

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, February 9, 2023
5:05 – 6:50 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85089330716?pwd=TDNWNGtWK21BUm1JVHE1SnhLbWE2UT09>

- 1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics** **5:05 - 5:10**
Facilitator: Jared Weybright
Action Requested - Approve agenda

- 2. Approval of January 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes** **5:10 - 5:15**
Attachment: January 2023 Meeting Minutes
Action Requested – Approve January meeting minutes.

- 3. Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project: What’s around the bend?** **5:15 – 6:15**
Information only
Lisa Krentz, EWEB Generation Manager will lead a team of EWEB staff who will present on the EWEB Board of Directors’ recent decision to move forward with developing plans to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project. The presentation will reference information presented in this short video and be followed by a question-and-answer period.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYw3yeHyFME&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eweb.org%2F&feature=emb_imp_woyt

- 4. Partner Updates and Public Comment** **6:15 – 6:40**
Information Only

- 5. Director’s Report** **6:40 – 6:50**
Attachment: February 2023 Directors Report
Information Only

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- March 9, 2023: TBD, International Paper
- April 13, 2023: DOGAMI Lower McKenzie Channel Migration Study, Location TBD

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

Topic: McKenzie Watershed Council February Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2023 05:05 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85089330716?pwd=TDNWNGtWK21BUm1JVHE1SnhLbWE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 850 8933 0716

Passcode: 684028

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**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

MINUTES
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, January 12th, 2022
Virtual

Present: Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), 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), Brandi Ferguson (MRT), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Mike McDowell (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Steve Mealey (McKenzie Guides), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Will Rutherford (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Lara Colley, Jennifer Weber Jared Weybright, Joseph Ycaza

1. Approval of Agenda

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the January 12th meeting agenda. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of December 8th Meeting Minutes

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the December 8th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

3. USACE 30-year plan for Willamette Project

Greg Taylor, fish biologist with the USACE presented on the Willamette Valley System Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS is the first System-wide evaluation of environmental impacts from operation and maintenance since 1980. Mr. Taylor provided a brief overview of the Willamette Valley System, noting that it encompasses 13 reservoirs, 5 fish hatcheries, as well 100 miles of revetments on mainstem and tributary systems. He continued that the end of the comment period for this EIS is February 2nd, 2023.

Andy McWilliams asked if there is information in the EIS regarding the summary of findings from the lawsuit faced by the USACE. Mr. Taylor responded that it is included in the near-term actions section of the EIS, and includes a great deal of information.

Rod Fosback inquired as to how the Leaburg Dam removal is going to affect the Willamette Project, and if it is covered in the EIS. Mr. Taylor responded that at this time there is still not enough details to cover it in the EIS.

Arlene Dietz noted that the NEPA process is not the same as the project analysis, and that they may contradict one another. Ms. Dietz inquired as to how the USACE plans to mesh the two. Mr. Taylor responded that in developing the EIS, the Corps did not want to get rid of authorized purposes going forward, although there are some specifics in the preferred alternatives that would change the balance in a significant way of some historic authorized purposes.

Steve Mealey inquired about the floating screen structure, and if any alternatives assume that the floating screen is actually feasible. Mr. Taylor responded that yes, alternative #4 envisions a floating screen structure at Cougar, which implies that is a feasible option. He continued that the Corps position is that they would not build it if they do not believe it would work. Mr. Taylor added that although performance across the region is variable with these structures, the positive results found on the Clackamas would likely be very different from those of Cougar. The Corps have the most confidence in the drawdown and use of tunnel.

Commissioner Barofsky noted that it is his understanding that mitigation for Cougar is supported by the hatchery at Leaburg. When making the decision to decommission Leaburg Dam, there was a great deal of questions around getting water to that hatchery. He inquired if there is info on that in the EIS. Mr. Taylor responded that there is a commitment to partners to explore that, although they can not make any decisions until it is prove that the USACE can sustain fish passage over Cougar Dam.

Barofsky: My understanding is that mitigation for cougar is hatchery below Leaburg, when made dam removal decision a lot of qs came about getting water to hatchery. Is that in EIS or is there info about how to get water to hatchery? Commitment to partners to explore it. We cant make changes until we see we can sustain fish over cougar.

