

**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**2018 Council Retreat**  
**Bob Keefer Center**  
**250 S 32nd St, Springfield, OR 97478**

**Present:** ), Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Chad Helms (USACE), Steve Mealy (McKenzie Guides), Joe Pishioneri (Lane County), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner) Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Wade Stamp (Resident Partner), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

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

**Absent:** Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (McKenzie River Ranger District), Nate Day (McKenzie School District), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner) Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

**Proxy:** Ralph Perkins proxy for Mike Mcdowell, Maryanne Reiter proxy for Sue Zeni, Jeremy Romer proxy for Bob Bumstead, Jeff Ziller proxy for Andy McWilliams

### **1) Review and Approve Agenda**

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve agenda, all partners approved agenda showing consensus level 3.

### **2) Review and Approve September Minutes**

Steve Raymen noted that the Monsanto lawsuit described in last month's meeting was in reference to one single lawsuit totaling upwards of \$289 million. Maryanne Reiter commented that Weyerhaeuser was spelled incorrectly. Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the September minutes, with noted changes. Minutes approved all partners showing consensus level 3.

### **3) Partner Announcements**

Maryanne Reiter reported that Weyerhaeuser, in collaboration with HJ Andrews, recently took 50 students from Denmark to show them active logging operations in the area. Ms. Reiter continued that this exercise gives the students a different perspective on logging and forestry as a whole. Forestry in Denmark faces many challenges stemming from deforestation and other land uses practices that occurred throughout the 1800s.

Arlene Dietz reported that Rice Family Farms is still harvesting hazelnuts.

Chad Helms reported that the Terwilliger Fire is still burning above Cougar. He continued that the trap and haul fish facility has since shut down, but not before passing 119 fish during the early summer. Mr. Helms continued that prior to the fire there were roughly 600 hatchery spring Chinook salmon, and 60-70 unmarked Chinook moved above the dam.

Ralph Perkins reported the Willamette Valley Clean Water Alliance (fiscal sponsor of the Upper Willamette SWCD) is holding a Ninkasi "Pints for a Cause" fundraiser this Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. He continued that the benefit will take place all day, with one dollar from each pint going towards funding

community education projects. Mr. Perkins noted that they hope to give 4 or 5 community talks this year, with support from speakers from ODFW, FEMA, and other community members.

Carol Ach reported that the second annual Farm Olympics will be taking place at Two Rivers Farm this Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The event is a Rogue Farm Corps benefit and will take place from 2-8 pm.

Joe Pishioneri reported that paving in the city was stopped due to a broken gas pipeline that has halted concrete production at Wildish.

Steve Mealy reported that although he was not in attendance for the last meeting it seemed apparent that Dana Burwell gave a detailed assessment of the poor state of the trout and trout fishing this last year. He continued that one detail not expressed by Dana was that Desert Springs Fish are reared in 61-degree artisan water, much warmer than the 45-degree water typically seen in the McKenzie, and they believe this is largely the reason for the poor condition of the fish. Additionally, they believe that this drastic change in water temperature affects the behavior of the fish all year long after being deposited into the McKenzie. Mr. Mealy continued that the USACE recently earned an additional \$7,000 following the president signing the appropriations bill, and he hopes they will have an influence on the way those funds will be spread around. In addition, Mr. Mealy reported that there are currently 6 grant applications that have been submitted to fund the McKenzie Interpretive Center which they are hopeful about.

Bob Bumstead noted that Dana Burwell had reported that the Corps might be interested in giving Leaburg back to ODFW, and asked if Mr. Mealy had any knowledge of this. Mr. Mealy stated that the Corps had offered to sell ODFW the Leaburg facility for one dollar. ODFW would assume operations and maintenance costs which is where the issue lies. ODFW has no funding beyond what has been allotted to finish out the year. Mr. Mealy continued that in a letter to Kevin Bryce (USACE) there was a discussion of using Leaburg as a transition facility for the fish, to help them adjust to the colder waters of the McKenzie. He added that many of the clients who fished with the guides in the last year would more than likely not be returning if the fishing does not improve.

Chad Helms noted that although he is not personally involved in it, he knows the USACE is in the process of transferring over the facilities as we speak.

Bob Bumstead commented that he thought Leaburg Hatchery operations used to be 87% funded by the USACE, with the rest being funded by ODFW.

Jeff Ziller stated that ODFW has a 5-year lease with the Corps and a 1-year spending bill for some large rainbow trout and salmon production. He continued that they are currently finalizing the release schedule for 2019 while trying to address the issues from the last year. Additionally, Mr. Ziller noted that bull trout spawning numbers are up this year, with over 20 redds found in Olallie and Sweetwater Creeks.

