

McKenzie Watershed Council
April 11, 2019
Weyerhaeuser Co., 785 North 42nd, Springfield
Meeting Minutes

Present: Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (USFS), Daniel Dietz (McKenzie River Trust), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Steve Mealey (McKenzie River Guides), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Maryanne Reiter (Weyerhaeuser), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Aaron Staniak (Lane County), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Guest: Charles Tannenbaum

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright

Absent: Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner)

Proxy: Ralph Perkins for Arlene Dietz, Ralph Perkins for Mike McDowell, Lara Colley for Nate Day

1) Review and Approve Agenda

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the April 2019 agenda. Agenda approved, all partners reaching consensus level 3.

3) Approval of December 2018 Minutes

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the December 2019, January 2019, and March 2019 minutes. All minutes approved, all partners reaching consensus level 3.

4) Partner Announcements

Jeff Ziller announced that ODFW held a family fishing event in Cottage Grove this last weekend. He also noted that any upcoming trout stocking in collaboration with Desert Springs Fish Hatchery will be put on hold due to high water throughout the Willamette Valley. Mr. Ziller continued that ODFW is currently working to find a way to remove hatchery Chinook from the fish ladder at Leaburg Dam. The Leaburg canal is not currently operational, therefore ODFW does not have water flowing through the McKenzie Salmon Hatchery to attract adult fish and collect broodstock. This situation forces hatchery staff to rely on collecting the fish at the Leaburg fish ladder. Additionally, Mr. Ziller noted that ODFW received funding through BPA and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to study the ways in which Lamprey are making their way over Leaburg Dam. Currently, many Lamprey are making it over the dam without being accounted for, and ODFW staff hope to investigate this further.

Maryanne Reiter reported that Weyerhaeuser has been working tirelessly to reopen many of their roads following the heavy snow and that many of their trees took a big hit.

Sue Zeni reported that she just got her tree farm opened up following the heavy storms, with high flows currently running across much of her property.

Chad Helms noted that the recent heavy rains have kept much of the USACE very busy. He noted that the storm Sunday was much larger than anticipated, with flows at Dorena exceeding that of the 1996 floods. He continued that USACE employees have been working around the clock to keep an eye on the reservoirs in the area, as much of the pools are now full. Mr. Helms also noted that they are planning to release up to 4,000 cfs of water from Cougar Dam this week, while also opening the spillway gate at Fall Creek reservoir for the first time with water behind it. Lastly, he noted that the South Fork fish facility recently transferred 4 bull trout over the reservoir.

Darren Cross reported that USFS crews are still dealing with the aftermath from last month's snowstorm, with incident management teams beginning work on the Middle Fork of the Willamette and working towards our district. He continued that they have flights scheduled over many of the Forest Service roads to determine which roads they will be able to get open. Mr. Cross added that Mark Schulze of HJ Andrews recently tested the density of the snow from this recent storm and determined it was 3 times the density of snow typically found at 1,000 feet of elevation.

Bob Bumstead reported that a group of interested parties is still working to reopen the Leaburg Trout Hatchery. Mr. Bumstead accompanied Steve Mealy to the state capitol to do some lobbying in hopes of gaining funding that would allow for the Cape Cod strain of rainbows to be put back into the McKenzie via the Leaburg Hatchery.

Wade Stampe reported that there are currently logs floating through his pasture, with a great deal of water flowing through the Mohawk.

Emily Semple reported that the City of Eugene is worried about the amount of trash that has been swept up from homeless camps along the Willamette River due to high water.

Becca Brooke reported that the BLM is still digging out from the snow incident, with many of the high priority roads now opening up in preparation for FY 19 timber sales. She continued that roads crews spent much of the last few weeks digging people out of their homes following the heavy snow event. Additionally, the BLM has been working with the MRT looking for salvage opportunities to collect woody debris to donate to the Finn Rock restoration project.

Steve Mealey reported that keeping the Leaburg hatchery open has been the main priority for the McKenzie River Guides Association. Mr. Mealey continued that last September they sent a letter to Kevin Bryce (USACE) evaluating last year's McKenzie trout mitigation program. The letter was not complimentary and detailed the low catch rates and small fish. Mr. Bryce's response was written by Don Erickson, who deals with the budget, and said that the best long term solution would be the "swap option." This would allow for the stocking rights to be swapped from Desert Springs to ODFW, with ODFW in charge of operating the trout hatchery at Leaburg. Mr. Mealey continued that ODFW would need roughly \$1.7 million per biennium to operate the hatchery, which many claim to be one of the best facilities in the state. Mr. Mealey concluded that this is a conservation issue in the long term, and the guides will continue to fight for it.

Todd Miller reported that the Eugene Springfield wastewater treatment plant is currently pushing 220 million gallons of water through it. He continued that the plant was upgraded 10-15 years ago, including the rehabbing of local lines, so there are fortunately no sewer overflows. Mr. Miller continued that he recently had a good meeting with the DEQ regarding the potential do use floodplain reconnection projects, such as those in Deer Creek and the South Fork as mitigation for waster water plant thermal impacts. He noted that one significant challenge involves quantifying the thermal impact of floodplain restoration projects. Mr. Miller added that if funds are going to go towards regulatory compliance, it makes sense to favor work that provides the greatest environmental impact over concrete cooling towers. Additionally, Mr. Miller announced that he will be having a timber sale on the MWMC's 116-acre poplar farm soon. He plans to hold an open house on June 13th and showcase some of the work they are doing on this property.

Daniel Dietz reported that the upcoming MRT fundraising event with Barry Lopez event has sold out. He continued that this week the MRT will be finalizing their MOU with the BLM regarding trees for the Finn Rock restoration project. Additionally, many of the MRT properties are currently underwater due to the recent storm.

Karl Morgenstern reported that the EWEB treatment plant is still pumping out clean McKenzie River drinking water. He continued that crews spent Sunday and Monday sampling urban runoff throughout the McKenzie basin, with great data regarding pesticides, and organic carbon amongst other things. Additionally, he added that they have begun Cyanotoxin sampling in partnership with the USACE, with probes being placed on the South Fork and Blue River that will track turbidity, and dissolved oxygen in combination with blue-green algae content. Mr. Morgenstern continued that Leaburg Canal is still drawn down as they await approval for repairs to be made. The Walterville Canal drawdown will occur the first two weeks of June for maintenance, while Carmen-Smith will remain closed to address the sinkholes in the reservoir. He added that this outage should not affect the hiking trail nearby.

Kelly Wood reported that Wildish is dealing with high water levels as well, as much of their gravel pit is currently full of water. She continued that extra crews are working to address this, as they hope to clear out much of the water and return to standard operations.

Ralph Perkins reported that the UWSWCD is hosting a workshop on fire preparedness next week. The talk will occur on April 17th, from 7-8:30 at the Hilyard Community Center.

Diane Albino reported that in her 49 years of living in the area she has never seen such large trees come down.

5) Presentation: Willamette Valley Project 50th Commemoration and EIS Update

Erik Peterson of the USACE presented on the Willamette Valley Project's 50th Commemoration and provided updates to the corps' EIS. He began by outlining the various dams in the Willamette Valley, providing a timeline of their construction. In discussing the various dams he also discussed their benefits and purposes in regards to flood control, irrigation, water supply, recreation, and electricity production. Mr. Peterson estimates that these dams have prevented over \$1 billion in damages due to flood control. Additionally, the Willamette Valley dams produce \$30 million in electricity each year. Mr. Peterson noted that looking to the future, the USACE has begun working on a solution for downstream fish passage.

Bob Bumstead inquired as to whether the USACE takes into account earthquake risks. Mr. Peterson responded that each dam has different vulnerabilities, specific to different kinds of seismic events.

6) 2019-2021 Work Plan Review

Jared Weybright reviewed the 2019-2021 biennium work plan, highlighting the various projects and deliverables. Mr. Weybright recommended that the council begin reviewing the biennium work plans at the annual retreat ahead of the upcoming biennium so as to avoid going over them twice.

Steve Mealy inquired as to what the cost for Phase II of the South Fork project would cost. Mr. Weybright responded that Phase II will cost roughly \$1 million.

Karl Morgenstern asked if Ridge monitoring would fall under the Stewardship category. Mr. Weybright responded that he is correct and it would fall under stewardship.

Bob Bumstead called for consensus approval of the proposed 2019-2021 biennium work plan. All partners approve, showing consensus level 3.

7) Resident Partner Terms

Dave Kretzig and Sue Zeni have resident partner terms coming to a close. Both partners wish to renew their terms. Bob Bumstead called for consensus approval on partner term renewals. All partners approve reappointing Mr. Kretzig and Ms. Zeni to the Council, showing consensus level 3.

8) South Fork Tour

Jared Weybright inquired as to whether there would be any interest in a tour of the South Fork Phase I project sight. Mr. Weybright suggested a tour date in late May or early June. All partners approve a partner tour at that time, all partners showing consensus level 3. The majority of partners favor a weekday tour. Council staff will be following up with a Doodle Poll to determine a day that works best for Partners.

Meeting Adjourned, 7:30 pm.