

**Meeting Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Springfield Utility Board**

**Present:** Joe Berney (Lane County), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Lara Colley (Resident Partner), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Nick Grant (USFS), Chad Helms (USACE), Dave Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Steve Mealey (McKenzie River Guides), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Mark River (Weyerhaeuser), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

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

**Proxy:** Ralph Perkins for Arlene Dietz

**Absent:** Arlene Dietz (Rice Family Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders)

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Agenda approved all partners showing consensus level 3.

### **2. Approval of December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Meeting minutes approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

### **3. Partner Announcements**

Daniel Dietz reported that the McKenzie River Trust has recently purchased a new property on the east side of the community of Blue River. The parcel is 47 acres and was purchased from the McKenzie School District using donations from a private donor.

Jeff Ziller reported that it will be 2 years until the Leaburg Canal is back in operation which is causing concerns for the McKenzie hatchery. ODFW was able to utilize the Leaburg Hatchery in 2019 and is currently moving Chinook back over to the McKenzie hatchery in blocks. ODFW is trying to get salmon to key in on the water at the hatchery by running the fish through the ponds and into the hatchery. Mr. Ziller continued that they are currently in the process of building a sorting device to be placed on the left bank ladder at Leaburg Dam and operated during the bulk of the spring Chinook run. Funding for this 2-year project would come from the USACE. Bob Bumstead inquired if they would plan to shut down the right-bank ladder to force fish through the sorting facility. Mr. Ziller responded that they are unsure at this time but will likely regulate flows to coerce fish over the left bank. Additionally, Mr. Ziller reported that 15 of the 29 Pacific lampreys that ODFW tagged and released in the McKenzie have been accounted for. Aaron Helfrich of the McKenzie Guides has been assisting with the tracking, floating the river above and below the dam. Lastly, Mr. Ziller announced that the American Fisheries Society will be holding their annual meeting in Bend in early March this year for those who are interested.

Chad Helms reported the Willamette Basin Fisheries Science Review will be held on February 11-12<sup>th</sup> at Oregon State University.

Nick Grant reported that planning is currently underway for the Flat Country project area in the upper McKenzie Watershed. The area is roughly 70,000 acres, with 5,000 acres designated for timber sales, as well as hazardous fuels and meadows treatments. He continued that the draft EIS is going out in the next few weeks for public comment. Mr. Grant noted that McKenzie River Ranger District recently hired Matt Helstab from the Middle Fork Willamette Ranger District as the new fisheries biologist for the district.

Bob Bumstead reported that the Salmon Watch volunteer celebration is scheduled for next Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at his house near Hendricks Park. He also noted that the McKenzie Flyfishers will be applying for a Salmon Watch grant through the Oregon Flyfishers Foundation, with Dave Thomas actively pursuing additional funding for the program.

Andy McWilliams reported that the McKenzie River Discover Center met its fundraising goal for this year, and now has a website and Facebook page. He continued that they feel optimistic about securing a Murdoch Foundation grant which would allow for them to hire a full-time administrative staff member. Additionally, Mr. McWilliams reported that the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History will be offering an Oregon Stewardship Award that he feels the Council would be a great candidate for.

Becca Brooke reported that the BLM will be holding a public meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Marcola Grange regarding the 3,600-acre timber sale that is being planned in the Shotgun Creek area. They will also be holding a meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Cottage Grove City Hall regarding the 1,300-acre Mosby timber sale. This has been identified as critical spotted owl habitat, and the BLM will be releasing the revised EA soon. Additionally, Ms. Brooke added that the revised Pedal Power timber sale EA will also be released soon, which encompasses 100 acres outside of Springfield. Lastly, the BLM is currently looking at employing its fire crew due to cost increases associated with ODF's services.

#### **4. Staff Reports**

Justin Demeter reported that the Salmon Watch Volunteer Event will take place on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8 pm at the Bumstead residence. He continued that WATERS classes are ongoing, with McKenzie and Mohawk high schools completing both water quality and habitat surveys. Middle school teams from Coburg Community Charter and McKenzie Middle School have been working to replant native vegetation in the Phase II South Fork Project Area in partnership with the USFS. Thanks to funding from EWEB, the Council is planning to work with 3 Springfield middle schools again, starting in February.

Jennifer Weber reported that she has been busy coordinating planting at the Dehne Small Grant Project Site while also completing the 3-year post-implementation status report for BWCA. She continued that there will be a volunteer planting day on the South Fork January 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in collaboration with the McKenzie River Trust. Lastly, she noted that planning for instream restoration work on Deer Creek is ongoing in collaboration with EWEB and the USFS.

Jared Weybright reported that he had identified several speakers and topics for 2020 including presentations from the Long Tom Watershed Council, and HJ Andrews researchers. Additionally, Mr. Weybright provided updates to Council funding, noting that we received a \$1,000 donation from Café Mam in December. Currently, the Council has two funding requests pending, \$10,000 from USFS Title II for WATERS classes, as well as \$397,000 from OWEB Open Solicitation for Deer Creek restoration.

#### **5. Nominating Committee Report-Out**

Jared Weybright reported that Executive Committee members Ralph Perkins and Diane Albino each have terms that are coming to an end, and they each also wish to renew their terms for an additional two years. He then noted that the Council needs to approve these nominations for renewal. Bob Bumstead called for a consensus on the approval of Ralph Perkins and Diane Albino's Executive Committee term renewals. Renewals approved, all partners showing consensus level 3.

## **6. Lower South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project Update**

Jared Weybright presented on Phase II implementation of the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Program, while also discussing long term monitoring of the project. Mr. Weybright provided background on Stage 0 design before discussing the initial results as well as challenges found in completed such a large scale project.

Todd Miller inquired as to whether any temperature data was coming from post-project monitoring. Mr. Weybright responded that transect monitoring teams have been collecting temperature data although there is still discussion as to how they can incorporate drones and other methods to collect additional data.

Andy McWilliams asked about the status of the powerline removal at Deer Creek. Mr. Weybright responded that the powerlines will be relocated to the South hillslope this year as part of EWEB relicensing.

Lara Colley, who has been working with USFS staff to complete transect surveys in the project area noted that crews are currently measuring water temperature, velocity, and vegetative cover. She continued that it is difficult to work but is capturing a great deal of data.

Todd Miller asked if stage 0 restoration projects are unique to Western Oregon streams. Jared Weybright responded that these projects are not unique to Western Oregon, as multiple projects have been completed on the East side of the Cascades and Washington as well. He continued that these are often more meadow-based projects, dealing with wet meadows in incised creeks, but maximizing connectivity and focusing on elevations can be successful in areas outside of Western Oregon.

Steve Mealey asked if there were any plans for publications on the subject that could reach a wider audience. Mr. Weybright responded there was a peer-reviewed paper that came out last year and he assumes there will be additional papers that will focus on the monitoring of the project.

Karl Morgenstern asked if road building is the primary cause of stream degradation outside of areas that are not directly below dams. Mr. Weybright responded that there are multiple causes centered on land use, channel stabilization, and infrastructure. He continued that a lot of meadow-based restoration is the byproduct of grazing.

Bob Bumstead asked if Stage 0 restoration could have been done 10-15 years ago. Mr. Weybright responded that it could not be done without the widespread availability of LiDAR. He reasoned that Stage 0 project design is dependent on having access to LiDAR, which is a relatively new technology.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.**