

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, May 13, 2021
5:05 – 6:35 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 April 8th Meeting Minutes** **5:10 - 5:15**
Action Requested – Approve March meeting minutes.
Attachment: April Meeting Minutes
- 3. Upper Willamette Stewardship Network** **5:15 – 5:55**
Presentation on network theory and an overview of the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, to be followed by Q/A session and discussion.
Sydney Nilan, UWSN Coordinator and Sarah Dyrdaahl, former Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Coordinator
Information only
- 4. Standing Planning Committee Request** **5:55 – 6:10**
Identifying and developing presentations for monthly Council meetings has been increasingly challenging for the Director and staff. Additionally, there is interest in exploring more complex issues (e.g., wild fish management, salvage logging) at Council meetings as well as opportunities to explore in-person/virtual meeting schedules at some point in 2021/22.
Action Requested: 3-5 Council Partners to join the Director/staff on a standing committee to meet 3-4 times per year
- 5. Partner Announcements, Public Comment and Staff Report** **6:10 – 6:35**
Information Only –Updates
Attachment: May Staff Report

Next Meeting:

- Date: June 13, 2021
- Time: 5:05 – 6:30 p.m.
- Presentation: *TBA*

Upcoming meeting topics

- Holiday Farm Fire impacts and recovery efforts on Weyerhaeuser lands (May)
- Floodplain restoration project planning and upcoming projects

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

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

Present: Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Becca Brooke (BLM), Commissioner Heather Buch (Lane County), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Darren Cross (USFS), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Daniel Dietz (MRT), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Drew McWilliams (Advisory), Bryan Robinson (Guest), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Will Rutheford (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Aaron Staniak (Lane County), Dave Thomas (McKenzie Flyfishers), 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 to approve the April 8th meeting agenda. Agenda approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the March 11th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. New Staff Members

Jared Weybright introduced Lara Colley and Mickey Means-Brou as the newest Council hires. He noted that there will be an additional hire, Cori Carpenter, starting next week as well.

4. Partner Announcements

Becca Brooke warned that it is not unexpected to be seeing smoke in the area during the drier days we have coming up. She continued that the BLM is still working to replace culverts while also reopening recreation sites along the river. BLM will begin clearing hazard trees in May with plans to reopen roads as soon as possible. Lastly, Ms. Brooke reported that there is a new Secretary of the Interior and Director for the BLM, as well as a new NW Oregon district manager working locally as well.

Commissioner John Barofsky reported that there is a new \$3 surcharge for water users that will go towards restoration and habitat work. EWEB hopes to raise \$17 million with this effort. Additionally, EWEB will be working with the MRT on a 50% match grant for new property acquisitions.

Karl Morgenstern reported that EWEB sent legislative asks through Lane County for nearly \$20 million to support watershed restoration, Blue River septic upgrades, and monitoring work. He continued that EWEB water construction crews have been delivering wood chips to properties to assist with the NWYC. Additionally, EWEB will be collecting aerial imagery of the Holiday Farm Fire in the coming weeks. Mr. Morgenstern continued that on the generation side of operations, EWEB is still determining the best course of action for dealing with the Leaburg Canal, while Walterville Canal will be taken down to undergo maintenance June 5th-25th. He noted that crews are reconstructing the spawning channel below Trailbridge, with the campground being reconstructed this summer as well. Carmen Smith will be operated at lower levels to reduce sinkhole risks.

Nancy Toth reported that EWEB is still offering zero interest septic repairs or updates for Holiday Farm Fire victims and others. Addition they are also offering incentives for homesite relocation. Ms. Toth continued that the Pure Waters Partner Program will be putting on their annual naturesscaping workshop on April 27th and May 4th. The Holiday Farm Fire will be a focal point as well as soil and vegetation, with the second session focusing on firewise and naturesscaping principals.

Commissioner Heather Buch reported that Lane County delivered funding requests for reducing fees for permitting while also increasing planning staff. She continued that all 7 counties are currently using reserves, so they hope to see funding in the near future. Ms. Buch noted that the County is still holding a McKenzie focused Facebook live update every two weeks, which are recorded and available on the county Facebook page. Lane County is interested in holding a live event in the metropolitan area, although that will likely be postponed as the County moves back up to the moderate Covid risk category.

Bob Bumstead reported that the flyfishers are enthusiastic about ODFW's restoration board providing funding for the old hatchery ponds as part of the McKenzie Discovery Center.

Darren Cross reported that the USFS is still responding to smoke calls in the basin. Additionally, crews are getting ready for hazard tree removal on many forest roads. Lastly, the USFS is working through GNA funding distribution. He noted that South Fork monitoring is on the docket.

Daniel Dietz reported that the MRT will be receiving \$1.5 million in match from Lane County to work on acquisition in the McKenzie Basin. He continued that the Finn Rock Reach RFP is out, as staff negotiates with contractors now.

