

**Meeting Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**June 13, 2019**  
**McKenzie Fire & Rescue**  
**42870 McKenzie Highway**  
**Leaburg**

**Present:** Carol Ach, Brian Brazil, Becca Brooke, Bob Bumstead, Lara Colley, Nate Day, Arlene Dietz, Daniel Dietz, Chad Helms, David Kretzing, Steve Mealy, Karl Morgenstern, Ralph Perkins, Maryanne Reiter, Mark Schulze, Wade Stampe, Aaron Staniak, Kelly Wood, Jeff Ziller

**Guests:** River Bugbey, Rosemary Bugbey, Mae Delara, Hailee Lowry, Freya Maranda, Alder Montes, Cameron Simpson-Randall, Owen Rudisill, Cyrow Wilson

**Staff:** Chase Antonovich, Jared Weybright

**1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as written all partners showing consensus level 3.

**2. McKenzie HS WATERS Presentation & WATERS Year-End Summary**

McKenzie High School students were in attendance presenting the results from their 2018-2019 water-quality monitoring program. Students performed water quality tests in several tributaries of the McKenzie River including Blue River, Deer Creek, Elk Creek, Horse Creek, as well as the South Fork McKenzie River. When asked how the students felt about the overall water quality in the McKenzie River, they responded that certain parameters are cause for concern such as the cyanobacteria in Blue River, but overall the system appears healthy. Jared Weybright inquired as to whether any test results surprised the students. The students responded that the ammonia levels in the Deer Creek were surprising to them. Mark Schulze asked the students if there were any correlation between flow rates and the testing results. The students responded that they were finding low PH levels during heavy rain periods. Mr. Weybright asked if there were any aspects of the program that the students would change or do differently. The students responded that they would be interested in learning more about the background and context of the tests they were performing to better understand the significance in terms of overall water quality and river health. Kelly Wood inquired as to whether the students were reviewing the previous year's data and building up data sets over time. The students responded that they are tracking their data and were especially interested in previous data from the Holiday RV Park which has seen significant changes to water quality.

**3. Lane County Parks Master Plan**

Ed Alverson, Natural Areas Coordinator with Lane County Parks, presented on the recently adopted Lane County Parks Master Plan. Mr. Alverson noted that the purpose of the master plan is to provide strategic guidance to the area's county parks, balancing recreation and natural resource protection. Mr. Alverson noted that the master plan will include improvements to Armitage Park, Howard J. Morton, and the Old McKenzie Hatchery, providing guidance and tools to maximize benefits of these parks for the next 20 years. Jeff Ziller asked if there were plans to include Armitage Park as a water trail site and if that would include additional campsites for boaters. Mr. Alverson responded that he was unsure at this time. Bob Bumstead asked if there were plans to acquire the Nature Conservancy Willamette Confluence Preserve

and if they would allow public access. Mr. Alverson responded that the Nature Conservancy has completed its restoration plans on the site and is looking to pass it on. He continued that Lane County is interested and will be following up with a proposal and would allow some public access while maintaining restoration goals for the site. Ralph Perkins inquired as to what percentage of Lane County Park's budget is taxpayer money. Mr. Alverson responded that Lane County Parks are funded by car rental and motel tax percentages while the rest is user fees. Mr. Alverson noted that they have a budget of approximately \$3.8 million.

Bob Bumstead asked when we can expect a new boat ramp at Hendricks Wayside. Mr. Alverson responded that the project has been delayed by permitting that the County thinks is now resolved. A portion of the funding to come from the Marine Board. Lane County submitted a grant which ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 22 so there is a good chance the project will get funding this round. Jared asked if the County's annual action plan process was the right way to connect with County on ways to identify priorities and work together. Mr. Alverson answered that he would not want to lose planning flexibility and that hopefully, we can use the annual planning process as a vehicle to connect and develop partnership opportunities. A good example is the Vickery Park project.

#### **4. Approval of May 9, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

#### **5. Partner Announcements**

Daniel Dietz reported that there is currently a large number of logs staged at Finn Rock Reach. He continued that these logs were sourced from the BLM and are being stored in preparation for the floodplain restoration project at the property. Mr. Dietz continued that the MRT had a great turnout at Get Outdoors Day with 700 people in attendance.

Chad Helms reported that the USACE has seen 41 adult Chinook salmon return to Cougar as well as a few summer steelhead and 10 bull trout.

Becca Brooke reported that the BLM is currently advertising for a hydrologist position. She continued that they are currently accepting public comment on the Shot Cash timber sale in Marcola.

Jeff Ziller reported that things are moving along regarding the Leaburg hatchery funding. ODFW is in the process of working on water temperature and water quantity issues at the McKenzie Hatchery due to the shutdown of the Leaburg canal. ODFW currently only has roughly 10% of the Chinook broodstock needed for 2019, although they are still trying to figure out how to sort marked and unmarked fish at Leaburg Dam and will likely be able to obtain broodstock from there. Mr. Ziller also reported that ODFW recently received funding to monitor lamprey activity at Leaburg Dam. The camera at the fish ladder is currently not capturing much lamprey activity, and there is interest in how lamprey are currently passing through the dam. Additional information may help develop more effective passage for lamprey. He continued that ODFW staff will be trapping additional lamprey from Willamette Falls, tagging them, and releasing them into the McKenzie. Mr. Ziller also noted that NMFS has approved hatchery genetic management plans for all salmon hatcheries in Oregon.

Steve Mealey reported that the McKenzie Guides are currently working with Lane County regarding the landing at Hendricks Bridge and potential improvements. Regarding the Leaburg Hatchery, he is optimistic that funding from the state will be forthcoming. Additionally, Mr. Mealy reported that the Leaburg library now has a world-class collection of fly-fishing literature, with over 400 books recently donated.

Bob Bumstead reported that the McKenzie River Cleanup is just around the corner and that he will be recruiting members of the McKenzie Fly Fishers to sign up for additional floats.

Mark Schulze reported that all roads and trails at HJ Andrews are finally clear. He added that they have already had two fires start in the area. Lastly, Mr. Schulze reported that the public field day is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> and there is a registration cap, so he requested that those interested sign up early.

Maryanne Reiter reported that tonight was her last Council meeting. She continued that it has been an honor and pleasure to be involved with such a dedicated group and will remain on the mailing list.

Karl Morgenstern reported that Walterville Canal repairs are coming up in the next few days. Karl stated that the river is still being routed through the bypass channel at Smith is still being routed through the McKenzie bypass while the SUB station is rebuilt. Mr. Morgenstern also noted that cyanotoxin monitoring in Blue River and Cougar Reservoirs has been detecting low levels of the toxin. He noted that EWEB also paid for the installation of water quality sondes below Cougar and below the South Fork project site.

## **5. Staff Reports**

Jared Weybright presented Maryanne Reiter with a thank-you gift for her time participating on the Council. Jared noted that Maryanne has been an active contributor in many ways, and she will be greatly missed, particularly now that the Council is starting project development on Gate Creek.

Jared also thanked the USACE for working with the USFS and Council to hit flow targets regarding Phase II of the South Fork project and thanked the MRT for holding Get Outdoors Day. Mr. Weybright then added that Lane County gave some funding for the South Fork project as mitigation funding for the Hendricks boat ramp improvement project. He also thanked Dave Kretzing and Nancy Toth for their participation at the WATERS conference.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm