

McKenzie Watershed Council  
Draft Minutes  
June 14, 2018  
McKenzie Fire & Rescue  
Leaburg, OR

**Present:** Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Steve Mealey (McKenzie River Guides), Karl Morganstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Joe Pishioneri (Springfield City Council), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser) Will Rutherford (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews Experimental Forest) Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Ron Redding (Pearl Buck Center), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

**Staff:** Chase Antonovich, Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber

**Absent:** Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (McKenzie River Ranger District), Chad Helms (USACE), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Jared Weybright (Staff)

### **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. May 2018 Meeting Minutes**

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

### **4. McKenzie HS WATERS Presentation & WATERS Year End Summary**

Justin Demeter introduced members of the McKenzie High School water ecology team, Freya Maranda and Hailee Lowry. These students had just completed a year of the WATERS program and presented on the work they completed. Prior to the presentation, Mr. Demeter noted that the average WATERS team size is 8-14 students while this particular group had dropped down to 3 students yet still managed to accomplish a great deal. The students discussed the various sites they had visited, with Carmen-Smith, Deer Creek, and Horse Creek being the main focus. Aside from collecting data at these sights, the students spent considerable time at the Holiday RV Park in Rainbow, testing the water of a pond on the property. The students noted that the levels of ammonia and nitrates were considerably higher on this property, as well as the water temperature. This is suspected to be a result of the RV park had previously been a sawmill, with the ponds used for floating logs.

Kurt Cox, a current resident of the Holiday RV Park, commented that the individuals running the park are extremely grateful for the work the students had done. He continued that they are looking to improve the quality of the water and would like to have the students come back at a later date to retest it. Lastly, Mr. Cox asked the students what they would like to see done

differently, or improved on. The students responded that they would like to see more people on the team to assist with the workload.

Jennifer Weber asked the students if they had a favorite activity. The students both replied that they really enjoyed snorkeling, but just getting out and visiting the different sights, in general, was also very fun for them. They continued that testing for bacteria was also enjoyable.

Jennifer Weber discussed the inaugural WATERS conference, while also providing a brief summary of the Watershed Olympics. She noted that there were 150 students present from 10 different schools competing in this year's competition Watershed Olympics. McKenzie High School took first place, followed by Thurston in second, and Creswell in third. Ms. Weber noted that McKenzie High School was able to win while having the smallest team and also competing for the first time. Additionally, Ms. Weber noted that the first annual WATERS conference was a success with over 100 students in attendance. The event consisted of 7 different student talks, with 5 student posters, and 9 local area professionals serving as the reviewers. Ms. Weber also extended a thank you to Dave Kretzing, Kelly Wood, Joe Moll, and Larry Six for assisting with the conference.

#### **6. Partner Announcements:**

Arlene Dietz reported that there is not much to report at her farm and that they are currently just trimming trees.

Will Rutherford, speaking on behalf of Andy McWilliams, reported that all information regarding the South Fork project updates has been posted on the McKenzie Clearwater Coalition website.

Nate Day extended a thank you to everyone who supported the students tonight and throughout the program.

Steve Mealey asked Nate Day what aspects of the program he feels are benefitting through collaboration with the watershed council. Mr. Day responded that much of the equipment and opportunities these students are exposed to. He added that the field-based learning is extremely valuable, and seeing the salmon in the wild is often every student's favorite part of the year. Mr. Day also noted that everything from the curriculum to the assistance with data collecting is improved through this collaboration.

Steve Mealey, hesitant to raise the topic, brought up the Army Corps of Engineers influence on the McKenzie River, and the ways in which it is changing. He noted that the influence of the Corps on the McKenzie is difficult to overstate and that although they have met their mitigation responsibilities regarding trout in the past, they've let it be known that the allocation could be as low as 100,000 pounds next year. Mr. Mealey continued that the corps is aiming to shift their focus towards monitoring for salmon and steelhead and that this would affect the overall fishing on the river, which the guides have been working to fight. He added that there could be very significant changes in the way we use the river, especially regarding hatchery fish.

Bob Bumstead asked if the Corps goes through leadership changes frequently in their Portland office. Steve Mealey responded they do change every 3 years, but the staff that has been there for many years are the people they primarily deal with. He added that the issues here really just involve scarce resources being divided.

Mark Schulze reported that there is a public field day June 28<sup>th</sup>, at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. He added that they are trying to cap the attendance at 120, so it is best to sign-up early if interested.

Daniel Dietz wanted to thank all those who came out to the Get Outdoors Day Event, they had an excellent turnout with 540 people showing up. He continued that June 23<sup>rd</sup> is going to be the first Paddle and Pull event on the McKenzie Oxbow.

Kelly Wood reported that she had a great time at the WATERS conference and that she highly recommends the event to anyone interested in attending in the future.

Ron Redding, a member of the board of directors for the Pearl Buck Center was in attendance to provide a little bit of information about their organization. He reported that the Pearl Buck Center has been offering services for challenged individuals in our community for 65 years. He continued that he admires the McKenzie Watershed Council and welcomes individuals who may be interested in volunteering.

Bob Bumstead reported that he is thrilled to see how much education is going on around the McKenzie Watershed. He added that since the inception of the council it had always been a minuscule portion of the organization, and it's so wonderful to see so many of these kids getting involved. Mr. Bumstead also noted that he is looking forward to volunteering his time to help salvage fish on the South Fork.

## **7. Staff and Directors Report:**

Justin Demeter wanted to begin by thanking all the supporters of the education program, he continued that it's an honor to be able to go into these classes and provide students with such valuable opportunities. He continued that following his last classes for the year he will begin working on reporting, and focusing on the upcoming Salmon Watch season. Mr. Demeter also wanted to add that the Salmon Celebration is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>, with volunteers needed. He will be working with the MRT to finalize details regarding the celebration. Mr. Demeter also added that Salmon Watch training is scheduled for August and October, with dates being finalized soon. Additionally, roughly 40 volunteers are also needed for fish salvage on the South Fork project June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer Weber, speaking on behalf of Jared Weybright, provided updates to the restoration program. Ms. Weber announced that a slow draw down of the South Fork McKenzie River will begin June 26<sup>th</sup>, and will run through the 28<sup>th</sup>. She is hoping for some natural escapement to assist with the manual fish salvage planned for this month. Additionally, portions of

Goodpasture Road will be closed beginning June 18<sup>th</sup> for work on lower Deer Creek. Ms. Weber also noted that due to logistics and the amount of equipment moving around, tours of the South Fork project will be put on hold until the project is completed. She added that the council is considering switching to a post-project tour of the Lower Deer Creek Project instead. Lastly, the Naturescaping workshop that was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> was well attended, with many new landowners signing up for assessments.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:35**