

Meeting Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
December 12th, 2019
Weyerhaeuser Co., 785 North 42nd St.
Springfield

Present: Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM) Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Nick Grant (McKenzie River Ranger District), Dave Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Mark River (Weyerhaeuser), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Aaron Staniak (Lane County), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish)

Proxy: Wade Stampe for Chad Helms, Ralph Perkins for Mike McDowell

Absent: Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Chad Helms (USACE), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright

1. Approval of Agenda

Jared Weybright requested an addition to the agenda, calling for the creation of a Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors which will follow the staff reports on the agenda. Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the December meeting agenda as amended. Agenda approved all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of October 10th, 2019 Retreat Minutes

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the October 10th, 2019 Retreat meeting minutes. Retreat meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Partner Announcements/Staff Updates

Mark Schulze reported that HJ Andrews staff are currently involved in their 6-year renewal of funding with the National Science Foundation which is due in March 2020.

Bob Bumstead reported that the Salmon Watch volunteer celebration and potluck is scheduled for January 17th, from 5-8 pm at his home in Eugene.

Nancy Toth reported that the Walthville power plant has been offline since November due to low water but was put back online yesterday. She continued that there are seepage concerns at Carmen Reservoir that still need to be addressed, although it is back online at reduced levels while a plan is being formulated. Lastly, EWEB, in partnership with other local organizations including the Council, is working on an urban green infrastructure program that will look to engage local businesses.

Ralph Perkins reported that the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District has held a series of fact-finding meetings to gauge interest in whether the organization should apply for a tax base. This comes at a risk, as the cost would be roughly \$80,000 which would need to be paid whether they are successful or not. He continued that this would bring additional money to natural resources and environmental education in the area.

Dana Burwell reported that the McKenzie River Guides Association has recently met with Erik Peterson of the US Army Corps of Engineers to discuss regulating flows coming out of Hills Creek Dam. The Guides Association is currently drafting a letter to the Corps regarding Hills Creek Dam flows and the

decreased insect and fish activity associated with it. Additionally, Mr. Burwell noted that the guides are interested in discussing revised fill dates for Cougar Dam that reflect current weather patterns.

Becca Brooke provided updates regarding the BLM on both a national and local level. She began by reporting that the National BLM office has been moved from Washington DC to Grand Junction, Colorado. Roughly 80% of the employees from the Washington DC office are not interested in moving so BLM will now experience many position vacancies on a national level. In Western Oregon, BLM has been involved in several court cases surrounding its timber production. In one case, the courts found that BLM fell short in timber production by 600 million board feet in the last decade. Additionally, courts found that BLM's current management plan does not satisfy the O&C Act. On a local level, Ms. Brooke reported that BLM is currently looking at a new 3,600-acre timber sale site in the Mohawk watershed. Additionally, BLM is also looking at making repairs to the Reniee Landing boat launch.

Daniel Dietz reported that the McKenzie River Trust's recent attempt at a Recreation Trails Program grant through Oregon State Parks to make improvements to the Finn Rock boat landing was unsuccessful. He continued that the Trust plans to revise the proposal and resubmit within the next year and a half.

Todd Miller reported that the City of Gresham recently held a presentation on bioswales and permeable pavement. They are finding that placing a 3-inch strip of permeable pavement over impermeable pavement results in astonishingly clean runoff. This 3-inch strip is essentially creating a film that breaks up chemicals and filters sediment. Although they do not have a huge sampling budget, Mr. Miller noted that they have tested this throughout varying severities of storms over several years. They are excited about this application on heavier traffic roadways where there is typically not enough room for bioswales.

5. Staff Reports:

Justin Demeter provided updates on the education program, reporting that he had recently wrapped up his final Salmon Watch trips for the year. He noted that this year's numbers were lower than previous years due to having to cancel multiple classes due to changes with Eugene 4J field trip scheduling and liability policies. Several trips in late November also had to be canceled or rescheduled due to inclement weather. Justin thanked the McKenzie Flyfishers for their \$7,000 donation, raised through their annual auction, in support of the Education program. Mr. Demeter continued that WATERS classes are underway, with teams working at Gate Creek, Green Island, Finn Rock Reach, and the South Fork project area.

Jennifer Weber reporting that site preparation at several riparian restoration sites is underway prior to winter planting. She continued that the Council applied to the OWEB fall open solicitation cycle for a final phase of restoration work at Deer Creek, in partnership with the USFS. Additionally, two project tours were held at the South Fork McKenzie River, one with the University of Oregon Environmental Leadership Program students and a second with local residents. Ms. Weber also noted that project development is still underway at Gate Creek with the BLM, ODFW, and Weyerhaeuser. Council staff is also involved with the efforts to expand the Long Tom Watershed's Urban Waters program into Springfield as Nancy previously mentioned.

Jared reported that he is still soliciting feedback regarding speakers for upcoming Council meetings. Additionally, Upper Willamette network collaboration has been going well, with several successful funding applications, a successful film festival, and increased planning and collaboration surrounding education. Updates to funding include an additional \$284,000 added to the 2020 budget, with over \$500,000 in applications still pending.

6. Nominating Committee

Jared Weybright provided an overview of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance's Board of Directors, stating that they are made up of 5 members who serve staggered 2-year terms. He continued that Ralph Perkins and Diane Albino have terms ending in December, with the bylaws allowing them to serve until they are either reappointed or replaced. Mr. Weybright called for three volunteers to form a Nominating Committee to work alongside him for the next month and follow up with Board Members to see if they are interested in an additional term, while also seeing if other Partners are interested in participating. Wade Stampe, Bob Bumstead, and Rod Fosback responded as being interested in joining the nominating committee.

7. EESP Action Plan Review and Small Groups Breakout

Jared Weybright provided an overview of the work that was done at the October Retreat centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). He provided a summary of what Partners felt the Council is doing well and what needs improvement regarding programs, staff, and partnerships. Following this summary, Mr. Weybright discussed the Council's DEI Action Plan strategy, which provides a framework and 3-year tactical plan for working towards greater diversity, equity, and inclusion with the MWC's programs. It is important to note that the Council's DEI strategy is a "living" document intended to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Jared then asked Council Partners to break into small groups to review sections of the DEI Action Plan and prepare a short "report-out" for the group. After a discussion period, each small group completed a short report out with comments and suggestions for each of the four main sections of the DEI Action Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.