. He said 960 students had attended field trips to the river. He said it was very successful season and expressed his pleasure with the number of students who had been educated on the needs of wild fish.

Mr. Lininger said the Board of Commissioners had confirmed the status of a new watershed council. The new council was called The Coast Fork Watershed Council. He said there was board interest in balancing interests in the riparian health of the river and said he would welcome input from members on how this could be done.

Mr. Greer, representing the McKenzie River Trust, announced that the trust had acquired a 47 acre holding near White Ranch Creek. He said the property had the beginnings of the creek on it. He noted that there were Goshawk and Perigrine Falcons on the property.

Mr. Greer the trust had been working with the land owners of Wayside Island and volunteers to do habitat assessment. He said the work was near completion.

Mr. Greer reported that there had been a major transaction, which had been a line item in BPA funding, to acquire habitat that would allow 1300 acres to go into conservation status. He said this would have a significant impact in the confluence area. He noted that the ownership was very complex but added that the owners were very excited to be working with the trust. He said Mr. Thrailkill had been working with the family to help them visualize what the transaction would mean. He stressed the importance of council members helping to find funding for the project.

In response to a question from Mr. Lininger regarding the nature of the support the council could give, Mr. Greer said a letter of support from the council was what was desired. Mr. Thrailkill noted that another form of support would be to have the MWC named on the grant proposal.

Mr. Bumstead said the transaction would be the key piece for restoration work in the confluence area. He stressed the importance of all the council members to do everything they could to help the process.

Mr. Ziller introduced Kelly Ries and Jason Seals who were now working on his staff. He noted that Ms. Reis would be his alternate member on the MWC.

Mr. Ziller said he would soon have data on the timing of Cutthroat Trout spawning in the basin which had heretofore been unavailable.

Mr. Allen noted that there had been a log spanning the river. He said the log had shifted with the recent higher flows and there was now 30 feet of clearance.

Mr. Allen said there would be some work to improve boat launches along the McKenzie.

Mr. Allen reported that the Oregon Department of Transportation would be re-paving the McKenzie Highway above Finn Rock. He said there would be significant traffic delays during the summer months.

Ms. Rice said the Cedar Flats timber sale had not come to fruition because of a rare lichen but noted that the 79th Street thinning had taken place.

Mr. McDowell said the Oregon Water Resources Board had gages that would be operating on the river in 2003.

Mr. Thrailkill said Wildish and Delta Sand and Gravel had given funds to continue work in the confluence area.

Mr. Thrailkill reported that there would be a consolidation of three districts of the Oregon Department of Forestry. He said Clackamus/Marion, Lynn, and East Lane would be combined to form one district called the Cascade District. He noted that Paul Bell would be the district forester for the new district. He added that there would be positions lost but said he still did not know what those positions would be.

Mr. Thrailkill said the Eugene Springfield Oregon Metropolitan Waterways Project Report was now available. He said the report looked at flood control and restoration efforts in Oregon waterways. He said one of the projects mentioned was Cedar Creek.

Mr. Thrailkill said the City of Coburg would be at the February meeting to discuss their new sewage treatment plant. He noted that the current plan for the plan was for it to drain effluent directly south into the McKenzie River.

Mr. Thrailkill said in the March meeting there would be a discussion of public access to Oregon's waterways particularly on the McKenzie River. He noted that the April meeting would have a presentations on the South Sister bulge and watershed restoration strategies "Siletz?" Tribe.

8. McKenzie Watershed Bull Trout: Population Status and Recovery

Jeff Ziller and Ray Rivera provided a presentation on the status of Bull Trout recovery in the McKenzie River.

The presentation included a history of the area, background information on the Bull Trout, efforts in restoration to date, and distribution of Bull Trout in the Willamette Basin.

Mr. Rivera outlined the recovery plan. He said it had taken some litigation to get the plan started. He said the recovery plan represented the US Fish and Wildlife Services plan of actions necessary for recovery of the Bull Trout. He outlined the components of a recovery plan. He said the goal of the plan was to attain population health and long term stability of Bull Trout and their habitat in the Upper Willamette Basin.

In response to a question from Mr. Greer regarding how Salmon spawning overlapped Bull Trout spawning, Mr. Ziller said they overlapped almost perfectly. (At the same time)

In response to a question from Mr. Greer regarding whether there had been any Bull Trout spotted above the confluence area of the Willamette River, Mr. Ziller said they had not.

Mr. Rivera noted that the recovery plans were advisory only and carried no regulatory authority.

Mr. Rivera said the limitations to the plan were its feasibility and the lack of available funding.

Mr. Thrailkill called attention to a handout which talked about the obligations of non federal entities in the recovery process.

Mr. Ziller said that Bull Trout had been recorded spawning in Sweetwater Creek for the last three years. He noted that angling regulations had been changed. As an example he cited a Ad fin-clipped harvest only rule. He said this rule had been implemented in a number of locations and the Bull Trout were responding well.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson regarding whether there had been any recovery efforts in Black Creek, Mr. Ziller said the only work had been temperature related and noted that there was hope for recovery efforts in that area in the future.

9. Implications of BPA Funding Shortfalls - McKenzie Watershed Council Fiscal Status for FY03

Ms. Rice, and Mr. Bumstead, left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Thrailkill distributed notes on the council budget for the upcoming year. He said the council needed to come to a decision on a temporary budget.

Mr. Thrailkill said the BPA had been providing funding to the council since 1996. Showing the adopted original budget from October, Mr. Thrailkill said that budget had assumed that Bonneville would be providing funding for the next three years. He said that Bonneville had recently backed out on its funding for 2003 contracts because it was having budget troubles.

Mr. Thrailkill said there was another review process that Bonneville was going through to reprioritize funding projects. He said the outcome of that process would be known in March. He said council bills had been paid from reserves and local match. He added that Bonneville would honor a short term contract with the council until March. He noted that Bonneville had said it may still honor its 2003 contract but expressed reservations about depending on that promise.

Mr. Thrailkill said the executive committee had met in December. He said one of their first

questions was how much it would take to continue core business, (priority projects), during the year. He said the executive committee had come up with a list that was adopted for core services.

Mr. Thrailkill said the council needed to approve the budget outlined by the executive committee. He said the objective was to be proactive in saving money in case the Bonneville funding were not allocated to the council. He stressed that the loss of BPA funding would not be a total disaster to the council and that there were other funding opportunities. He expressed confidence that the BPA funding would ultimately come through but said that he could not guarantee that it would.

In response to a question from Mr. Woodrow regarding regular budget updates, Mr. Thrailkill said he would provide updates at each meeting even though there was a request for approval of a three month temporary budget.

In response to a question from Mr. Greer regarding investigating non profit status, Mr. Thrailkill said the council decision was to get the decision made and then make a decision regarding continuing to retain Cascade Pacific for bookkeeping.

Mr. Thrailkill commented that grant funds for coordination and education would disappear in the near future. He said the council needed to continue to make the transition to project management, restoration planning, and working with grants from a non profit status.

**COUNCIL PARTNERS AGREED BY CONSENSUS TO ADOPT THE
TEMPORARY BUDGET AS PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE.**

Mr. Thrailkill informed the Council of the upcoming annual retreat. He said the first half of the retreat would be to prioritize what projects to conduct under the new temporary budget. He said the second half of the retreat would be a facilitated session for self evaluation of the council.

10. Executive Committee Report

There was no report.

The next meeting, (The Council Retreat), was scheduled for January 18, at 9 a.m. The next regular council meeting was scheduled for February 13, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

(Recorded by Joe Sams)

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