Jeff Ziller reported that ODFW recently participated in their annual Bull trout meeting, with reports indicated the 3rd highest number of spawning fish since they began counting in 1989. They were pleased to find that the Middle Fork of the Willamette had nearly as many as Anderson Creek, where the fish were sourced from. Mr. Ziller continued that ODFW is currently working to get a fish sorter set back up at Leaburg Dam, although they are currently awaiting approval from EWEB. He continued that there are a number of volunteers interested in helping so they may be able to get even more fish collected. Lastly, Mr. Ziller noted that ODFW staff is disappointed in the number of damaged trees that will make their way into the river due to FEMA regulations.

Arlene Dietz reported that Rice Farms is replanting 40 acres of blighted filbert this fall, with crews currently involved in 260 acres of pruning and fertilizing.

Ralph Perkins updated the Council on his health, noting that he is slowly regaining his strength.

Chad Helms reported that reservoirs are 56% full system wide, 20% below where they should be at. He continued that Cougar and Fall Creek fish facilities are currently in operation, with 17 winter steelhead at Fall Creek currently. Lastly, Mr. Helms reported that the Willamette Basin Fisheries Science review will be held virtually April 28th and 29th.

Kelly Wood reported that Wildish crews are continuing to bring in fill material and work through asbestos abatement.

Mike McDowell reported that the Confederate Tribes of the Siletz have acquired 500 acres of land adjacent to Camp Creek.

Andy McWilliams reported that the McKenzie Masters are sponsoring workdays with 4 or 5 guides and volunteers to work on cleaning up lunch sites on the river.

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 Alliance
Directors Report
Second Quarter April 2021**

Operations

The hiring process for a Watershed Restoration Specialist was very successful and I am very pleased with our new staff. The MWA hired two new permanent staff, Cori Carpenter and Lara Colley. Lara began April 1st and Cori began April 12th. Both will work with the Watershed Recovery Task Force, largely focused on site-level project management with private landowner sites. The MWA also hired Mickey Means-Brous temporarily likely through July. Mickey will largely be focused on assisting with the development and planning of in-stream projects on Gate Creek, and lower Deer Creek. She will also assist with initial field planning at Finn Rock Reach. We have purchased new laptops for each and a new desktop to be equipped with GIS software.

In May, we plan to develop a hiring plan or assessment for additional outreach/communication capacity. This capacity need was identified in the CPRCD/EWEB Fire Recover funding agreement. A second area of capacity constraint is the Urban Water and Wildlife program. The original plan was to have Jen Weber work directly with Long Tom Watershed Council staff on site-level project management on at least two sites in Springfield. Due to the workload associated with the Holiday Farm Fire, Jen has not been able to contribute support to the program beyond assisting with planning. I have spoken with the LTWC Director regarding this constraint and the need for additional capacity to support the emerging workload. One possibility to explore is the overlap between the UWW and the PWP Naturescaping Program, as both are dependent on landscape architecture professional skill-set, and we anticipate that the PWP will require additional capacity to meet demand starting in 2021.

There are no new developments regarding the renewed lease with the City of Springfield for the office space. Our plan is still to expand into the vacated office space to the west, which was previously a print shop while retaining the current office space. This expansion will increase rent by approximately \$900-1,000/month. The additional space is needed due to the current cramped conditions and new hires.

Staff continues to work remotely, with single members are in the office about several days a week to check messages, print checks, etc. The anticipation is that staff will begin to maintain a more regular office presence once everyone is fully vaccinated, likely in June. I also plan to allow for some level flexibility to work remotely. This policy will be included in the revised Employee Handbook to be presented to the Board in July.

Holiday Farm Fire

Most of the Councils' work continues to be the implementation of Holiday Farm Fire recovery coordinated through the McKenzie Recovery Task Force. The partnership is wrapping up the planting of 200,000 plants on approximately 85 acres with over 80 landowners. Erosion control treatments have been implemented on over 100 properties. Over 230 landowners (some of these sites involve multiple tax lots and we are reporting out assessments completed as a higher number – approximately 270 currently). All participating landowners sign a series of agreements allowing for access to the properties and in the case of planting sites, 7-year agreements modeled on the previously establish Pure Water Partners agreements.

The Task Force is beginning to shift from short-term work (e.g., site assessments, erosion control treatments, and riparian replanting) to program refinement and longer-term planning. We are starting

to expand our scope of work to include documentation and treatment of invasive weeds (Early Detection Rapid Response – EDRR), fuel load assessment and treatment, documentation of work done to date (planting and erosion control), maintenance needs of 2021 planting areas, and planning for 2022 re-planting on both riparian areas and the expanded ODOT right-of-way clearing areas. Expanded our planting area to the ODOT ROW is a significant undertaking involving many partners and a large funding request to the State through EWEB/Lane County.

The Task Force has also begun to shift resources toward the planning and development of large-scale floodplain projects as a central element of watershed recovery efforts. Development efforts include both acquisitions of high-priority floodplain sites through the McKenzie River Trust, and restoration planning is done in cooperation with the USFS and others. This work is taking place on both private and public lands, largely within the Holiday Farm Fire perimeter between Gate Creek and the South Fork.

