

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
January 10th, 2019
Springfield Utility Board, 223 A St. Suite F, Springfield

Present: Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Chad Helms (USACE), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright

Absent: Darren Cross (McKenzie River Ranger District), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews)

1) Review and Approve Agenda

Unable to reach a quorum

2) Review and Approve December Minutes

Unable to reach a quorum. Postpone approval of December meeting minutes.

3) Partner Announcement

Bob Bumstead reported that this year's Salmon Watch season was a big success. He continued that the volunteer appreciation dinner will be held at his house on December 11th, from 5 - 8 p.m. Additionally, Mr. Bumstead noted that the McKenzie Flyfishers have begun focusing their fundraising efforts on supporting single organizations and chose to sponsor the Council's education program, donating a total of \$8,600 this year.

Nancy Toth reported that there will be a public PWP meeting this Thursday, January 24th, from 5:30-7 at the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Training Center in Leaburg. She continued that mailings about the program have gone out this week to prioritized landowners, as well as advertisements in the River Reflections. Partners hope to increase the number of private landowners participating in the program in 2019.

Chad Helms issued a reminder for the Willamette Basin Fisheries Review, February 5th-7th in Corvallis. This is a free event, with much of the information accessible online following the event. (Note: the Review has been rescheduled to March 12-14th. Registration is required, visit <http://wfsr2019.ezregister.com> to sign up).

Karl Morgenstern reported that Carmen Smith is currently undergoing maintenance to address several sinkholes that have been detected at the bottom of Carmen Reservoir. EWEB will be investigating the issue further when the reservoir is drawn down in April during annual maintenance on the turbines. Additionally, the Walterville canal has been drawn down to address several leaks. Mr. Morgenstern continued that EWEB is in collaboration with USACE and the US Forest Service to monitor three creek drainages within the Terwilliger Fire burn area in the South Fork watershed. He reported that they have collected data from two storms so far, and will attempt to bring the results of these and additional readings to the Council later this year.

Jeremy Romer reported that ODFW recently completed their eggs to fry program, providing 100 classrooms with over 16,000 fry. ODFW receive a lot of positive feedback from the students and hope to continue the program for years to come. Additionally, Mr. Romer reported that ODFW met with EWEB to discuss plans to draw down Leaburg Reservoir during the summer for regular maintenance and repairs. There is a possibility that the drawdown will drop the lake level below the intake for Leaburg Hatchery's water supply. He noted that there are multiple contingencies on this project and that partners are working hard to find a solution. Mr. Romer reported that the trout stocking schedule for 2019 is still being finalized, as the USACE reviews ODFW proposals. Mr. Bumstead asked if there has been any progress regarding the use of Leaburg Hatchery for trout stocking in the McKenzie as reported previously by representatives from the McKenzie Guides Association. Mr. Romer responded that they were in talks with Desert Spring regarding the use of the hatchery and the exchange of fish, but no agreement was made.

Maryanne Reiter reported that due to the federal shutdown, there are now 40 vacancies available for the Headwaters Symposium. The event takes place on the 15th and 16th of January, with a focus on fish and forest ecosystem's response to forest management.

4) Staff Reports

Justin Demeter provided updates on the Council's education program. He noted that the Salmon Watch volunteer appreciation event was scheduled for January 11th. Mr. Demeter noted that WATERS classes are ongoing and that one group of students was able to complete service work on the South Fork prior to the federal shutdown. Stream survey teams will be in the lab this month synthesizing data from Gate Creek stream surveys over the past year. Justin encouraged folks who volunteered with the Salmon Celebration to come to the Salmon Watch volunteer appreciation event.

Jennifer Weber discussed the recent grant reporting that has been completed for BWCA phase I Riparian Restoration, as well as the Lower Deer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. She noted that Council partners may contact staff if they are interested in reading any of these reports. Ms. Weber noted that scheduling for the Lower Deer Creek project tour has been postponed due to the shutdown of the federal government. She added that there is an informational meeting for community members interested in the PWP program scheduled for January 24th, as Nancy Toth previously mentioned.

Mr. Weybright provided updates on general Council operation and funding. He noted that staff has attended several conferences in the last month, the Within Our Reach conference in Salem, as well a Pacific Lamprey workshop in Portland. The federal shutdown has led to several planning meetings being postponed, as well as the Council's ability to access USFS funding. The staff made the decision to abandon a planned application to NOAA for education funding due to limited staff capacity and a perceived low probability of success. Staff did complete a pre-application to the NOAA Community Based Restoration Grant Program in partnership with the McKenzie River Trust and USFS for restoration work at the MRT's Finn Rock Reach property and on the South Fork McKenzie River. If successful, the full application would be due in April and help fund work at both sites in 2020 and 2021, respectively. He also noted that he would be canceling the February meeting due to a schedule conflict Valentine's Day.

5) MWC Annual Report

Jared Weybright presented the draft MWC 2018 Annual Report to Council partners, noting that the purpose of the report is to provide local residents and partners with a summary of the work that has been done in the last year. The report was produced internally, but

changes have been made for past editions. He asked for feedback and recommendations regarding content and presentation.

Several Partners noted that there is no mention of the Council's meeting schedule. Bob noted that we get an interesting mix of Council Partners and a lot happens from that. Other comments included information be added regarding meeting locations, and defining what is meant by "Council supporters." Multiple Partners provided written edits to staff regarding both content and presentation.

6) Results from 2018 MWC Self-Assessment

Jared Weybright reported on the results from the 2018 OWEB Council self-assessment, noting that in general scores were fairly high, though staff scores were typically lower than partner scores. He continued that there appears to be some confusion regarding whether questions pertained to the MWA Board of Directors, Council Partners, or both. Mr. Weybright noted that board involvement, fundraising, community involvement, volunteer management were the categories with the lowest scores. Arlene Dietz commented that some of the numbers might be skewed because of how many people completed the assessment on their own time rather than the group setting that was seen at the Council Retreat. Jared agreed with this point and noted that six partners who were not at the Retreat also completed the assessment.

Meeting adjourned 6:30