Jeff Ziller asked about the proposed measures that did not receive the same level of evaluation as others, and if these will be incorporated into the EIS process when the data on them is available. Mr. Taylor responded that in his opinion, some of that data will be available while others will lack the level of clarity necessary to be incorporated. He continued that they are working to improve on bi-annual status reports that will likely include updated data.

Dana Burwell asked if there is going to be strategies in place to reduce the turbidity and affects to angling following the drawdowns. He noted that in 2002 the local guides and anglers were significantly impacted by the loss of fish and macroinvertebrates. Mr. Taylor responded that the key to that issue is timing, and the USACE has taken this into account going forward. He added that there is no way around the high turbidity with the drawdown, but they are improving on the timing and adverse effects. .

Wade Stampe noted that they are going to lose a large sink for temperature with the loss of storage, and asked if this is going to affect the river temperatures. Mr. Taylor responded that they anticipate the South Fork will reflect upstream dam temperatures which would not be much of a difference. He noted that summer, winter, and fall temperatures will likely drop slightly.

Wade Stampe asked 20 years go BPA was having trouble transmitting enough power. Are we going to lose a lot of local generation. Is BPA going to add any if going forward. A: No, BPA is a big advocate of drawdown for variety of reason, worth discussing further. Landscape has changed in 20 years. Q: Losing a sink for temp, whats going to happen to river temp without storage. A: In SF itself, we expect temps to reflect upstream dam temps, we don't expect big difference. Summer temps will likely drop slightly, lower temps in fall and winter too. Don't see big temp impacts.

4. MWC Nomination Committee Report

Jared Weybright provided an overview of the governance structure between the McKenzie Watershed Council and McKenzie Watershed Alliance Board of Directors. He noted that Executive Committee members are elected by the Council Partners after a recruitment and nominating process carried out by an ad-hoc Nominating Committee as described in the Council Charter. At the December 8th Council meeting, Brandi Ferguson and Kelly Wood agreed to join Jared Weybright on the 2023 Nominating Committee, charged with filling open seats on the Alliance Board of Directors. Regarding the four

expiring terms on the current Alliance Board of Directors Roster, Arlene Dietz, Ralph Perkins, and Kelly Wood all expressed an interest in renewing their two-year terms. Karl Morgenstern is retiring from EWEB and is stepping down as an Alliance Board member.

Mr. Weybright reported that the Committee recommends the Council Partners reappoint Arlene, Ralph and Kelly to two-year terms. The Committee further recommends the Council Partners appoint Susan Fricke, Water Resource Supervisor with the Eugene Water & Electric Board to a two-year term replacing Karl Morgenstern

Commissioner John Barofsky called for consensus on the nominating committee's recommendations. Diane Albino seconded the motion. Committee recommendations are approved as presented, all partners showing consensus level 3.

4. Partner Updates

Susan Fricke reported that she is excited to join the Alliance Board of Directors.

Nancy Toth reported that within the next few days, septic system funding will be available for residents in the Holiday Farm Fire footprint. She continued that there is \$3 million in total funding, with the grant application system opening next week.

Steve Mealey reported that the McKenzie Discovery Center planning is ongoing, as they work to plan the displays. He noted that ODFW led the grant to restore the ponds surrounding the building.

Brandi Ferguson reported that the MRT recently purchased an additional portion of the Lazy Days RV Park. Ms. Ferguson continued that they are currently \$150,000 shy of their goal to make improvements to the Finn Rock Reach boat ramp facilities as they did not receive the funding from the governor that they had hoped for.

Ralph Perkins reported that the UWSWCD approved \$200,000 in funding for the MFWWC education program.

Becca Brooke reported that the BLM is hard at work planting 2,600 acres this year, 75% of which occurs in the HFF perimeter. She continued that the BLM now has video of the Gate Creek restoration project at bank-high conditions. (Gate Creek Video: <https://youtu.be/5yXvIVR6ioo>)

Andy McWilliams reported that he is looking forward to the septic funding made available by EWEB. He noted that the McKenzie Masters made a donation to the MRT for FRR boat ramp improvements although they hope to round up the amount given. The Masters have also taken an active role in Ben and Kay Dorris boat ramp rebuilding.

