

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, January 13, 2022
5:05 – 6:45 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84659398642?pwd=L29VZ3p4dm9CYWsrZ0t0anUwRUdUZz09>

- 1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics** **5:05 - 5:10**
Facilitator: Jared Weybright
Action Requested - Approve agenda
- 2. Approval of December 9th Meeting Minutes** **5:10 - 5:15**
Attachment: December Meeting Minutes
Action Requested – Approve December meeting minutes.
- 3. Q & A Session on the Private Forest Accord** **5:15 – 6:15**
Bob VanDyke PhD, *Oregon and California Policy Director* Wild Salmon Center
Dr. VanDyke leads the Wild Salmon Centers efforts to protect and restore salmon strongholds in Oregon and California. His background is in forest policy and in academia. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington, and he worked for 21 years at Pacific University in Forest Grove, where he is now a professor emeritus. Bob is also trained in G.I.S., and he has a passion for illustrating public policy through maps.
Information Only
- 4. Partner Updates and Public Comment** **6:15 – 6:45**
Information Only

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- February 10, 2022: TBD
- March 10, 2022: Deer Creek Floodplain Monitoring: Dr. Dan Scott
- April 14, 2022: Benthic Macroinvertebrate response to Stage 0 restoration: Bob Wisseman (tentative)

Contact: Jared Weybright, 458-201-8150, jared@mckenziawc.org, www.mckenziawc.org

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES
MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Adopted February 14, 2013

A general public comment period of at least ten minutes will be placed on each agenda at the beginning of the meeting. During this session, testimony is allowed on any matter relevant to the Council's mission. The facilitator shall determine relevance. The time limit for comments is three minutes, which can be reduced at the discretion of the facilitator. The facilitator also may allow public comment or questions on specific agenda items as they are addressed, with a three-minute time limit. The facilitator has the discretion to end public testimony if needed to make sure the Council completes its business.

Before members of the public may provide comments, first they must be recognized by the facilitator. Individuals should raise their hands to be recognized and provide their names and the organizations they represent, if any. The Council will require speakers to fill out a public comment card identifying themselves and the topic they wish to address.

Each agenda should include a statement describing these public comment procedures.

COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

To foster better stewardship of McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, functions and uses. The Council will accomplish its mission through fostering voluntary partnerships, collaboration and public awareness.

MEETING AGREEMENTS

- Honor the agenda or modify by agreement
- Candid and constructive conversation
- Ask questions for clarification and understanding
- Monitor speaking time
- Focus on problems (issues) not people
- Avoid sidebar conversations
- Listen carefully to each other; focus on content not style

ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR

- Use meeting agreements for guidance
- Refrain from contributing your own ideas (if you feel strongly about providing an opinion on a certain issue, pass the gavel temporarily to another Exec. member)
- Keep group's attention focused on agenda items
- Make sure everyone has a chance to participate
- Maintain agreed upon time schedule
- Summarize to move from one topic to another (but don't try to bias what was just decided by the council)
- Coming to consensus:
 - Highlight where participants agree
 - Identify areas of disagreement
 - Develop plan for achieving consensus

McKenzie Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Present: Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Darren Cross (USFS), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins UWSWCD), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Will Rutheford (Resident Partner), 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, Lara Colley, Justin Demeter, Jared Weybright

1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics

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

2. Approval of October 14th Meeting Minutes

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the October 14th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Upper Willamette SWCD Tax Base Planning Year 1

Dave Downing, UWSWCD District Manager, provided an update on the status of the new UWSWCD tax base planning for program development and regional service. Mr. Downing provided a brief background on the organization and its funding model, followed by the operational successes and challenges encountered within the first year. He discussed the SWCD's current commitments and goals, as well as where they intend to focus their efforts in the future.

Arlene Dietz noted that the framework for the plan is based upon their 5-year plan to fundraisers, and asked if modifications had been made following the Holiday Farm Fire. Mr. Downing responded that the plan outlines their continuation in the PWP and their commitment to supporting the fire recovery effort.

Jared Weybright asked if the yearly funding total is going to change a year from now, or if it is relatively consistent. Mr. Downing responded that they will be seeing a good portion of the taxation funds in December, although payments will trickle in clear into March. He continued that there is a formula used to determine the tax collection projections, currently it is 94% over the last 7 years. The 7 cents per thousand is the actual number being collected.

4. Partner Updates

Commissioner Barofsky reported that there will be an EWEB rate increase for the first time in several years. He continued that they're looking at Leaburg Canal issues and are gathering public input to see which direction to go with that project. He continued that the wildfire mitigation draft has been received and will be put up for approval in June, they will be contacting stakeholders for input in the Spring.

Dana Burwell reported that the guides are hoping for a better season next year. He continued that the life jacket program participation was way down last year, and quite a few life jackets were lost so they're looking to recoup them. Mr. Burwell continued that he wanted to extend a thank you to the SWCD and EWEB for their composting program, as well as Lara Colley for helping him obtain seed.

Rod Fosback reported that the NW Steelheaders are gearing up for the winter steelhead season. There are currently 15,000 smolts to release this next year. He also noted that the Steelheaders have been placing carcasses at Finn Rock to provide vital nutrients to the system.

