

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, April 14, 2022
5:05 – 6:45 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86020889962?pwd=WGICQUI3dIVlQU5jZmowa0hwWWxtZz09>

- 1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics** **5:05 - 5:10**
Facilitator: Jared Weybright
Action Requested - Approve agenda
- 2. Approval of March 10th Meeting Minutes** **5:10 - 5:15**
Attachment: March Meeting Minutes
Action Requested – Approve March meeting minutes.
- 3. Benthic macroinvertebrate response to Stage 0 at Deer Creek** **5:15 – 5:55**
Robert W. Wisseman, M.S., Senior Scientist, Aquatic Biologist Associates
Bob received his degree in Aquatic Entomology from OSU in 1987 and has spent much of his career using benthic invertebrate communities in freshwater to assess biological integrity. He currently assists the EPA and others in developing their biomonitoring programs and has partnered with the MWC and McKenzie River RD on a range of projects over the past 20 years.
Presentation and Q/A Information Only
- 4. Partner Updates and Public Comment** **5:55 – 6:25**
Information Only
- 5. Staff Updates** **6:25 – 6:45**
Information Only

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- May 5, 2022: Deer Creek Project Tour 4:00 – 5:30pm (Tentative)
- May 12, 2022: McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group
- June 9, 2022: Lara Colley Master Thesis (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
March 10th, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Present: Brian Brazil (International Paper), Commissioner Heather Buch (Lane County), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Darren Cross (USFS), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Brandi Ferguson (MRT), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Karl Morgenstern (EWEB), Meghan Murphy (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Carla Rothenbuecher (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, Alex Enriquez, Jared Weybright

Guests: Robin Leighty (EWEB), Lauren Mork (Deschutes WC), Damien Haley (BLM), Michal Tutka, Kate Meyer (USFS)

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 January 13th Meeting Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the February 10th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Effectiveness of Restoration to a Stage 0 Condition along Deer Cr.

Dr. Dan Scott, Senior Geomorphologist at Watershed Science and Engineering, presented on the effectiveness of Stage 0 restoration on Deer Creek. Mr. Scott introduced the concept of stage 0 restoration and how it was applied to the Deer Creek watershed. He then discussed the monitoring that has been occurring post-implementation, and how the stream is now functioning.

Michael Tutka asked if there were down stream effects from the high density of wood that was initially placed in the upper reaches. Mr. Scott responded that before they had resurveyed the downstream reaches, there was additional projects implemented. The furthest downstream reach had no obvious signs of sediment pulses or dramatic rearrangements. He continued that they sensed most sediment did not leave the system, except for fines.

Jeff Ziller asked how long the wood could function in the system, and if there is a need for additional placement as maintenance. Mr. Scott responded that the longevity of wood is determined by the rate at which it comes into the system. He continued that local recruitment is a part of that, and Deer Creek has lots of erodible banks that could add to recruitment in the future. Additionally, there were a large amount of streamside trees that could make there way into the river as well. Mr. Scott noted that the half-life for tree decay is 15-30 years, so there is potential to lose half the in-stream mass in 30 years. There is potential need to supplement additional wood in 20-30 years but that will depend on the amount of flooding and additional wood recruitment from the surrounding environment. Given the number of large conifers there is also potential for high functioning wood over the next 100 years.

Kelly Wood asked how they were evaluating pool depths and boundaries across delineated areas. Mr. Scott responded that Lidar was flown pre-project which allowed them to contextualize aerial photography. He continued that he could not rely on Lidar because of the small-scale landforms in combination with wood rich systems so they had to use a combination of drone flights, photos, and detailed notes.

Darren Cross commented on how remarkable this project is and how much is owed to the partnerships that took place throughout development and implementation. Mr. Cross also noted that they were very nervous during the Knoll Creek fire and were happy that minimal damage was sustained.

Kate Meyer noted that throughout each phase of Deer Creek implementation, wood density increased. She asked if Mr. Scott could comment on this spectrum. Mr. Scott replied that the density could fluctuate based on the confines of a narrow canyon as seen on Deer Creek. He continued that going heavy is justified, and it is proven that salmon can certainly handle it. Depending on the access to the site, there is potential for active management, and the addition of wood over time. Areas like the South Fork will need a different approach as the flows are controlled coming out of Cougar Reservoir. Mr. Scott concluded that high density is what practitioners should shoot for.