Task Force partners continue to work on a range of coordinated outreach (weekly River Reflection articles, staffing informational events, Naturescaping, Firewise) activities. There is also a range of other activities including landowner incentives through EWEB (septic assistance, housing setbacks), conservation efforts through MRT, and water quality monitoring continuing to take place.

Restoration Program

Phase 3 of in-stream work at Deer Creek is proceeding according to schedule. An RFP was recently released and site visits with prospective contractors were completed. The work will be done in coordination with the relocation of the EWEB transmission lines from the floodplain, scheduled to be completed in May or June 2021. The Phase 3 project will rely primarily on OWEB funds with supplemental USFS funding. Jennifer Weber will manage this project and we are currently exploring options to allow limited training opportunities for Cori Carpenter and Lara Colley during the summer implementation period.

Partners expect to implement Phase 1 of the Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Enhancement project starting in July 2021. The permitting and final design of the project has been challenging and permit applications to the County and State/Federal (DSL/USACE) were delayed. It remains a tight timeline for period processing to be completed by June to allow for sufficient time to complete the project within the in-stream work period. Partners are in contact with state and county planners and early indications are that the regulating entities will be able to meet the needed timeline, but there is no guarantee. A contractor has been selected and contract negotiations are currently taking place. The project follows the design approach pioneered on Deer Creek and the South Fork McKenzie, though with several fundamental changes that consider surrounding infrastructure and the mainstem river. The MWC has been assisting with the planning and development of the RFP and contract. The MWC may have a limited role during project implementation due to staff capacity limitations. The original plan was to have Mickey Means-Brous available for this work, but her timeline to start graduate school in August will likely preclude her involvement. By mutual agreement between the MRT and MWC, we do not plan on using this project as a training opportunity for the new hires.

The MWC and BLM are planning for restoration work at lower Deer Creek to be completed in 2021. Funding for this work will go through OWEB via Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), which allows federal funding and timber sales to be managed by state agencies. This work is planned for July-August 2021. The direct Project Manager for this project is unclear at this point. The temporary hire, Mickey Means-Brous is currently taking the lead on planning and contract development but she is unlikely to be able to participate fully through implementation due to her graduate school schedule starting in August.

The Pure Water Partners will continue site assessments and project implementation outside of the HFF perimeter in 2021. Riparian restoration projects have or will begin at three PWP sites outside of the HFF in 2021. These projects are funded through a combination of OWEB, Freshwater Trust/MWMC, and NRCS. Management of these projects will be done by the new hires, Cori Carpenter and Lara Colley, with direct oversight and involvement from Jennifer Weber. New PWP site assessments will continue to be done by Justin Demeter.

Education Program

Regional education planning meetings have been focused on outreach to local natural resource educators and school administrators. Sydney Nilan has been leading this effort. The intent is to reconvene the larger planning group in May once staff changes at the Middle Fork WC take place. The MWC recently signed a funding agreement with the Willamette National Forest for a small-scale service-learning project to hopefully begin this coming fall. The project will likely be focused on McKenzie and Springfield students.

Outreach

The 2020 Annual Report is drafted and will be available shortly for review. The staff has also begun to discuss the possibility of the McKenzie River Clean-up in late June and a tour for Council partners in July.

Funding

Recently secured funding is detailed in the mid-year FY21 Budget adjustment. The Council and Task Force partners are currently working on pending applications to the BLM Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and USFS RAC.

The financial resources available to the Council, primarily associated with the HFF, is truly a paradigm shift for the Council and its partners. There are significant funding requests either being developed to FEMA (~\$4.5M), Oregon State Legislature (<\$20M), and federal delegations (TBD). These proposals include a range of activities including watershed restoration, water quality monitoring, tribal engagement and partnership, infrastructure (septic) support, and other activities in support of watershed recovery. This level of funding to the local partners, and by extension the Council may fundamentally change the organization. MWA leadership (ED and Fiscal Director) and the Board may want to begin planning for this potential shift.

We have begun the forgiveness application process for the first PPP loan. The second PPP loan is secured and is filling the funding role that OWEB Council Capacity grants would traditionally serve. Our currently OWEB Council Capacity grant covering the 2021-23 biennium is largely being pushed to cover staff expenses in FY22.

Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

The UWSN continues to lead a tribal engagement effort through an 11-module series for a small number of UWSN members. Jared, Jen, and Nancy Toth are participating in the 11-module series for the MWC. There is a new director at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Dov Weinman. The previous director, Sarah Drydahl, left to take a job with ODF. The UWSN continues to work on a wide range of project teams (fiscal admin, restoration, education, DEI) and has begun to discuss coordinated planning and involvement around a shared site – the Middle Fork/Coast Fork Willamette Confluence property that the MRT is in the process of acquiring from The Nature Conservancy.