

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, June 10, 2021
5:05 – 6:45 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/95576587006?pwd=WTAzdnhPMkp6dEM5a1RHNUk4V3Bndz09>

- 1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics** **5:05 - 5:10**
Facilitator: Jared Weybright
Action Requested - Approve agenda
- 2. Approval of May 13th Meeting Minutes** **5:10 - 5:15**
Action Requested – Approve March meeting minutes.
Attachment: May Meeting Minutes
- 3. Finn Rock Reach Restoration Project** **5:15 – 5:40**
Daniel Dietz, Conservation Director, MRT, will present an overview of restoration plans for the Finn Rock Reach property downstream of the community of Blue River. Presentation will be followed by a Q/A session.
Information Only
- 4. Partner Announcements, Public Comment, and Staff Report** **5:40 – 6:25**
Information Only
Attachment: 2020 Annual Report & May/June Staff Report
- 5. River Clean-up** **6:25 – 6:35**
Staff are planning for a low-key river clean-up on June 26 with no BBQ and only limited routes to largely avoid the HFF footprint
Information Only
- 6. Summer Tour** **6:35 – 6:45**
Staff are proposing a tour the 2-3 private properties within the HFF perimeter. The objective will be to observe a range of restoration, erosion control, and fuels treatments being implemented through the Pure Water Partners program.
Information Only

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- July: Tour – Date and Time TBD
- August: No meeting
- September 9, 2021 -
- October 14, 2021 – Tentative Date for Council Retreat

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

Meeting Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
April 8th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM), Commissioner Heather Buch (Lane County), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Daniel Dietz (MRT), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Nick Grant (USFS), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Ralph Perkins (9UWSWCD), Bryan Robinson (City of Springfield), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Will Rutheford (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Mickey Means-Brou, Lara Colley, Justin Demeter, Jennifer Weber, Jared Weybright

1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the May 13th meeting agenda. Agenda approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the April 8th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. New Staff Members

Jared Weybright introduced Cori Carpenter as the newest Council hire. Ms. Carpenter took a moment to discuss her background and experience in natural resources.

4. Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

Sydney Nilan, UWSN Coordinator and Sarah Dyrdaahl, former Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Coordinator presented on network theory whilst providing an overview of the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network.

Jared Weybright commented that the network collaboration surrounding the McKenzie River Trust's acquisition of the McKenzie-Willamette confluence site from the Nature Conservancy is a great example of collaborative work within the Network.

Commissioner Barofsky asked about balancing the workload of one's own organization while working with other groups. Ms. Dyrdaahl commented that the activities of the network represent shared values and goals and so by participating in another groups work they are not detracting from their own organization's mission. She continued that it allows project managers to stay engaged and working outside of their own project timelines.

4. Standing Planning Committee Request

Jared Weybright noted that it has become increasingly challenging for staff to identify monthly meeting topics and presentations. He asked for volunteers to join a committee to meet 2-3 times annually to help with the identification and planning of monthly presentations and speakers. Mark Schulze, Dave Kretzing, Diane Albino, and Sue Zeni volunteered. Mr. Weybright will follow up with a meeting invitation to begin this work.

4. Partner Announcements

Commissioner Barofsky reported that the EWEB board will be hosting an upriver meeting June 15th at 6 pm at McKenzie Fire and Rescue. He continued that EWEB board members and elected officials will be on a trip next Friday down the river to view the Holiday Farm Fire burn zone and the erosion control work that is ongoing.

Karl Morgenstern reported that he has been testifying to legislation to get funding from the state to go towards wildfire recovery. He feels that they have been making some strong points, and hope to see additional funding for the McKenzie Basin. He continued that he met with Peter Defazio last week for 5 hours and he has an ask for \$2 million in to support floodplain restoration at Finn Rock and Quartz Creek. Lastly, he noted that crews have been monitoring Blue River for harmful algal blooms. Although they are relatively small right now, he anticipates growth over the summer. not too large just yet, will likely see growth soon. Have instrumentation in place to monitor.

Nancy Toth reported that they have finished 2 sessions of Naturescaping workshops, which are recorded and available on the Pure Water Partners website. She continued that on June 7th at 5:30, EWEB will be hosting a public meeting on Firewise communities and developing a few in McKenzie basin. Lastly, Ms. Toth noted that EWEB is still trying to get the word out about landowner incentive programs, which can be viewed via the Holiday Farm Fire Resource page of EWEB's website.

Kelly Wood reported that Lane County is making amendments to the floodplain code that recently got approved in January. There will be a public hearing June 1st, with staff report sent out a week prior.

Bob Bumstead reported that the McKenzie Flyfishers are scheduled to pick up trash around Leaburg lake in the coming weeks. He continued that the club plans to help ODFW sort fish at Leaburg Dam.

Nick Grant reported closures in place on Deer Creek Road, for phase III implementation of that project. He continued that the FS-19 road is closed again due to a rock slide, and likely will not reopen for 3 months.

