

McKenzie Watershed Council
Annual Retreat
October 10th, 2019
EWEB Board Room
Minutes

Present: Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Darren Cross (McKenzie Ranger District), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Chad Helms (USACE), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Joe Moll (MRT), Sydney Nilan (UWSN), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Steve Raymen (Resident Partner), Mark River (Weyerhaeuser), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Aaron Staniak (Lane County), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Justin Demeter, Jared Weybright

1. Approval of Agenda

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the 2019 retreat agenda, agenda approved as written all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of September 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the September 12th 2019 minutes. September minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Partner Announcements/Staff Updates

Jeff Ziller reported that this year's salmon returns on the McKenzie were phenomenal, specifically in regards to wild fish. ODFW recorded over 3,000 unclipped fish passing by the Leaburg Dam, and 1,843 redds upstream of the dam so far. Gate Creek, which typically sees 6 or 7 redds annually, currently has over 50 redds. Additionally, there are 225 redds currently in the South Fork McKenzie River, with 80-85% of those from wild fish. Wade Stamp inquired as to whether there is any issue regarding the number of hatchery fish spawning above Leaburg. Mr. Ziller responded that ODFW typically attempts to limit the number of hatchery fish spawning above the dam at 10% or less, which will not happen this year due to the canal being non-operational leading into the McKenzie hatchery.

Mark River is looking forward to attending the upcoming project tour of Phase II of the South Fork.

Nancy Toth reported that there is both seepage and seismic concerns at Leaburg canal, resulting in the return to operation date being moved to late 2021. EWEB and partners will be holding emergency response activities on the McKenzie River Wednesday, October 23rd, which may disrupt boat traffic.

Chad Helms reported that the fish facility at Cougar Dam will be shutting down next week. He continued that they only recorded 180 chinook returning, some of the lowest numbers USACE staff have seen in recent years. The assumption is that fish are spawning below the dam in the South Fork project area. Currently, they have seen 133 redds above the dam.

Dana Burwell reported that the guides are looking for ways to improve to their life jacket program. Typically, the guides see upwards of 400 life jackets being used, with less than 300 being used this year.

Andy McWilliams reported that the McKenzie Masters would be interested in helping to support the Guides' life jacket program. The McKenzie Masters were also able to donate \$1,800 to Salmon Watch program this year. Chinook spawning in Martin Creek for the first time in many years.

Joe Moll reported that the MRT witnessed above average Chinook returns at Finn Rock Reach this year. The MRT is moving towards a stage 0 style restoration project for the Finn Rock property, which will

result in a very large disturbance visible from the highway. It will be important to begin soliciting feedback from the public while getting the word out about the project.

Sydney Nilan reported that the UWSN will be hosting the wild and scenic film festival November 14th, at the McDonald Theatre.

Todd Miller reported that there is a new wastewater contaminate called PFAs that are gaining attention. PFAs are chains of chlorine and carbon that don't break down in nature, often found in waterproof and fire-retardant materials. Mr. Miller noted that so far there is no hot spots or levels of concern in Oregon, but they have been recorded in Springfield's storm water.

Darren Cross reported that the Forest Service is very pleased with the results of Phase II of the South Fork project, and have begun looking at expanding the Deer Creek project that was completed several years ago. The 2019 fire season was tame in comparison to the last few years. The Willamette NF spent only half of what they typically do on fire.

Justin Demeter reported that WATERS classes are underway, with students completing habitat surveys on Gate Creek this last week. Mr. Demeter offered thanks everyone who attended the Salmon Celebration despite the rainy weather. November Salmon Watch classes will soon be underway, so please sign-up soon to reserve your preferred volunteer dates.

Jared Weybright reported that the 2020 meeting schedule is very open so please let him know if you have suggestions for meeting topics. Mr. Weybright attended the AFS conference in Reno last week, to accept the Riparian Challenge award from the western division of AFS. This is the second time in 3 years that the Council has accepted the award, for both the South Fork and Deer Creek floodplain projects. Mr. Weybright noted that the Council will be taking 2020 off from the South Fork and will instead be working with EWEB and USFS on Deer Creek in coordination. Planning is ongoing to begin floodplain enhancement work on Gate Creek, specifically the North Fork and portions of the main stem. Lastly, Mr. Weybright wanted to remind Partners of the South Fork Phase II tour scheduled for next week.

4. Proposed FY2020 Budget

Jared Weybright provided an overview of the proposed fiscal year 2020 budget. Mr. Weybright provided a brief description of the Council's income and expenses, listing which projects are tied to which sources of funding. Todd Miller asked if there were any major business supporters of the Council. Mr. Weybright responded that Planktown was the primary business supporter. Mike McDowell asked if Cascade Pacific charges a fee for being the fiscal manager of PWP projects. Mr. Weybright responded that they charge a flat 10% fee. Mr. McDowell then inquired as to what the Spotted Frog funding went towards. Mr. Weybright responded that it is a contract with the USGS, done in tandem with ODFW, to provide funds for Spotted Frog monitoring in the Mink Lake Basin. Most of this funding, he continued, is a direct pass-through. Ralph Perkins commented that the McKenzie Watershed Alliance Executive Committee thinks that Council staff have done a great job of generating funding while also making additions to their reserves. Mr. Perkins added that the Executive Committee recommended that the budget be approved as presented and was unanimously approved.

5. Review of MWC EDI Strategy

Jared Weybright provided a brief overview of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training that staff and partners have undergone in the last year. He presented the revised EDI statement to Council Partners, outlining the changes and additions from the previous statement. Following a brief overview of the work that Council Staff had undergone with the CDE, Partners formed small groups and discussed various aspects of the Council's work plan and how they could be improved upon. Wade Stampe called for consensus on approval of the McKenzie Watershed Council's revised Equity Diversity and Inclusion Statement. Statement approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

Meeting Adjourned, 8:00 pm.