

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
December 13, 2018
Weyerhaeuser Co., 785 N. 42nd St, Springfield, OR 97478

Present: Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Fly Fishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (McKenzie River Ranger District), Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Aaron Staniak (Lane County)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Jared Weybright

Absent: Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews Experimental Forest), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Proxy: Maryanne Reiter for Sue Zeni

Guests: Johan Hogervorst (Forest Hydrologist Willamette National Forest), Nick Grant (McKenzie River Ranger District Hydrologist), Becca Brooke (BLM)

1) Review and approve Agenda

Wade Stamp motioned to approve the agenda, Bob Bumstead seconded the motion. Agenda approved, all partners reaching consensus level 3.

3) Review and approve November Minutes

Todd Miller made several corrections to the November partner announcements. Mr. Stampe motioned to approve the November 2018 minutes with noted corrections. Arlene Dietz seconded the motion. November minutes approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

4) Presentation

Johan Hogervorst, alongside Nick Grant and Jared Weybright presented on Phase I of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Phase I Project. Mr. Hogervorst began by providing background on the Stage 0 approach to floodplain enhancement, noting that it is a relatively new approach to restoring natural processes in low gradient, depositional riverine environments. Mr. Weybright provided an overview of the recently completed Phase I project. Mr. Grant discussed the Project's monitoring plan. He noted that plan includes remote sensing (LiDAR and aerial imagery); valley wide transects which capture a variety of metrics including wood, sediment, temperature and vegetation; groundwater wells and piezometers; and biological monitoring components. Initial results include a 350% increase in wetted area at base flow (~350 cfs).

Bob Bumstead inquired about the temperature monitoring and how they are going to collect temperature readings to compare with historical data. Mr. Grant responded that the plan is to use a number of techniques including thermal imaging, groundwater wells, and possibly Sondes (passive data collectors) deployed at the lower end of the project area. Mr. Weybright noted documenting groundwater and hyporheic flows and temperature is a priority. Mr. Hogervorst added that we no longer think of temperature in a linear sense, instead, we are

seeing varying temperature readings due to the complexity of habitat. Dave Kretzing echoed this sentiment, noting that there has been a paradigm shift in the way we look at temperature.

Mr. Weybright continued that beginning this week the new botanist with the McKenzie River Ranger District will begin planting 3,000-4,000 plants in the select location of the project area. WATERS students will be taking part in a portion of the planting as well. This collaboration is a great example of how these large scale projects can bring multiple programs together.

Todd Miller commented that the completion of Stage 0 projects provides us with much-needed data that quantify the cost associated with so many environmental benefits. He continued that many of these stage 0 projects are much cheaper than other projects that are much less resilient. Mr. Weybright added that project costs average out to roughly \$13,000-14,000 per acre, which is roughly the same price as many other restoration projects although this project is providing many more immediate benefits. Mr. Miller added that it is roughly \$100,000 per acre for shade credit projects that the Metro Wastewater Management Commission is currently engaged in. He continued that they are trying to improve the efficiency of restoration work, and projects like the South Fork do a great job of shining a light on that.

Dana Burwell asked if they will be measuring the temperature of newly watered channels or if they are just collecting water temperature data as the confluence of the South Fork and main-stem. Mr. Hogervorst responded that they may consider placing temperature probes in newly watered channels that flow directly into the main-stem.

5) Partner Announcements

Brian Brazil reported that International Paper has donated \$5,000 to the McKenzie Watershed Council's WATERS program. The funding will help secure planting materials for middle school teams involved in the program.

Rod Fosback reported that he assisted STEP volunteers with setting up a weir on Whittaker Creek to capture several Coho, noting that Salmon Watch field trips were in session during the set-up.

Emily Semple reported that the City of Eugene is currently focused on a variety of issues surrounding homelessness.

Chad Helms reported that the next fisheries science review is scheduled for February 5th-7th, at Oregon State University. Additionally, the Corps is hopeful that rain in the forecast will continue to fill reservoirs.

