

**McKenzie Watershed Council
Draft Minutes
September 13, 2018
McKenzie Fire & Rescue
Leaburg, OR**

Present: Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Chuck Arreva (UWSWCD), Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides Association), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Alene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Eugene), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Ray Rivera (USFS), Wade Stamp (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish)

Absent: Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Proxy: Wade Stampe for Jeff Ziller, Wade Stampe for Mike McDowell, Maryanne Reiter for Sue Zeni

Staff: Jared Weybright, Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber, Chase Antonovich

Guests: Ron Redding (Pearl Buck Center)

1. Introduction and Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. General Public Comment Session

There was no public comment at this time.

3. Approval of June 14, 2018, Meeting Minutes

Minutes should be changed to note that Karl Morgenstern, Maryanne Reiter, Carol Ach, Jeff Ziller, and Mike McDowell were all absent at the June meeting. Arlene Dietz motioned to approve minutes, with noted changes to attendance. All partners approved showing consensus level 3.

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3. Partner Announcements:

Dana Burwell reported that the McKenzie Guides Association had recently met to discuss fish stocking in the river. He noted that the consensus amongst guides was that the fish planting was overall a disaster this year, with the fishing itself being a reflection of that. Mr. Burwell continued that when high-end clients are not able to catch fish, it could begin to have an effect on the local economy. He continued that in addition to the quality of the fish being poor, there were several instances of the fish being planted in the wrong areas as well. Carol Ach inquired as to where the fish are coming from. Mr. Burwell responded that they are coming from Desert Springs Hatchery now, with the local hatchery at Leaburg virtually empty. Chad Helms commented that he heard the Army Corps of Engineers is looking to transfer ownership to ODFW.

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Nate Day reported that he has been teaching fly-fishing to his environmental science classes for the last three years, as a way to connect them with the watershed science they are learning in class. Mr. Day continued that the number of rods available is limiting to the number of students he could be reaching with these lessons, so he will be raffling off fishing equipment to raise money for new rods and reels for the students. He noted that he has roughly \$1,300 worth of rods and reels to raffle off, with the drawing being held October 5th.

Chad Helms reported that the USACE transported 119 adult Chinook above Cougar Dam this year. The rock slide on FS Rd 19 forced the UASCE to release the Chinook directly into Cougar Reservoir and due to warm temperatures in July, all transport was suspended.

Arlene Dietz reported that Rice Family Farms will be starting hazelnut harvests this Monday.

Chuck Arreva introduced himself as the new alternate for the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Arreva noted that he was elected in January, and was a former employee at SUB before retiring in 2011.

Todd Miller reported that the Metro Wastewater Management Commission had finally signed an agreement with EWEB this summer regarding the PWP program, and will be investing more money into restoration and conservation efforts on the McKenzie River.

Karl Morgenstern reported that the EWEB board meeting will meet Tuesday, September 18, in Leaburg. The meeting is open to the public and any interested parties are welcome to attend. He continued that the meeting begins at 5:30, with an open house style format and several quick presentations.

Ray Rivera reported that FS Road 19 is still closed due to the number of boulders and logs that were dislodged during the Terwilliger fire. He continued that the Terwilliger fire has not been growing as quickly recently, although it is going to require an end of season weather event to put out the fire completely. Mr. Rivera continued that the fire has been creeping further east and stopping where last year's fire had occurred. There are currently 459 people working on the fire, with several helicopters dropping 50-60 thousand gallons of water a day. Mr. Rivera noted that so far 10,900 acres had burned, with roughly 66% of the fire contained. Steve Raymen asked how federal agencies are responding to the fire, and if there is a willingness to dedicate funding to these fires. Mr. Rivera responded that there are so many fires on the West Coast this year that there aren't enough resources to go around. He continued that many of the fires burning near homes and communities are of higher priority therefore available resources are often given to them first.

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Steve Rayman reported that last month there was a 289 million dollar lawsuit filed against Monsanto concern glyphosate. The most recent of which included a substantial award against the corporation.

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5. Staff and Director Report

Justin Demeter reported that the new school year has begun and the education program is in full swing. He continued that Salmon Watch field trips on the McKenzie at the Carmen Smith spawning channel will take place September 17th through 28th, and volunteers are encouraged to sign-up as soon as possible. Mr. Demeter noted that if you have missed the training session, you can still come out and shadow an experienced educator. In addition to Salmon Watch, the annual Salmon Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 29th from 10am-3pm, at the McKenzie High School Track. Additionally, Mr. Demeter's middle and high school classes will begin meeting in October.

Jared Weybright reported on the restoration projects completed this summer. Phase 1 of the Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain project was completed in mid-August, with 85,000 cubic yards of material and close to 3,000 pieces of large wood being redistributed over 125 acres. Mr. Weybright continued that the Terwilliger Fire is currently delaying any tours or follow-up work associated with the project, but the intent is to schedule tours of the site as soon as feasible.

Karl Morgenstern asked if the Corps is going to be able to work out environmental flows. Mr. Weybright responded that there has been some discussion of increasing winter flow levels, but no high-level planning has taken place.

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Jennifer Weber reported that the Lower Deer Creek project that was recently completed. The council partnered with the BLM to complete the project. Collection of large wood began in mid-July, and in-stream placement was complete by late August. Ms. Weber continued that final project reporting will be completed shortly and that the project is viewable by driving to the end of Goodpasture Road. In addition to the large-scale restoration projects, Ms. Weber noted that Project site visits were recently completed to assist in the development of fall maintenance work orders at Dehne, Cedar Creek sites, BWCA, and Sullivan. Site preparation will begin at the Lane county-owned Vickery Park, adjacent to BWCA, this fall.

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Carol Ach asked what is planned for the Vickery Park project. Ms. Weber responded that it is a combination of invasive treatment and riparian planting, also stating that there is a great deal of Japanese Knotweed that is relatively inaccessible.

7. Presentation: 2018: The Year of Toxic Algal Blooms

Karl Morgenstern of the Eugene Water and Electric Board presented on toxic algae blooms and the threats they pose to local waterways. Mr. Morgenstern began by providing background on harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins, specifically what they are and the conditions that generate growth. Additionally, Mr. Morgenstern discussed the presence of harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins in Detroit Lake and the way it affected the Salem's and surrounding communities' drinking water. Mr. Morgenstern then discussed the ways that Blue River and Cougar Reservoirs are being monitored for traces of similar toxins.

Carol Ach asked if there is any benchmark data on Cougar Reservoir prior to this years' fire. Mr. Morgenstern responded that they do have good baseline data, as they have been monitoring the area for a long time and can generally detect trends in the McKenzie River.

Steve Raymen asked how many waterways in Oregon have these toxins. Mr. Morgenstern responded that several water bodies regularly experience harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins episodes. Locations include Cougar Reservoir, Blue River Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Odell Lake, and Klamath Lake.

Chuck Arreva asked if there are they any practical methods to neutralize the toxins in the water supply. Mr. Morgenstern responded that the city of Toledo, Ohio uses an algaecide in response to an outbreak in 2014. That method is not a viable option in the Willamette Basin.

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Ray Rivera asked if the addition of activated charcoal helped with the drinking water in Salem. Mr. Morgenstern responded that it was effective.

Kelly Wood asked how valuable the baseline data is, considering there was no testing for toxins in many of the past algal blooms. Mr. Morgenstern responded that we have data based on the concentration of nutrients which will be useful, although it does not have data regarding toxicity.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25