

# MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council  
EWEB – Conference Room

May 13, 2004  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Dorothy Anderson, Dana Burwell, Doug Brooke, Kurt Cox, Cheryl Friesen, Pat Gripp, John Lilly, Charlene Phipps, Mike McDowell, Linda Mooney, Douglass Moser, Ralph Perkins, Mike Running, John Woodrow, Jeff Ziller, Partners;

Megan Finnessy, Council Coordinator; Juan Welsh, Project Manager; Kate Ferschweiler, Education Coordinator, Staff

Gale Banry, Marty Douglass and Karl Morgenstern, EWEB, Will Bondioli, East Lane Soil & Water Conservation District (alternate); Carol Ach, Institute for Regenerative Agroforestry; Jake Risley, Lane County Parks, Julie Baxter, Intern; Craig Patterson, resident, Andy Whipple; Guests.

## **I. REVIEW AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

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

The April minutes were approved by general consensus.

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

Ms. Finnessy noted that David Evans and Associates had sent two sets of River Bend Hospital site plans and asked any comments regarding the landscaping plans to be sent to her directly.

Ms. Finnessy said May 22 was the “Down by the Riverside” event. She said there would be both a clean up at Leaburg Hatchery and a trail maintenance project conducted at Ben and Kay Doris County Park.

Ms. Finnessy thanked the McKenzie Guides Association for their local match of funds to pay for the 2004 Education Scholarship.

Mr. Burwell reported that the annual life jacket program was up and running, noting that businesses were running low on life jackets; at least 50 more are needed.

Mr. McDowell said he had coordinated additional security within parks along the McKenzie in collaboration with the Security Partnership. He said all the boat ramps below Vida would be checked by Weyerhaeuser security.

Ms. Mooney said the Mohawk Watershed Partnership was having it's annual meeting at Shotgun Park on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 7 – 9 p.m. She said board elections would also be held at this event.

Mr. Running said that there would be a tour of Green Island on June 15, 2004.

Ms. Friesen said a new District Ranger had been hired and would start on June 30. She said the new Ranger had a strong recreation and wilderness background. Ms. Friesen also noted that the Forest Service had not conducted an old growth harvest clear cut, commenting that it was a partial harvest and not a clear cut. She invited members to tour the area.

Mr. Brooke said there had been a wetland mitigation project recently completed at Hynix.

Ms. Gripp said she had recently received two notices: one was a proposal to change zoning on 30 + acres to natural resource land and the second was a notice for replacement of an existing building.

Mr. Cox said there was a new track under construction at the McKenzie School District and noted that native plants would be used as much as possible.

David Monk, Oregon Toxics Alliance, asked the council to review the Coburg Power Plant proposal. He said the project would have a major impact on the river and expressed a hope that the council would take a position on the matter. Ms. Finnessy added that Gary Marcus would provide a presentation on the power plant at the June meeting.

Mr. Welsh confirmed that there would be a restoration site tour on June 15 that would tour Green Island. He said completed projects and future projects would also be shown on the tour. Mr. Welsh also noted that the McGowan Creek restoration project was moving forward as planned.

#### **IV. EWEB UPDATE**

##### **Carmen Smith Relicensing**

Marty Douglass and Gale Banry provided a presentation on the relicensing project. Marty also noted that monthly meetings had resumed at the Vida community center. He said the meetings would provide updates to the public and establish dialog about EWEB projects with community residents.

Mr. Banry showed overhead projections of the Carmen-Smith Dam and Diversion. He outlined how the system worked and commented that the system to allow salmon spawning was operating well. Mr. Banry outlined the relicensing schedule from 2003 – 2008, commenting that the application was due November 2006. He noted that the process had several opportunities for public comment.

In response to a question from Mr. Running regarding the location of the impact studies, Mr. Banry said there would be a broad range of studies both above and below the project.

##### **Leaburg Construction**

Mr. Douglass said a mailer would be sent to Leaburg residents to update them on the planned summer construction. He said there would be periodic dam closures and expressed a hope that better

communication would occur in the upcoming season. Mr. Douglass said EWEB had worked hard to minimize the disruption to residents' lives during construction.

Mr. Douglass said Leaburg residents were advocating for formal voting membership on the EWEB Board of Commissioners. He said there were legal reasons for Board opposition in that EWEB was a municipal utility and could not have voting membership from outside the City of Eugene. He said the Board had agreed to conduct a couple of meetings in the Leaburg area to improve communication.

Mr. Banry outlined the following construction projects at Leaburg Dam:

- Leaburg Dam roll gates and other gates repair
- Fish screen modifications
- Turbine /Generator rehabilitation or replacement
- Tailrace Barrier
- Leaburg Automation
- Adjustments to Walterville Structures Built in 2002

Mr. Banry said the lake elevation changes would wait until all the generator work had been completed. He noted that residents were in favor of not raising the water level any more than was necessary. He said tests would be done in 2005 to see what the necessary water level would be for the new generators and that the raising of the lake decision was projected for 2006.

