

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Retreat
Harlow Lodge–Camp Harlow
3850 County Farm Road, Eugene

January 18, 2003 9 a.m.

PRESENT: John Allen, Barb Blackmore, Bob Bumstead, Pat Gripp, Ryland Moore, LeRoy Petersen, Emily Rice, Betty Taylor, John Woodrow, Jeff Ziller, Cindy Weeldreyer members; Jim Thrailkill, council coordinator, Charlene Phipps, council volunteer.

ABSENT: Dorothy Anderson, Dana Burwell, John Lilly, Wade Stampe, Pat Thompson, members.

1. Introductions, Review Agenda, Warm-up

Mr. Thrailkill reviewed the agenda. He indicated that the major tasks for the Council were to adopt a 3 month work plan and to conduct the Council self-evaluation.

Mr. Thrailkill said that last week, the council submitted three grants for technical assistance for restoration projects to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). One grant was to develop a comprehensive plan for fish passage in the watershed; one was for culvert replacement design work; and one was for technical assistance for botanic and hydrological work in the Confluence area. He anticipated that the council would know by February 15 if the grants were funded. Mr. Moore also indicated that the Council and McKenzie River Trust also submitted a restoration grant to the USFWS for work in the lower McKenzie.

Mr. Thrailkill reported that the Executive Committee met with the Mohawk Watershed Executive Committee to discuss hiring a new Mohawk council coordinator and McKenzie watershed projects manager. He said that the committees agreed that despite the uncertainty of the budget picture, the process should go forward, and went ahead and interviewed the top four candidate for the positions. If the money is provided by the BPA, the process would be completed and the successful candidates offered contracts. He indicated that two candidates were tentatively selected by the committees pending further information about the budget. Ms. Gripp, a member of the Executive Committee, shared that all four candidates were well-informed and experienced.

Mr. Thrailkill reported that the Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) met the previous week in Vancouver, Washington. The NWPPC would soon be making funding project decisions that would affect the council. The NWPPC was supposed to determine a process for making those decisions at its meeting and had been unable to do so. Subsequently, it scheduled an emergency meeting to complete its work. He indicated, in response to a question from Mr. Bumstead, that a project was essentially a contract to the BPA, including its contract with the council for council support.

Mr. Thrailkill indicated that the council would send the NWPPC a letter regarding its concern

about a potential change to the reprioritization process, and requesting a meeting with new Oregon members Gene Derfler and Melinda Eden to introduce them to the council and watershed issues and the role the council plays. He hoped to get that meeting scheduled for later in the month, and asked that council partners attend the meeting with him to discuss those issues with Mr. Derfler and Ms. Eden.

Mr. Thraikill led council members through a round of the McKenzie Watershed salmon game, explaining that council staff member Kate Ferschweiler used the game to communicate about watershed issues with school children and others.. Members divided into teams Horse Creek, South Fork McKenzie, and Trailbridge to play the game. All players took home a plastic animal representing an animal in the watershed.

Council members took a brief meeting break.

2. 2003 Work Plan Development

Mr. Thraikill reminded council partners that the work plan is to be based on the three-month budget due to the BPA funding uncertainties. He indicated that the entire draft work plan had undergone several reviews by Partners leading up to today. Mr. Thraikill said that the initial decision before the Council was to review the bold text items. He had indicated that these were the core work plan items the council should accomplish over the next three months. He asked that partners indicate, through dots, those work tasks not now listed in the three-month work plan that they wished to add.

Mr. Thraikill reviewed the work plan items listed in bold text.

Responding to a question from Mr. Allen, Mr. Thraikill said that Governor Ted Kulongoski's natural resources staff included Jim Brown, the main natural resources advisory to governor, and Jim Myron, his major fish policy advisor. Mr. Allen suggested that Mr. Thraikill schedule a meeting between himself, council partners, and the governor's natural resources staff to discuss watershed issues. Mr. Thraikill agreed.

Speaking to the work plan item regarding the removal of barriers to fish passage, Mr. Allen asked if the County had money for culvert replacement. Mr. Thraikill said that the County needed assistance in the design work, which was why it sought to partner with the council in seeking the OWEB grant funding for technical assistance. Mr. Allen noted that the United States Forest Service had expertise in that field and had worked with the County before on culvert replacement. He believed that the Forest Service could work something out with the County at less cost and suggested that the Bureau of Land Management be applied to for assistance as well. Mr. Thraikill indicated that six culverts were under discussion now, and he anticipated that more would be needed to be replaced in the future. He said he would follow up with Mr. Allen.