Brandi Ferguson asked if the effects from the Knoll Fire will be incorporated into his research. Mr. Scott responded that he has no plans to continue monitoring Deer Creek in the long term, although if someone were to study it, they would be looking for pulses of sediment and changes to downstream wood arrangement.

4. Partner Updates, Public Comment and Staff Updates

Commissioner Heather Buch reported that at the County level, they have been working in the short session to bring resources to Lane County. She continued that they were able to secure \$5 million in funding for emergency communications, as well as \$3 million for the McKenzie Discovery Center.

Meghan Murphy reported that the City of Springfield received a new MS-4 permit in June of 2021, and that they had been working on that while also continuing with the Urban Waters and Wildlife partnership.

Karl Morgenstern reported that EWEB is seeing money come in from the submitted FEMA grants. They received \$1.4 million for emergency response reimbursements and should get over \$1 million back this month. He continued that they submitted 3 FEMA grants and received \$1.3 million from Oregon Emergency Management to match FEMA funding. Mr. Morgenstern continued that 2 of the 3 FEMA grants should likely be funded, and they will hear back about the 3rd this week. Lastly the upriver Board meeting is scheduled for April 19th.

Nancy Toth provided an update on the PWP, noting that they've had a large influx of landowners entering the program, so they are prioritizing that now. She continued that they are working through a bit of a backlog currently. Additionally, Ms. Toth noted that the PWP website has been revamped.

Susan Fricke reported that the state of the watershed report was presented to the Board. She continued that crews are going to start looking at algal blooms in April, with the USGS putting a profiler in Blue River which should provide interesting data.

State of the Watershed Report: <https://www.eweb.org/documents/board-meetings/2022/03-01-22/corr-state-of-the-watershed-report-2021.pdf>

Bob Bumstead reported that the McKenzie Fly Fishers are excited about the \$3 million in funding for the Discovery Center. Mr. Bumstead continued that the new director of Salmon Watch is Emma Garner, and that volunteers hope to get that program back up and running after a 2-year hiatus.

Darren Cross reported that the USFS is waiting on the infrastructure bill to be signed, as they have a lot of recovery needs. Funds will be invested into the FRR and South Fork projects. Mr. Cross continued that FS Road 19 is still under construction, with crews working from the Dam to the crossing over the South Fork. This will likely be closed to the public through early June. Mr. Cross continued that there is a public meeting being held regarding the decommissioning of Delta Campground next Thursday.

Brandi Ferguson reported that an upriver basecamp has been setup through the MRT, at Barry Lopez's old residence. Right now, the Trust is leasing the space through a conservation buyer until it is available to the MRT.

Jeff Ziller reported that ODFW is holding a family fishing event at Row River Nature Park on April 2nd, and to contact himself or Martyne Reesman if interested. He continued that the AFS conference had over 800 registered, and that those who registered can still view the virtual presentations if interested. Mr. Ziller reported that ODFW is doing a study on the loading density of fish when backpack stocking, so that they will have empirical data regarding how long fish can survive when being transported. They will also be experimenting with the use of oxygen concentrators and their utility in the transportation of fish.

Chad Helms reported that the adult collection facility is open below Cougar Dam as of today. 2-3 tagged bull trout are below the dam currently. He continued that storage-wise, the Willamette project is 23% full so they are hoping for more rain.

Carla Rothenbuecher asked if Mr. Ziller could expand on wilderness stocking, specifically whether using native species or areas known to have fish, and if these areas have Oregon spotted frog presence. Mr. Ziller responded that they have stocked these lakes for over 100 years, and no stocking is taking place in areas where spotted frog has been found. The species planted are triploid rainbow and brook trout, and ODFW is currently stocking 105 lakes that are determined to have angler interest and high survivability.

Jared Weybright reported that Justin Demeter has left the Watershed Council after nearly 10 years of involvement. The education coordinator for the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council will be running the regional education program going forward, including the Salmon Watch program. He continued that the Council is submitting an LOI for an office location in the next week. Staff is currently busy with PWP planting, currently 2/3 of the way through a 450,000-stem planting effort. Mr. Weybright continued that staff is also implanting erosion control treatments and working with the NWYC on invasive management as well. There is a 4th Deer Creek phase scheduled for 2022, with projects occurring on the North Fork of Gate Creek with BLM as well.

Meeting adjourned, 6:45pm.