

**Meeting Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Museum of Natural and Cultural History**  
**1680 E 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eugene, OR 97401**

**Present:** Diane Albino (Mohawk Watershed Partnership), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (McKenzie River Ranger District), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Emma Garner (ODFW), Chad Helms (USACE), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Ray Rivera (McKenzie River Ranger District), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

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

**Absent:** Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Dave Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner)

**Proxy:** Ralph Perkins for Arlene Dietz

**1) Review and Approve Agenda**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve agenda, Dana Burwell seconded the motion. All partners approve agenda showing consensus level 3.

**2) Review and Approve September Minutes**

Todd Miller noted that Joe Pishioneri is representing the City of Springfield, not Lane County as listed in the minutes. Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the October minutes, with noted change. Minutes approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

**3) UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History Projects and Programs**

Jon Erlandson, Executive Director for the University Of Oregon Museum Of Natural History, and Ann Craig, Director of Public Programs, provided background on the museum and its programs. Mr. Erlandson covered the work being done by various research divisions of the museum, as well as the numerous collections and artifacts in their possession. He noted that advancements in technology allow them to discover new information from previously studied relics. Ann Craig continued the presentation, describing the museum's various public programs and education collaborations. Ms. Craig noted that there is a sizable staff that works to provide schools and libraries with STEM-based education programs, with programs existing in nearly every county in the state.

Jared Weybright inquired about the STEM program, asking that Ms. Craig expound on some of the activities and curriculum. Ms. Craig replied that they are working to transition to more inquiry-driven activities. She continued that they're trying to get students to participate in formulating experiments that allow them to test their own hypothesis, as these activities encourage parents to get involved, which often leads to more time being spent on the activity. Additionally, Ms. Craig noted that they are working to implement more citizen science programs in the community. Mr. Weybright commented that this would be an excellent opportunity for collaboration with the Council.

Bob Bumstead asked if it is difficult to fund the education programs. Ms. Craig responded that it is in fact difficult, and they are currently looking for ways to make the education programs more sustainable. She continued that they are looking to donors to get a \$1,000,000 endowment, which she is optimistic about due to the demand for small group environmental education.

#### **4. Partner Announcements**

Todd Miller stated that as most of the Council probably already knows he has been working with the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission to help fund riparian restoration of private lands on the McKenzie River as part of a pilot project that would help the MWMC meet regulatory mitigation responsibilities. He continued that he recently had a good meeting with DEQ, as they are looking to expand their floodplain restoration programs. Mr. Miller feels that if they were able to pool resources together across the entire Willamette Basin, then they would be able to accomplish more in terms of floodplain enhancement. In addition, Mr. Miller noted that the City of Eugene is looking to find additional ways to use biochar as a tool for upland oak restoration projects. Jared Weybright noted that Mr. Miller works tirelessly to make this program work.

Chad Helms reported that the Fall Creek Reservoir draw down has just been completed. The drawdown of the reservoir is designed to facilitate safe downstream passage for juvenile spring Chinook salmon through the USACE's Fall Creek Project.

Dana Burwell asked if the USACE's sale of the Leaburg Hatchery to ODFW is complete. Mr. Helms replied that it is still in process.

Bob Bumstead reported that Salmon Watch trips have begun on Whittaker Creek. He continued that the water is extremely low, although there are fish in the channel and all students are able to see fish.

Darren Cross reported that FS Road 19 is still closed due to fire damage. He also noted that the Willamette National Forest provided the capital Christmas tree this year, which was harvested outside of Sweet Home.

Nate Day reported that he was able to purchase 20 new fly rods for his students from the funds raised through their fly rod raffle. Mr. Day thanked everyone that contributed.

Andy McWilliams reported that the McKenzie Discovery Park had their board meeting this week, and formally hired an executive director at roughly 1 day a week. The director will assist in keeping the project moving forward by seeking funding and collaboration with a variety of partners.

Nancy Toth reported that construction at Carmen Dam is nearing completion. Additionally, the Trail Bridge Reservoir has been drawn down 10 feet while the threat of sinkholes within the reservoir is assessed. Leaburg Canal is also being drawn down in order to examine seepage issues at various locations. She continued that colleagues Karl Morgenstern and David Donahue are working with OSU to monitor runoff from the Terwilliger Fire at several locations using continuous data collectors (sonde) placed in the area. Jared Weybright noted that EWEB has donated the use of 2-3 sondes that will be used to help monitor the South Fork.

Maryanne Reiter reported on a free up-coming presentation, Responses to Headwaters Streams to Forest Management in the Pacific Northwest.

Daniel Dietz reported that Cameron McCarthy design firm is working on improving the Finn Rock boat landing.

Brian Brazil reported that Lauren Leighton was currently in Riverbend Hospital with a head injury.

Dana Burwell reported that the guides were in the process of wrapping up their life jacket program, while Steve Mealy still works to secure funding from ODFW.

Ralph Perkins reported that last night the UWSCD held a fire readiness presentation, which was well attended and had enthusiastic hosts.

### **5) Staff and Director Report**

Jared Weybright reported on current Council activities and programs. He began with the education program, reporting that Salmon Watch season has begun on Whittaker Creek, with roughly 30 trips scheduled. He continued that there are still many spaces available for volunteer educators so please sign-up if you're interested. Additionally, WATERS programs have also begun, with students working on sites at Deer Creek, Finn Rock, and Green Island.

Jennifer Weber reported that the PWP program is continuing to grow, with the number of participating landowners trending towards targets for 2018. There are currently 32 initial contracts completed, with more being scheduled. Additionally, there is a tour of Lower Deer Creek scheduled for early December, in partnership with the BLM. Road rehabilitation association with Phase 1 of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project has also recently been completed, marking the formal completion of that project.

Mr. Weybright noted that the Council will be looking for volunteers in the near future, to assist with an Outreach committee as well as a DEI working group. Regarding funding, Mr. Weybright noted that the Council has recently submitted its grant application for Phase II of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project, seeking \$465,000 from OWEB.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm**