In response to a question from Mr. Petersen, Mr. Thraikill said the County had time and equipment to contribute to the culvert project.

Mr. Ziller arrived.

Mr. Thraikill requested feedback on the core items as amended with Mr. Allen's suggestion. He suggested that one other potential addition could be the Cougar Supplemental Information

Report, a review of the ACOE's best management practices at Cougar Reservoir.

Mr. Woodward asked if there was any organizational planning proposed given the uncertainty of BPA funding. Mr. Thraikill anticipated that would occur when the status of BPA funding was known. Mr. Woodward suggested that such planning could be added as another work plan item. Mr. Allen believed the suggestion had merit. The council could get an idea of what other funding approaches might be available. Mr. Thraikill added Mr. Woodward's suggestion to the list of potential additions.

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council partners concurred on Mr. Thraikill's list of core work plan items.

Mr. Thraikill asked the council partners to indicate additional priorities.

Council partners used dots to indicate their preferred work plan additions.

Ms. Rice arrived at the meeting.

Council partners took a brief meeting break while Mr. Thraikill reviewed the results of the prioritization process. Council partners reconvened.

Mr. Thraikill reviewed the results of the prioritization process. Three work plan items received four votes: 1) *council recognized as legal entity having nonprofit status*, 2) *rural-residential riparian stewardship is enhanced*, and 3) *funding Management Plan*. One work plan item received three votes: *Projects meeting desired outcomes. Ensure efforts not being duplicated*. He noted three items received two dots and six items received a single dot.

Mr. Thraikill explained that the process of seeking nonprofit status was somewhat costly. He said that the council had agreed to seek that status using attorney David Atkins, which would cost \$3,500. That council had previously earmarked money for that purpose. Mr. Petersen noted that associated higher costs associated with that status in terms of record keeping requirements if the council choose to no longer be affiliated with Cascade Pacific. Mr. Woodward asked if an RFP was issued for the attorney costs. He believed there were less expensive options. Mr. Thraikill said that Mr. Atkins was recommended to the council was a person who had achieved nonprofit status for many agencies. He would undertake the entire process at the cost quoted. Mr. Moore said that many organizations spent many years seeking nonprofit status, and Mr. Atkins guaranteed nonprofit status at that cost within one year. He required half his fee up-front.

Mr. Thraikill suggested a link between the nonprofit status item and the financial planning being proposed, which would help the council seek the bigger picture in terms of future funding if the BPA funding was no longer available. Mr. Moore suggested that piggybacking on another nonprofit might be possible to save administrative costs after nonprofit status was achieved.

Council partners discussed potential funding sources for Mr. Atkins' fee. Mr. Thraikill indicated he would review the budget and determine whether there was flexibility to earmark BLM project management funds for the purpose. He agreed that it was important to move the nonprofit status work item forward. Mr. Thraikill said he would return with a proposal at the February meeting and redraft the work plan. He clarified, in response to a question from Ms. Taylor, that the other items on the work plan did not "die," but would be in limbo at this time. Ms. Taylor urged the

council to consider holding a ten-year anniversary party to commemorate an important milestone in the council's life. He clarified, in response to a question from Mr. Petersen, that many of the work plan items were done in the summer time and were not relevant in the three-month budget picture under discussion.

Ms. Taylor asked if the council had ever cooperated with the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority on outreach to the schools, noting that its staff did frequent outreach. Mr. Thraikill said no, and indicated he would pass that information onto Ms. Ferschweiler.

Mr. Woodward recommended that Mr. Thraikill contact the chambers of commerce regarding the potential of funding for an anniversary party. Ms. Rice noted that the council held a five-year anniversary that was relatively low-key. She said the event was combined with a work party and held at the Leaburg Hatchery. Mr. Thraikill encouraged the council to keep the event in mind for further discussion in March.

Responding to a question from Mr. Bumstead regarding the potential of BPA funding, Mr. Thraikill said he believed the council had support for its funding and he was optimistic it would be realized.

COUNCIL DECISION:

The Council agreed to the additional work plan items of: 1) Financial Planning, incorporating Nonprofit status recognition and 2) exploring models of riparian incentive programs. Mr. Thraikill will report back to the Council with proposed financial plan for consideration in February or March.

Ms. Blackmore arrived.

The council recessed to have lunch.

3. Council Self-Evaluation

The council went through a self-evaluation process with the assistance of Ms. Phipps. See related forms for the evaluation.

4. Wrap-up

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

(Recorded by Kimberly Young/Jim Thraikill)

C:\MWCADMINISTRATION\AGENDAS\MINUTES\mwcretreatminutesjan03.wpd