Bob Bumstead reported that he was disappointed to not be able to participate in Salmon Watch field trips, although he contributed to the classroom videos that Emma Gardner created. Mr. Bumstead is enthusiastic about the creation of an educational youth angling pond that they are working to get setup at the old McKenzie hatchery.

Todd Miller reported that they have finally signed an agreement that will help branch out broader water quality goals that have been established with the pure water partners. He continued that the partnership would help accomplish these goals in the urban department as well as upriver. Additionally, the MWMC is getting a clean water act discharge permit renewal for the first time in several years. They are hoping to see draft permit in January for review, followed by a public announcement and comment period in February and March. He continued that the goal is to establish legal guidance for restoration programs up the McKenzie with the Freshwater Trust. By July of 2022, they hope to have that completed.

Nancy Toth reported that EWEB is working with the Urban Waters and Wildlife program Todd Miller mentioned, and they're excited about the permit.

Arlene Dietz reported that Rice Farms completed their Hazelnut harvest early this year, which was likely related to effects from the heat on their crops.

Chad Helms thanked Justin Demeter for the Green Island field trip his daughter recently participated in with Coburg Charter School. He continued that there is ongoing litigation with the USACE, and district courts have issued an injunction to implement downstream fish passage on numerous projects.

David Kretzing reported that he has continued filming for the film on the hydrology of the McKenzie. He recently observed machinery at Trail bridge working on the campground, which is good to see.

Brian Brazil reported that IP has continued working on their 2030 goal to reduce 25% of water usage. The target at the Springfield site was to reduce usage by 2.5% this year, which they were able to complete primarily through re-piping. They hope to have 8% reduction by 2023.

Becca Brooke reported that burned area recovery money was given to BLM to help with storm effects on their roads. She continued that they are preparing to begin planting season in the end of December. Lastly, Ms. Brooke noted that the BLM lost a lawsuit in 2019 due to their Resource Management Plan. A remedy was given and the RMP will be vacated. BLM may appeal it, but right now they are unsure.

Darren Cross reported that he is back as District Ranger at the McKenzie office. They are still working on fire recovery and addressing lawsuits regarding reopening forests. He continued that there is a great deal of money for restoration available right now, but it's difficult to implement this level of work, so the USFS is looking forward to working with partners.

Nate Day reported that they have been establishing a WATERS program on Fridays when class is not in session. Students recently went up to Clear Lake to discuss geography in the area.

Susan Fricke reported that toxic algal levels were not an issue anywhere in the source water area, which is great news. She continued that they ceased monitoring in November and will resume in March. Currently crews are monitoring storm runoff for sediment, pesticides, and other contaminants.

Jeff Ziller reported that as part of the Carmen-Smith Project, ODFW has been looking at removing brook trout and reintroducing cutthroat trout below Carmen dam and in the reservoir. Crews spent last summer removing brook trout and as of November 2021, have put in 800, 2+ year old, cutthroat that will hopefully spawn in that section of water. Mr. Ziller continued that ODFW ran the Salmon sorter at Leaburg all year and ended up taking out 400 hatchery fish. Overall, roughly 1500 total fish were collected between all methods, all of which are used for broodstock. He noted that the sorter will be used for the foreseeable future. Mr. Ziller continued that they have released pit tagged fish in Cougar reservoir to see what interim measures need to be conducted to facilitate fish passage. ODFW detected these fish at the Walterville bypass and Willamette falls. They are currently up to nearly 400 recoveries out of all pit tag stations, not including the screw traps below Cougar dam. Lastly, Mr. Ziller noted that they had a coho show up at Leaburg hatchery yesterday, which was the first one seen in a very long time.

Andy McWilliams reported that the Wayfarer is hoping to rent out some of their cabins this summer. He noted that it is difficult to find insurance and rebuild existing cabins. The McKenzie Masters will meet soon to discuss what they're funding for the next year, would love to be apart of replenishing life jackets. He continued that they have made a lot of progress on the Discovery Center and will continue working towards getting that going. The executive director of the Discovery Center, Wisteria Stuart has been doing a great job although, she has been dealing with a child who has been diagnosed with cancer. There has been a GoFundMe setup to support her son.

Mark Schulze reported that the HJ Andrews forest is going through staffing transitions.

Karl Morgenstern reported that he is working on a FEMA grant currently which is extremely time consuming. He also noted that there was a large turbidity event recently due to drawing Cougar Dam so low that it sluffed sediment which resulted in higher turbidity than they had seen in quite some time.

Lara Colley reported that the Council and Pure Water Partners Program are offering free firewood to upriver residents and asked that Partners spread the word.

Justin Demeter reported that education programs have resumed. He noted that despite Salmon Watch trips being cancelled, they were able to reach many students thanks to virtual field trips.

Jared Weybright briefly reported that the Council is currently moved out of the office while we look for a new location. He continued that we are currently hiring restoration technicians to work alongside Lara and Cori as we attempt to get twice as much planting done this year.

5. Nominating Committee

Jared Weybright asked for volunteers to act as a nominating committee to make recommendations to fill the two Board and two Resident Partner positions. Sue Zeni volunteered to work alongside Mr. Weybright and Lara Colley. Mr. Weybright noted that he may reach out directly to additional Partners

Meeting adjourned, 6:45 pm.