In response to a question from Mr. Burwell regarding the Walterville tail race, Mr. Banry replied that the design of the adjustable tailrace called for a 36 inch height as a velocity barrier and that had been set at 30 inches. He added that the barrier had not been working as it was designed, which is why salmon are now seen above the barrier. He noted that the barrier had also increased the amount of flooding on a property upstream.

In response to a question from Mr. Burwell regarding when the Leaburg Canal would be refilled, Mr. Banry said it would depend on when the generator work was done.

## **V. COUNCIL RESTORATION PROJECTS PROGRAM**

Mr. Welsh provided a power point presentation on current council projects. He outlined the focus of the projects program:

- Riparian work
- Culvert designs
- Collaboration with the McKenzie River Trust
- Grant Writing/ Reporting
- Staffing /Funding
- Future Direction

Mr. Welsh stressed the importance of having a salaried staff person working on projects, noting the salary could be used for local match requirements with potential funding sources.

Mr. Running commented that ongoing funding of a project coordinator position might have to occur through project grants.

In response to a question from Mr. Running regarding whom was ultimately responsible for accepting new projects, Mr. Welsh said he was responsible for riparian projects but noted that larger scope projects were the purview of the council's technical team. Mr. Welsh commented that there would soon need to be a method to screen new projects.

Mr. Welsh showed photos of private land sites where project work had been conducted.

In response to a question from Mr. Burwell regarding whether there was any work done on community education; Mr. Welsh said that outreach had been conducted. He stressed that the private landowners had volunteered their involvement with the restoration projects.

Regarding cutting down invasive vegetation before restoration work, Mr. McDowell noted that there were chemicals approved for riparian areas that could quickly bring down existing vegetation.

Mr. Welsh noted that grant funders were hesitant to fund projects that proposed using chemicals, but that he worked with landowners on a case-by-case basis regarding this issue.

Mr. Welsh stressed the need to diversify funding for projects. He noted that 90 percent of current projects were OWEB funded.

## **VI. WATER QUALITY – A CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVE**

Craig Patterson provided a presentation on water quality within the McKenzie Watershed. He cited EPA documentation that said the McKenzie was the cleanest river in Oregon and possibly in the United States.

Mr. Patterson said his main concern for the McKenzie was the use of chemicals. He cited numerous dangerous chemicals that were produced in the world. He said 80 to 85 percent of cancer in the United States was related to environmental factors. He stressed the difficulty of testing streams and rivers since the methods employed would determine the results of the tests.

Mr. Patterson commented that he had not heard the council discuss the potential threat of chemicals to the watershed and encouraged the council to do so.

Citing the drinking water protection report from 2003, Mr. Patterson said the greatest threats to drinking water were storm water runoff, forest management practices, and chemical use.

Mr. Burwell commented that the river had been significantly cleaned up since the studies quoted by Mr. Patterson. He commented that the biggest offenders of chemical use were now home owners.

## **VII. WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Ms. Finnessy said the Water Quality Committee had recently convened. She commented that she had been working with Kate Ferschweiler and Julie Baxter to update the water quality portion of the council's website. This section will now consist of a list of agencies currently doing water quality sampling within

the watershed. She also noted that further discussions would focus on macro-invertebrate sampling which had been identified as a priority by the Committee.

Ms. Finnessy said the Committee had also discussed Cedar Creek flow issues. She said there had been a successful site tour and a short term solution had been reached. A Limited License would allow 15-20 cfs to be diverted from the McKenzie into the Cedar Creek system for up to 5 years. During this time, the long term questions would be incorporated into the Army Corps of Engineers Metro Waterways Study. The application would be completed by the end of June.

The Water Quality Committee will reconvene after the release of DEQ's Willamette TMDL plan.

#### **VIII. BUSINESS PLAN COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Woodrow said the Business Plan Committee had conducted a number of productive meetings. He said the SWOT Analysis had been finished. He said there had been discussion over the name of the non-profit organization, the Friends of the McKenzie Watershed. He asked for permission to take a new name to the Board of Directors at an upcoming meeting. He said the name was being changed do to the negative connotation with groups starting with "Friends of." He suggested two names: McKenzie Watershed Council Corporation and McKenzie Watershed Conservation Partnership.

Mr. Burwell suggested using the McKenzie Watershed Council Corporation.

There was general consensus to change the name of the non-profit organization to the McKenzie Watershed Council Corporation.

#### **IX. UPDATE ON MWC ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Finnessy said the July council meeting would be held at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest.

Ms. Finnessy said she had been working with the both the McKenzie Guides Association and the McKenzie Flyfishers on the upcoming June 27th Annual River Clean Up event. She also noted that a press tour of culverts/stream passage was being planned as part of the Media Outreach grant.

Ms. Finnessy said she had been working with both Friends of Leaburg Lake Association and ODOT regarding a tree planting plan on the north shore. She said it had been difficult to get any support from the Friends of Leaburg Lake Association.

Ms. Finnessy said she had heard nothing back about collaborating on a letter to the Governor with the OSPiRG organization. Mr. Running commented that, if necessary, the MWC could send its own letter. Ms. Finnessy responded that she had been in contact recently with the Governor's Natural Resource staff regarding council activities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.  
(Recorded by Joe Sams)