

Draft Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
January 11, 2018
Springfield Utility Board, 223 A St. Suite F
Springfield

PRESENT

Council Partners: Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Nate Day (McKenzie School District), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Rod Fosback (Northwest Steelheaders), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (Upper Willamette SWCD), Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner),
Staff: Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright, Chase Antonovich
Guest: Maggie O'Driscoll (Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council)

ABSENT

Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Libby Morrison (Wildish), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides)

PROXIES

Ralph Perkins for Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Bob Bumstead for Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides)

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.

3. December 2017 Meeting Minutes

Consensus approval as presented, all partners showing consensus level 3.

4. Partner Announcements

Nancy Toth, reported that the Source Water Protection Program's 10-year Strategic Plan was reviewed by the EWEB Board and that implementation of its respective programs will move forward largely as planned. Overall this is positive news for EWEB staff and partners.

David Kretzing, commented that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lower South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project is currently out for public comment. The deadline for comments is February 10th of this year. The public and MWC Partners are encouraged to view the Willamette National Forest website for more information or to view the document.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=43959>

Andy McWilliams reported on the status of The McKenzie River Discovery Park project. The Friends of the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery continue to move forward with Interpretive Center planning. The board is focused on the feasibility of current fundraising goals. The board has recruited several new members, with one member donating \$25,000. The other new recruit has longstanding family connections to the river. The board remains enthusiastic about the project. On a separate note tickets for the Wayfarer sponsored, Four Seasons of the McKenzie, are still available.

Emily Semple is now the Eugene City Council liaison to the City's sustainability commission, which may or may not have relevance to the MWC.

Chad Helms stated that the USACE Willamette Fisheries Science Review is scheduled for early February at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis. Mr. Helms encourages all interested parties to sign up if interested. The event is free. Notes and presentation summaries will be available to everyone who registers.

Ralph Perkins brought up a workshop "Attracting Native Pollinators," that the UWSWCD is sponsoring. The UWSWCD is enthusiastic about the event, which will feature Mace Vaughan, a renowned expert on pollinators. The workshop is scheduled for February 6th, 7pm, at the Unitarian Church, 1685 W 13th Street in Eugene. Doors open at 6:30. Mr. Perkins will work with council staff to get more information out to partners.

Jeff Ziller provided information about their newest employee, Jeremy Romer, the new district assistant fish biologist. Mr. Romer will have taken over for Kelly Reis. He brings a strong research background to the district having spent the last six years working out of the ODFW Research and Development Lab in Corvallis. He has spent significant time working on local reservoirs such as Fall Creek and Lookout Point. Mr. Ziller also added that the Oregon Chapter of American Fish Societies will be meeting in Eugene this year. He added that they will be meeting at the Hilton March 14th through the 16th, and encouraged fellow council members to attend if they are interested, as there is slated to be a lot of great talks.

Carol Ach inquired with Mr. Ziller about the state of the Leaburg hatchery. Mr. Ziller responded by explaining that the hatchery still has a handful of rainbow trout to be released, as well as some Coho which were relocated to Leaburg from the Cascade Hatchery following the fires in the Gorge this last year. He added that those Coho will be returned to the Gorge in April of this year. Mr. Ziller added that ODFW will be retaining water rights at Leaburg, roughly a 40/60 split between ODFW and the USACE. Additionally, ODFW is still working on the completion of a 2018 stocking schedule.

Daniel Dietz brought up the Four Seasons of the McKenzie concert, a partnership with the Eugene Symphony, stating that it will include photos submitted by various members of the community, and encouraging folks to purchase tickets. The event is a fundraiser for the Trust.

5. Staff Reports

Justin Demeter reported that there were several WATERS outings that occurred in December prior to a winter break. Stream Habitat crews braved the cold to survey several side channels on the Lower South Fork McKenzie River. The Thurston HS Water Quality team began monitoring four sites on the South Fork, and the Springfield HS Water Quality team continued monitoring at urban sites in Springfield. Springfield Public School middle school teams completed work at BWCA and will move to the Dehne property off Deerhorn Road in January. Coburg Charter Middle School resumed work at Green Island in early January. The Mohawk HS and McKenzie HS Water Quality teams resumed monitoring in early January. In early January, high school teams began data analysis lab work in preparation for spring presentations. A Salmon Watch Volunteer Appreciate Event is planned for January 19th. All participants in the 2017 season are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Mr. Demeter for further details.

