

McKenzie Watershed Council
September 12th, 2019
Springfield Utility Board, 223 A St. Suite F, Springfield
Meeting Minutes

Present: Carol Ach (Resident Partner), Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Joe Berney (Lane County), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner), Mark River (Weyerhaeuser), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Aaron Staniak (Lane County), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Guest: Sydney Nilan (Upper Willamette Stewardship Network)

Staff: Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright

Absent: Becca Brooke (BLM), Darren Cross (USFS), Daniel Dietz (MRT), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews)

1) Review and Approve Agenda

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the September 12th meeting 2019 agenda. Agenda approved, all partners reaching consensus level 3.

3) Approval of June 13th, 2019 Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the June 2019 minutes. All minutes approved, all partners reaching consensus level 3.

4) Partner Announcements

Andy McWilliams reported that the University of Oregon Cultural Museum had a nice retreat which included a tour of the South Fork project area lead by Jennifer Weber. He continued that the tour was both informative and overall fascinating. Lastly, Mr. McWilliams added that the McKenzie Masters planned to buy \$500 worth of raffle tickets from Nate Day in support of the McKenzie High School science program.

Chad Helms reported that this has been a good year for Bull Trout spawning, with active spawning occurring in the South Fork McKenzie River upstream of Cougar.

Nate Day reported that school is back in session at McKenzie School. He continued that the science program will be holding another fly rod raffle at the Salmon Celebration. Last years' proceeds went towards Arc GIS equipment for the students.

Steve Raymen reported that Willamalane is currently offering a workshop on organic gardening practices. He also cited recent lawsuits regarding the impacts of RoundUp and settlements against Monsanto. Steve asked in the Council has an herbicide policy that allows for the use of RoundUp, Jared replied that yes, the Council does have an herbicide policy which allows for use of RoundUp.

Emily Semple reported that she will be running for reelection to the Eugene City Council and hopes to continue as the representative on the MWC.

Rod Fosback reported that Northwest Steelheaders will be engaged in clipping steelhead at Lost Creek this weekend.

Jeff Ziller reported that the Leaburg hatchery will be stocking the McKenzie River once again. ODFW worked out a plan to have the private contractor currently stocking the McKenzie to stock a series of ponds with the agency resuming stocking the McKenzie River. He continued that there will be an additional swap in 2020 so all fish stocked into the McKenzie will come from the Leaburg Hatchery. Mr. Ziller continued that this year the McKenzie River saw the highest number of wild Chinook returning in a decade. Lastly, he noted that ODFW staff members Jeremy Romer and Emma Garner were featured on the KVAL news discussing their current lamprey study at Leaburg Dam. ODFW has 27 tagged Pacific lampreys, sourced from Willamette River Falls in Oregon City placed downstream of the dam. To date, 11 lampreys have moved upstream. The study is an attempt to better understand how lampreys are using the ladder to pass the dam to help improve passage and long-term recovery.

Jared Weybright introduced Sydney Nilan, the newly hired Upper Willamette Stewardship Network coordinator. Ms. Nilan has a background in community-based natural resource management and is looking forward to engaging with the Council as part of her collaborative work with other conservation organizations in the Upper Willamette region.

5) Presentation: Lane County Floodplain Code

Rachel Sersley, the CFM Planner for the Lane County Land Management Division, presented on the Lane County floodplain codes 16.224 and 10.271. Ms. Sersley provided an overview and noted changes being made to the codes to become more compliant with NFIP. She noted that the amendments to the codes are not set in stone, and that the County is still involved with the public outreach process now. Bob Bumstead inquired as to whether certain flood zones prohibit new construction. Ms. Sersley responded that it varies from case to case. Carol Ach inquired as to whether there were maps that show the floodplain and if it is possible to access them. Jared Weybright responded that the County's website has a very good interactive map library and that Council staff will share directions on how to access it and use the service. Jeff Ziller inquired as to whether there was any kind of mapping being developed to illustrate migration zones. Ms. Sersley responded that there currently are no changes being made in regards to migration zone mapping, although there are regulations present. Mark River inquired as to whether large wood instream enhancement projects would be affected by new regulations. Ms. Sersley responded that there are exceptions made for projects although she is not sure of the specifics surrounding them. Jared Weybright noted that code amendments involving floodplain development align with the Council's interests and he plans to provide input.

6) October Retreat

Jared Weybright provided partners with an overview of what the Council has planned for the 2019 Council Retreat. The retreat, scheduled for October 10th, will take place in the EWEB board room and will include a review of the Equity Engagement Strategy developed by an MWC working group in February and March 2019. Jared stated that he would like to shorten the retreat to make it more accessible to a Partners, especially since the 2020 Work Plan has already been approved. Jeff Ziller recommended that the retreat occurred in the evening, Council Partners supported this recommendation. Mr. Weybright agreed and will schedule the retreat for 4:30 pm – 8 pm, with dinner to be provided.

7) Salmon Celebration Update and Reminder

Justin Demeter reminded Partners of the upcoming Salmon Celebration, scheduled for Saturday, September 28th. He added that volunteers are still needed for both the Salmon Celebration and November Salmon Watch trips.

8) Staff Reports

Jennifer Weber provided an overview of the ongoing restoration work being done by the Council. Ms. Weber reported that Phase II of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project was completed in early August, removing over 33,000 cubic yards of berms and natural deposits from the floodplain and placing that material within .5 miles of incised channels. She continued that the MWC worked with 17 landowners through PWP over the summer, bringing the total number of landowners involved in the program to 65. Ms. Weber continued that restoration work is ongoing at several small to moderate-sized restoration sites, with planning for fall and winter treatment at these sites ongoing.

Jared Weybright provided updates on Council operations, reporting that numerous tours of Phase II of the South Fork project were led by Council Staff, with additional tours occurring in the upcoming weeks. He continued that Council staff recently completed three-day workshops at Silver Falls State Park centered on exploring power and privilege in our society, and led by the Center for Diversity and the Environment. In regards to funding, Mr. Weybright noted that the MWC recently signed a funding agreement with the National Environmental Education Foundation to engage International Paper employees with volunteer projects. Additional planning is also underway for an OWEB restoration grant submission in late 2019.

Kelly Wood inquired about a tour for Council Partners of the Phase II project area. Jared responded that he would support the idea and planned to follow up with a doodle poll for those who are interested.

Meeting Adjourned, 7:00 pm.