

MINUTES

McKenzie Watershed Council
Thurston Middle School– Library, 6300 Thurston Road, Springfield

October 10, 2002

5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Pat Thompson, Facilitator, Ray Rivera (for John Allen), Dorothy Anderson, Mike McDowell, Bob Bumstead, Dana Burwell, Ryland Moore, Leroy Petersen, Emily Rice, Fred Simmons, Wade Stampe, Jeff Ziller, partners; Jim Thraikill, Council Coordinator; Kate Ferschweiler, Council staff.

ABSENT: Pat Gripp, Brent Hefty, John Lilly, Gary Rayor, Cindy Weeldreyer, partners.

1. REVIEW THE AGENDA

Mr. Thompson called the meeting of the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) to order, reviewed the agenda and called for deletions or additions. There were none.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

3. MINUTES

One correction was noted: on page 6, first paragraph, the reference to BLM in the last line of the paragraph should reference U.S. Forest Service.

THE COUNCIL INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVEL 3 FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2002, AS AMENDED.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Mr. Stampe arrived.

5. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DECISIONS MADE AT LAST MEETING

There were no decisions at the last meeting.

6. OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Thraikill welcomed those present and noted that there were new refrigerator magnets at each partner's place for their use. These were intended to be used as public outreach tools. Partners had a copy of Mr. Thraikill's opening remarks. A copy of the flyer promoting the household hazardous waste roundup, scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2002 at the Leaburg Fire Station from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., was also distributed. Mr. Thraikill also spoke about an upcoming conference "Ripples." A photo of participants of a trash clean-up sponsored by the MWC at the Leaburg Fish Hatchery was provided. A special on land trusts in Oregon will be shown tonight at 9 p.m. on Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). The second annual McKenzie Arts Festival will be held this upcoming weekend, from Blue River up the McKenzie River. Members were encouraged to attend.

7. STAFF AND COUNCIL PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Bumstead announced that the McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Committee met recently was moving slowly, but in the right direction.

Ms. Ferschweiler showed members the McKenzie Watershed Salmon Game board. The game will be distributed free to teachers. Sixty game packets are being made up, fifty of which were committed to the field test teachers. She said she would like to produce another fifty and encouraged any council partner that was able to assist with the project to contact her. The cost of each poster was anticipated to be \$18, with another \$8 for lamination. EWEB and the U.S. Forest Service helped provide the initial copies of the full color game board.

Mr. Stampe updated members on the Cougar Reservoir project. Construction is currently running on schedule and if the weather holds, it will run ahead of schedule. Work continued on the supplement to the environmental impact statement (EIS). A public meeting on the EIS was anticipated in December..

Mr. Moore arrived.

Mr. Bumstead asked if there had been any rip-rapping or work on the channels in the reservoir. Mr. Stampe said that there had been none because it was difficult to get equipment into most of the areas. Mr. Ziller said the idea was to keep the reservoir fairly low this winter so that there would not have to be another large draw-down of water.

Mr. Burwell asked for comment on the proposal that would reimburse individuals for losses sustained because of the reservoir project. Mr. Stampe said he of a bill introduced in congress but money wasn't yet attached. Mr. Thraikill said that a bill introduced by Congressman Defazio, at the Council's request back in May, made it out of the House Transportation Committee. It was in the full house now. The bill shifts the Corps mandate to allow compensation for affected businesses. Funding appropriation was now the hard part and the Council would continue to contact DeFazio's office with this request.

Mr. Rivera reported that the algae bloom was over with the cooler weather at Cougar Reservoir. In addition, funds had been received from the County and there would be some analysis for the design and upgrade of three boat launches— Peridot, Paradise and the landing at Carpenter bridge. There will be a public comment period.

Mr. Thompson reported that the Mohawk Community Council got through the septic feasibility study and strategic plan. There will be a meeting on Monday night with the school board to see how there might be cooperative efforts. Both of these documents will be presented to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. He reported that Dan VanDyke did some surveys on reaches of the Mohawk River and found one female returning chinook.

Mr. Ziller asked if there had been some spawning activity noticed. Mr. Thompson said that there had been spawning activity reported, including some right in front of his home. He added that he had received calls that there were "fish in the river."

Mr. Ziller reported that the runs for spring chinook (hatchery) were phenomenal. There was a great four-year-old run, far above expectations. As a result, there should be a good run of five-year-olds. Regardless, there should be a good run of spring chinook in 2003. After a couple years of having an open season up to the Curry hole, it was found that compliance was very good. As a result, the fishing area has been opened up to dam for 2003. The bull trout runs were down a little this year. Above Cougar Reservoir, in the South Fork, there were a number of bull trout spawning. However, in the main stem of the McKenzie, there were lower bull trout numbers.

Mr. Thompson asked what conditions would have caused the four-year-olds to come up the system. Mr. Ziller said that it takes good out-migration and colored water, as well as good ocean floor productivity.

Mr. Moore reported on the OPB program that would highlight river trusts showing tonight. He said he would make a video copy for members to borrow.

Ms. Rice reported that there will be a proposal to update the BLM boat landing at Taylor Creek. in the next couple of years.

Mr. Thraikill welcomed Mike McDowell who was present to represent Weyerhaeuser. He reported that Ms. Blackmore would be going off the MWC and that Mr. McDowell or Jim Redmond would likely be replacing her.

8. MWC FY03 STAFFING AND BUDGET

Mr. Thraikill reviewed the MWC staff and budget proposal for FY03, a copy of which was provided to partners. He spoke about the MWC work plan and examples of restoration project areas developed by

partners. The proposal includes an effort to consolidate efforts between the MWC and the Mohawk Watershed Partnership (MWP). Currently, the MWC was assisting the MWP with funding for .25 FTE coordination. The proposal included a .5 FTE for MWP coordination and project management for the Mohawk, not on McGowan Creek. In addition, the proposed budget included 1.0 FTE for the MWC coordination, .5 MWC project manager, .16 FTE MWP project manager, .25 FTE administrative assistant and .5 FTE for a MWC education position. The total FTE was proposed to be 2.9 FTE at a cost of \$123,2000 (\$132,380 with BEF). With other proposed expenditures, the total budget was proposed to be \$177,100.

Mr. Thrailkill reported that the Executive Committee has recommended that various requests for proposals be sent out, with the goal of securing qualified individuals to meet the needs of the MWC and the MWP.

Mr. Thrailkill asked executive Committee members to provide comments on the deliberations. Mr. Simmons said that when reviewing the activities of the two watershed organizations, this was a good way to accomplish the goals of both. He expressed concern that the solicitation for funding be directed not solely to the individuals, but that funds also be directed to the projects of the MWC.

Mr. Thompson said that there was some apprehension about how the MWP would accept the closer partnership with the MWC and he reported that the MWP was happy to partner with the MWC. He said that there was no reservations from MWP. The key issue was to keep the projects going.

Ms. Rice said that this provides the MWP a year stability for funding. She complimented Mr. Thrailkill for his efforts to blend the projects of both the MWC and MWP.

Mr. Thompson said that he felt that this was the direction that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) wanted watershed councils to take.

Mr. Thrailkill said that he cannot over-emphasize the importance of having a single person overseeing projects. Council partners have been very helpful with technical help. The key will be to have someone to make the projects come to fruition. He said that if his contract was renewed, he would be busy with administrative issues.

Ms. Anderson said that this was the natural process of evolution for the watershed projects.

Mr. Burwell said that he was concerned that it appears that there was more funding going to the Mohawk, rather than the McKenzie. He said that it was an important part of the McKenzie watershed. The project management appears to show more funds being dedicated to the Mohawk. Mr. Thrailkill noted that only .2 FTE was being dedicated to MWP for project management, with .5 FTE for MWC project management.

Mr. Bumstead said that this looks like a great plan. Mr. Petersen concurred.

Mr. Rivera said that Mr. Allen was supportive of both the staffing and budget proposal. Mr. Moore said that he believed that the proposal would increase funding opportunities.

Ms. Rice proposed that the budget and staff be accepted. Mr. Thrailkill asked that a subset of the Executive Committee of both the MWC and MWP evaluate the RFPs that come in and that they be empowered to make the selection. It could be Executive Committee members or Board members.

THE COUNCIL INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVEL 3 FOR APPROVAL OF THE MWC STAFFING AND BUDGET PROPOSAL FY03, WITH MR. THOMPSON AND MS. RICE INDICATING CONSENSUS LEVEL 2 AND MR. BURWELL INDICATING CONSENSUS LEVEL 4.

Relating to the process for the RFP, Mr. Thraikill said that this was the process that had been used to hire Bev Moore. Mr. Thompson added that it was also the process used to hire Polly Kohl for the MWP. Mr. Thraikill added that all were invited to participate, but the decision would be left to the subcommittee.

THE COUNCIL INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVEL 3 FOR AUTHORIZING A SUBSET OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE MWC AND MWP TO EVALUATE THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND EMPOWER THIS GROUP TO MAKE A SELECTION, WITH MS. ANDERSON AND MR. THOMPSON INDICATING CONSENSUS LEVEL 2.

The Council took a brief recess at 7 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

9. COUNCIL EVALUATION OF STAFF

Mr. Thraikill noted that employment contracts were due to expire this month. Council partners were provided with the following materials to assist in their review of staff:

- Evaluation sheets for both Ms. Ferschweiler and Mr. Thraikill, including core group areas of each contract
- Accomplishments from Mr. Thraikill
- Accomplishments from Ms. Ferschweiler
- Accomplishments of the MWC work plan

Mr. Thraikill said that tonight's charge was to have a discussion on the performance of both Ms. Ferschweiler and Mr. Thraikill. He asked that partners make a decision tonight to extend the contracts, extend the contracts with provision or terminate the contracts.

Before beginning, the members were asked if they wanted to continue in regular session or to move into executive session.

Mr. Simmons expressed concern that this was not a personnel issue, but that it was the renewal of contracts. He said that the proper Oregon Revised Statutes should be cited, as applicable. Mr. Thraikill said that in the past, the MWC had discussed the performance of individuals in executive session but had recorded the outcome and contract recommendations for the public record, not the discussion.

Mr. Burwell suggested that the meeting go into an executive session, that there be no minutes, but that the decisions of the partners be recorded for the record.

COUNCIL PARTNERS INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVEL 3 TO PROCEED.

The tape recorder was turned off. Mr. Thraikill and Ms. Ferschweiler left the room.

MR. BURWELL MOVED TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR MS. FERSCHWEILER, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT A QUESTIONNAIRE/FORM BE DEVELOPED TO ALLOW FOR TEACHER/SCHOOL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM AND MS. FERSCHWEILER. PARTNERS INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVELS 2 AND 3.

MR. BURWELL MOVED TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR MR. THRAIKILL. PARTNERS INDICATED CONSENSUS LEVELS 2 AND 3.

The tape was turned back on and Mr. Thraikill and Ms. Ferschweiler returned. Mr. Thompson gave each the evaluations provided by partners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

(Recorded by Kris Aanderud)

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