Meeting adjourned, 6:55pm.

**McKenzie Watershed Alliance
Directors Report
February 2023**

1. Operations

Council Annual Report

The 2022 Report is complete and will be released this week. Please keep an eye out for it and share it widely! Thanks to all our partners who helped make 2022 a success.

McKenzie Watershed Alliance

The Alliance Board of Directors is working on updating and revising its By-laws. The By-laws are the governance document for the Alliance and were adopted in 2003 and edited by Amendment in 2006. Notable proposed 2023 revisions include an expansion of the Board up to nine Directors and clarifying the relationship with the McKenzie Watershed Council.

Council Meetings and Tours

The Council will resume in-person meetings in March with a presentation from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) on the results of a channel migration study on the lower McKenzie River. The venue for the meeting is the International Paper Training Center in Springfield, and we plan to extend invites to lower river landowners. (Please note that we are confirming this presentation with DOGAMI as they have had to postpone several times this winter.)

For the April meeting, the tentative plan is to make this a working session focused on an initial review of the Council Charter. The Charter is the governance document for the Council. It was last updated in 2014 and is due for an update to better align with current programs, practices, and the pending Board By-law revisions. Meeting details are still in development, and the current plan is an in-person meeting at either the IP or McKenzie Fire and Rescue Training Center in Leaburg.

2. Restoration Program

The PWP is gearing up for the 2023 planting season, scheduled to begin in February. Partners expect to plant 150-175 acres with 390,000 native trees and shrubs in 2023. Upon completing this planting effort in late March or early April, the PWP will have planted 1.1 million native trees and shrubs on lands impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire since 2021. The cooperative riparian restoration is remarkable and a testimony to local partnerships.

Contractors have begun decommissioning the USFS Delta Campground. The work started in January, and contractors are removing the vault toilets, asphalt, and other infrastructure. The USFS plans to reuse several vault toilets at different sites, including Deer Creek. We expect the work will continue through spring 2023. The result will set the stage for floodplain restoration work in the campground footprint. The USFS and local partners, including MWC staff, have begun initial planning for floodplain restoration in this footprint.

Cooperative planning for Finn Rock Reach Phase 2 and Quartz Creek continues. The MRT released a Referral For Proposals (RFP) for the Phase 2 project in late January and will conduct site visits with interest contractors through February. Partners expect the project to begin in the spring of 2023. Partners continue to work on sourcing and transporting the 8,000 pieces of large wood needed for the Quartz Creek project. Contractors have decked over 2,600 pieces of wood at the Quartz Creek log yard.

The McKenzie Firewood Program continued operations through the holidays and new year with distribution events in December and January. The program provided approximately 22 cords to 20 households. Partners are planning for additional distribution days in February and March.

3. Funding

The MWC assisted with developing an \$800,000 request to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for ongoing planting within the Holiday Farm Fire perimeter. The application will support ongoing restoration by planting 195,000 plants on 75 acres and associated plant stewardship activities in 2024 and 2025. EWEB is the applicant on the grant as it holds the contracts supporting the work.

The MWC is working with OWEB, ODFW, and the USFS to develop an application that will support ongoing South Fork McKenzie River monitoring. The project will likely cover a 2–3-year period and focus on several priorities, including juvenile Chinook monitoring, remote sensing, and storage of aerial images acquired over the initial phase of the monitoring project in 2019 - 2021.

The MWC's application, on behalf of the Middle McKenzie Partnership (USFS, MRT, BLM, EWEB), to NOAA seeking \$7.5 million for floodplain restoration and bridge replacement at Quartz Creek is still pending. However, initial conversations and feedback were positive. We anticipate a final decision later this spring.

The PWP is awaiting the results of a \$10 million application to the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. The project seeks support for fuel reduction work on private properties, ingress/egress treatments, and creating defensible space around homes and structures to mitigate and reduce future wildfire risk. EWEB is the applicant, with Lane County, McKenzie Fire, and ODF as additional partners. The project would help fund PWP operations for five years. The USDA program is highly competitive, and we anticipate a final decision in February.