Jennifer Weber reported that staff continues to work with PWP landowners as part of its outreach efforts. A total 24 landowners have responded with interest in the riparian assessment and potential program participation. Of these landowners, five sites have progressed to having the desktop GIS assessment completed, and nine access agreements have been completed. Site visits will continue to occur in January. Ms. Weber is finalizing details on an application to the OWEB Small Grant Program. The application will fund riparian restoration on the Dehne property. She expect to begin site preparations in spring/summer 2018. Staff continues to meet with partners and potential contractors to finalize planning and budgets for the Lower South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project.

Amanda Gilbert introduced the council's new employee, Chase Antonovich, who began as the new Operations Assistant on January 3rd. Mr. Antonovich previously interned with the Council during the 2016 Salmon Watch Season, and was a regular volunteer at Salmon Watch in 2017. He is a regular boater and angler of the McKenzie River and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the Council. Welcome Chase!

Jared Weybright reported that staff completed the 2017 Annual 412 Technical Team Report in December. The report provides background on the 412 Technical Team, an update on 2017 activities, and status of previously funded conservation and restoration projects. Staff also completed final reporting requirements for a 2015 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Bring Back the Natives (BBN) program in support of the Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project. The report summaries project implementation over the course of 2016-17 and monitoring efforts completed in 2017. Both reports are available upon request.

Ms. Gilbert and Mr. Weybright met with the Senator Jeff Merkley's local field representative, Country Flathers, in mid-December. A press release from the EPA announcing local environmental education-funding award caught her attention. The hour-long meeting summarized the Councils education and restoration programs, highlighted local

partnerships and touched on funding challenges. It was a great opportunity to open up lines of communication and develop a relationship.

Carol Ach inquired about the recent rockslide in above Cougar Dam. Several Partners responded that the USFS was still working on assessing the slide and plans for removal.

6. Presentation: Watershed Action Teams for Enhancement, Restoration, and Stewardship

Justin Demeter, education coordinator for the McKenzie Watershed Council, alongside Maggie O'Driscoll, education coordinator for the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, gave a presentation on the WATERS program. WATERS focuses on the direct involvement of students in hands-on, inquiry- and field-based projects centered in environmental education for middle and high school students. This program allows students to utilize the scientific method in real world situations, while promoting collaboration between students and the community. The presentation included a description of the program, primary goals, schools involved, project locations, and collaborative partnerships. Student projects provides data for use in BLM and USFS stream projects, and for the regional EWEB water quality database. Mr. Demeter and Ms. O'Driscoll summarized the program's annual budget and outlined funding challenges. Strategies for acquiring more funding were introduced. The presentation will be available on the MWC website.

Rod Fosback inquired as to why there are currently no Eugene schools involved in the program. Mr. Demeter answered that Coburg Charter is a 4J middle school, and that Council staff capacity is a limiting issue for working with additional schools. Mr. Weybright added that 4J currently has an environmental-focused program (Rachel Carson, solar-powered cars, Salmon Watch for elementary schools) funded through EWEB. He noted that we have partnered with them in the past, but they set their own priorities which hasn't left many partnership opportunities.

When asked about the potential to work with charter schools or home schools, Mr. Demeter brought up how Coburg Charter School and a home-school group have attended Salmon Watch in past years. There is opportunity and limited capacity for further collaboration if the interest is there. The Coast Fork WC works with a Charter School – Child's Way.

Mr. Weybright added that the Council is proud of this program, and our ability to expand its regional footprint in partnership with the Coast Fork Watershed Council. He added that the Middle Fork WC is not currently in a position to join the program but other education partnership opportunities do exist. Mr. Weybright noted that the MWC is fortunate to have the funding they do, as environmental education funding is increasingly difficult to secure. This will likely be a reoccurring topic for Council Partners to discuss and consider.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10

Next meeting: Weyerhaeuser 5-7, Springfield. Thursday, February 8, 2018

Presentation TBA