### **3) Presentation: Willamalane Programs, Priorities and Partnership Opportunities**

Eric Adams, Willamalane Planning, Parks & Facilities Director, gave an overview of Willamalane projects and programs. He began by introducing Willamalane, noting that it was the first Parks and Recreation district in the state, and now encompasses 46 parks covering over 1500 acres. Recent notable projects including the Clearwater bike path, and Thurston Hills Natural Area. Mr. Adams discussed future projects

that Willamalane is looking to complete, including the Weyerhaeuser (International Paper) and 42<sup>nd</sup> street area, Harvest Landing, and Moe Mountain. Jeff Ziller asked if there were any chance of the archery range coming back to Clearwater Park. Mr. Adams replied, not at this time.

#### **4) The fiscal Year 2019**

Jared Weybright discussed the 2019 annual budget, explaining the different funding sources and projects that the Council is involved in. Carol Ach inquired about the Gate Creek project, asking what the OWEB Gate Creek Project Development funding goes towards. Mr. Weybright responded that the project will bring together BLM, Weyerhaeuser, ODFW and the MWC to explore restoration project opportunities in the Gate Creek watershed and develop plans for 1-2 restoration projects. The planning will largely focus on the North Fork of Gate Creek.

Carol Ache also inquired as to why the small grants are both listed in the income and expenses categories. Mr. Weybright responded that it is showing money being awarded through grants for projects, and then being spent on contracted services and other expenses to complete the project.

Steve Mealy asked what the total estimated cost is to complete all phases of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project. Mr. Weybright estimated \$12 million. Mr. Mealy then asked what the incentive is for the Forest Service to go through the Watershed Council to complete the South Fork Project. Mr. Weybright responded that the Council has access to grants that the Forest Service does not and that the contract process is much more streamlined, efficient and flexible through the Council.

Wade Stamp asked if the Council is still short on Salmon Watch funding. Mr. Weybright responded that Salmon Watch is roughly 2/3 of the way funded for 2019. In order to make up this shortfall, the Council had to cut nearly all funding for school transportation and help with sub costs. Unobligated operational funds are being used to cover unfunded Council staff time.

Ralph Perkins asked if teachers themselves could access funds to help cover some of the costs. Mr. Weybright responded that some teachers have been able to tap into other funding sources for transportation and sub costs. Other schools like McKenzie High School for example, only receive \$200 a year for field trips so it is tight for some.

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The budget was approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

#### **5) 2017-2019 Work Plan**

Jared Weybright provided Council members with a review of the 2018 work plan, alongside 2019 additions. The projects are organized into five categories as defined by OWEB: Organizational Development and Management, Planning, Community Engagement, Monitoring and Assessment, and Restoration. Projects listed outside of the Work Plan include work on Lower Deer Creek in collaboration with the BLM and work at Vickery Park with Lane County.

Kelly Woods noted that the Pure Waters Partnership Program has 80 riparian assessments listed as a deliverable, yet only 13 riparian assessments were conducted. Mr. Weybright explained that the goal was to contact 80 landowners, complete 40 assessments, and complete 20 management plans over a two-year period collectively on a partnership level, meaning that these are targets for the MWC and

other PWP organizations. Collectively nearly 30 assessments were completed over a one year period. Mr. Weybright acknowledges that this was confusing.

#### **6) Council Self Evaluation**

Mr. Weybright provided instructions on the completion of the OWEB Council Self Evaluation. As a recipient of OWEB Council Capacity funding, the MWC is required to complete an assessment to identify strengths and challenges of the organization and establish capacity building goals. Mr. Weybright asked that Council partners break into small groups and complete an assessment related to leadership capacity, adaptive capacity, management capacity, or operational capacity. The small groups were asked to post their results on the wall with any relevant notes or comments. Partners were then asked to observe the scores from the other groups and note whether they agree or disagree with the scores given. Additionally, Partners were also asked to identify priority elements from the categories provided. Staff will collect results and report back to the Council at a later date.

#### **7) Meeting Schedule and Topics for 2019.**

Jared Weybright provided Council partners with a list of the meeting schedule for the next year and inquired as to what presentation topics they would like to see in the future. Maryanne Reiter suggested a presentation on tourism and recreation trends in the Willamette Valley and the issues associated with them. This idea, she explained, stems from the previous talks concerning the Blue Pool.

Wade Stamp commented that he would like to see a presentation on the issues surrounding the hatchery and the USACE.

Jeff Ziller noted that a presentation on the Cougar facility would be interesting. He also noted that a tour of the South Fork Project, Cougar fish facilities, and Terwilliger area would be relevant.

Kelly Wood suggested a geology presentation from Dave Kretzing.

In addition to the upcoming project schedule, Mr. Weybright asked if Partners wished to cancel the February meeting due to it occurring on Valentine's Day. Mr. Ziller noted that the 13<sup>th</sup> would be a good day to reschedule the meeting. There was consensus on a tentative meeting scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>, but that the question should be revisited at later meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:05 pm.**