Brian Brazil reported that International Paper is working on reducing the amount of water passing through the mill by 25% by the year 2030.

Bryan Robinson reported that the City of Springfield is working on their MS4 permit renewal. Additionally, he noted the 5th Annual Willamette River Festival is scheduled for August 21st-28th.

<https://wewetlands.org/art-tours-and-tales-of-the-willamette-river/>

Dana Burwell reported that guides are catching fish and life jacket program in full swing despite less places to put them. He continued that Leaburg Store has nowhere to put them yet, although they are working on it.

Ralph Perkins reported that UWSWCD is busy transitioning to having a tax base. Last night they approved their first tax base budget for 2021-2022, and have also hired a financial person.

Will Rutheford reported McKenzie Coldwater Coalition has created a wildfire scrapbook documenting all the press coverage of the Holiday Farm Fire.

Jeff Ziller reported that EWEB is transitioning to a low flow manipulation to allow more water in the river and less water in the canal which will greatly benefit the fish. He continued that ODFW is still on track to get the sorting device installed at Lloyd Knox Park prior to the arrival of Chinook below the Dam. Mr. Ziller noted that currently there are 12,000 Chinook over Willamette Falls which is slightly lower than usual but not by much.

Becca Brooke reported that Silver Creek, Rennie, and Taylor landings are open, with Ben and Kay remaining closed. She continued that BLM recently closed the comment period for salvage projects on Holiday Farm Fire land, which would propose 910 acres be salvaged. BLM received 2 dozen unique comments. Lastly, Ms. Brooke noted that there is lots of hiring in field office currently, with applications available through the BLM website.

Diane Albino reported that EPUD will be burying electric lines in the Mohawk Valley which she is happy about.

5. Staff Updates

Jared Weybright provided an overview of the work that Council staff has currently been engaged with. He noted that 270 Holiday Farm Fire assessments have been completed so far, with riparian planting occurring on 80+ sites. He continued that the Council has secured a \$200,000 grant from emergency board funding to target fuels reduction on private lands. Mr. Weybright added that in addition to the Holiday Farm Fire work, the Council is planning to complete 3 in-stream restoration projects this year, including a continuation of the work that was done on Deer Creek last summer. Projects will also occur on lower Deer Creek, and Finn Rock Reach as well.

Jennifer Weber noted that Pure Waters Partners projects are still being completed as well, with spring interplanting and maintenance being completed at existing PWP sites.

Meeting adjourned, 6:30pm.

**McKenzie Watershed Council
Staff Report
June 2021**

Holiday Farm Fire

Restoration and recovery work within the footprint of the Holiday Farm Fire continues to occupy most of the Council staff's time. This work is largely coordinated through the Pure Water Partners (PWP) infrastructure and done in partnership with EWEB, the Upper Willamette SWCD, McKenzie River Trust, and others. The work is currently shifting from short-term restoration actions (assessments, erosion control, and tree planting) to long-term actions such as floodplain restoration, multi-year riparian restoration and maintenance, fuel reduction, and invasive weed surveys/management. Visit the program dashboard to track the progress of the work to date.

<https://lcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4d4d7b5d84d74245b6078c523aaa33a9>

Restoration Program

- Phase 3 of in-stream work at Deer Creek will begin in late June and should be completed by early August. EWEB transmission lines within the Deer Creek channel are in the process of being relocated to the adjacent hillslope. The Phase 3 project is funded by OWEB and USFS grants.
- Restoration work at lower Deer Creek will begin in July, in partnership with the BLM. The project will place additional large wood within the lower section of Deer Creek, which was impacted by the HFF. This work is funded by a grant from OWEB using Good Neighbor Authority to route BLM to the MWC.
- Partners expect to implement Phase 1 of the Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Enhancement project starting in July 2021. The MWC has been assisting with the planning and development of the RFP and contract.
- The MWC and other Pure Water Partners organizations such as the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District have begun riparian restoration projects at three PWP sites outside of the HFF. These projects are funded through a combination of OWEB, EWEB, and the Metro

Education Program

Planning for a fall 2021 Salmon Watch season is underway with initial outreach to teachers and volunteers. The September field trips on the McKenzie River, which are traditionally done at the spawning channel downstream of Carmen Dam, are challenging because the spawning channel is under re-construction/restoration and backup sites at Delta Campground and Finn Rock Reach are not feasible due to the HFF. Leaburg Hatchery is a potential site if field trips prove to be viable.

Outreach

- The 2020 Annual Report is completed and available on the Council website.
- There will be a limited McKenzie River Clean-up on Saturday, June 28th. The event will focus on the lower river to avoid conflicts on-going work and other logistical challenges within the HFF perimeter. We are exploring options for a fall river clean-up when we are (hopefully) able to host a more traditional celebration and community BBQ.

Operations

The Council is still exploring options to expand into the vacant office space adjacent to its current office space at 442 A Street. Staff will begin to resume a more regular office presence starting in June, though all staff will retain some remote work flexibility. Please call ahead if you are planning to stop by the office to ensure that someone is there.