Becca Brooke introduced herself as the new BLM field manager. She continued that the BLM is preparing to release a draft EA on a project located just south of Cottage Grove.

Bob Bumstead reported that this year's Salmon Watch season has come to a close, with the volunteer appreciation dinner planned for January 11th, 5pm-8pm, at the Bumstead residence in Eugene.

Darren Cross wanted to extend a thank you to all who were involved in Phase I of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project. He continued that Mr. Weybright worked tirelessly on the project, and the Forest Service is grateful for all he accomplished as project manager. Additionally, Mr. Cross noted that the Forest Service has four upcoming stewardship sales, an important fundraising mechanism which allows them to invest in priority projects that the MWC are involved in.

Dana Burwell reported that the McKenzie River Guides recently met with the representatives from Desert Springs Fish Hatchery to voice their concerns regarding the fish-ability and catchability of hatchery stocked trout in the McKenzie River. He noted that the meeting went well, as Desert Springs representatives were receptive to the concerns voiced by the guides.

There are currently two years remaining in the contract with Desert Springs. Mr. Burwell continued that there is still some uncertainty regarding how they will improve the quality of the hatchery fish. Options include transferring fish to Leaburg Hatchery prior to release to ensure they have adjusted to the colder McKenzie River water. Additionally, the size and placement of fish must be improved upon. Different strains of trout are also being considered.

6) Executive/Outreach/Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Committees

Mr. Weybright reported that several members of the McKenzie Watershed Council's Executive Committee have terms nearing completion. Arlene Dietz, Karl Morgenstern, and Wade Stampe have all reached the end of their respective two-year terms, and all have expressed a willingness to continue for an additional term. Bob Bumstead called for a consensus to renew terms for Arlene Dietz, Karl Morgenstern, and Wade Stampe. Renewal of terms approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

Additionally, Mr. Weybright proposed the formation of two new standing committees, one connected with outreach, and the other for diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI). He continued that the outreach committee would be tasked with enhancing existing events and outreach opportunities, specifically those pertaining to the annual Salmon Celebration and river cleanup. The DEI committee will engage in a variety of initiatives with a contractor, the Center for Diversity in the Environment with the goal of producing an action plan over the course of 2019. This committee will include a three-day workshop in late February and several additional follow-up meetings. Mr. Weybright noted that the Council will be able to provide a small stipend for committee members who will be missing work to attend meetings or workshops. Mr. Weybright concluded that he would be following up with Partners via email to gauge interest in joining either committee.

7) Staff Reports:

Mr. Weybright provided Partners with an update on current Council activities and programs since both Jen Weber and Justin Demeter are out-of-town attending a conference. He began with education, noting that the 2018 Salmon Watch Season has recently concluded. This was one of the most successful years to date, in terms of volunteer support and students served. Additionally, the WATERS program is ongoing, with students working at various sites throughout the watershed.

Mr. Weybright transitioned to the restoration program, reporting that Ms. Weber is currently focused on wrapping up some project maintenance while preparing for next year's PWP outreach efforts. Additionally, the field tour of Lower Deer Creek has been rescheduled for January 23rd. Lastly, Mr. Weybright noted that OWEB Regional Review Team recently visited the South Fork McKenzie River to tour the project as part of the review process for the recently submitted Phase II application. If successful, the \$465,000 grant will help implement Phase II of the project in 2019.

Lastly, Mr. Weybright noted that the Council received \$250 from Planktown Brewing following the fundraiser December 4th, and is expecting to receive an additional \$3,000 from the McKenzie Flyfishers following their annual auction. These awards will help fund the Salmon Watch and WATERS programs.

Mr. Weybright asked council partners for suggestions regarding upcoming Council presentations for the April and May meetings. Dana Burwell suggested that Weyerhaeuser representatives give a discussion on their forest management practices.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm