

**AGENDA  
MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL**

**May 11, 2023  
McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Facility  
42870 McKenzie Highway  
Leaburg**

- |           |  |                    |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Introductions and Approval of Agenda</b><br>Facilitator Chase Antonovich<br><i>Action Requested - Approve agenda.</i>   | <b>5:30 – 5:35</b> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Approval of February 9, 2023, and March 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes</b><br>The Council did not have a quorum present at its March meeting.<br>Attachment: February and March 2023 Meeting Minutes<br><i>Action Requested – February and March meeting minutes.</i> | <b>5:35 - 5:40</b> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Restoring Finn Rock Reach on the Middle McKenzie River</b><br>Phase 2 of efforts to restore floodplain conditions at the MRT-owned property will begin in June 2023. This effort will complement work completed in 2021.<br>McKenzie River Trust Staff          | <b>5:40 – 6:20</b> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Break</b>   | <b>6:20 – 6:30</b> |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Partner Announcements and Public Comment</b><br><i>Information only</i>   | <b>6:30– 7:00</b>  |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Director Report</b><br><i>Information only</i><br>Attachment: Directors Report  | <b>7:00 – 7:05</b> |

**Next Meeting:**

- Date: June 8, 2023
- Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Location: McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center
- Topic: McKenzie Channel Migration Study (DOGAMI)

**Contact:** Jared Weybright, 458-201-8150, [jared@mckenziawc.org](mailto:jared@mckenziawc.org), [www.mckenziawc.org](http://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

**MINUTES**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, February 9th, 2023**  
**Virtual**

**Present:** Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Flyfishers), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), , Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Steve Mealey (McKenzie Guides), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Will Rutherford (Resident Partner), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

**Staff:** Chase Antonovich, Lara Colley, Vanessa Taylor, Jennifer Weber Jared Weybright, Joseph Ycaza  
**Guests:** Adam Spencer, Lisa Krentz, Robin Leighty, Ken Vogeney, Kate Meyer, Jeremy Somogy, Mark Zinniker

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the February 9th meeting agenda. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

**2. Approval of January 12th Meeting Minutes**

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

**3. Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project: What's around the bend?**

Lisa Krentz, EWEB Generation Manager, alongside a team of EWEB staff, presented on the EWEB Board of Directors' recent decision to move forward with developing plans to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project. Ms. Krentz began by introducing her team, consisting of: Mark Zinniker, Generation Engineering Supervisor; Jeremy Somogy, Project Manager; Adam Spencer, Communications Specialist; and Robin Leighty, Regulatory Compliance lead. Ms. Krentz then introduced proposed alternatives to the project, followed by triple bottle line attributes focused on social, environmental, and economic concerns. She then discussed recommendation highlights before covering a brief timeline of the project.

Bob Bumstead inquired as to what a canal plug is, and if it resembles a check dam. Mark Zinneker responded that yes, it is essentially a check dam although more substantial in size. These plugs would be used to divert the flow of water from Cogswell Creek Johnson Creek away from vulnerable portions of the canal.

Steve Mealey asked Lisa Krentz if EWEB accepts no responsibility for loss of water supply to the McKenzie Hatchery. Ms. Krentz responded that they have no legal responsibility to provide water to the hatchery although EWEB is open to collaboration where feasible.

Jared Weybright asked if there has been any planning around the draining of the reservoir and what will be done with that space. Ms. Krentz responded that no design work has been done at this point, and that it will be covered in the next phase of planning. Jeremy Somogy noted that the draining in the lake will be at least 10 years out so EWEB plans to implement extensive restoration and monitoring efforts.

Kelly Wood asked if EWEB could elaborate on the drilling practices that will be used. Jeremy Somogy responded that a DPP plan has not been submitted so they cannot say for sure, although they anticipate a log of auger drilling with accompanying SPT counts and infiltration testing. They plan to limit hydraulic drilling while exploring sonic drilling where applicable.

Jared Weybright asked Ms. Krentz if she could talk about what would happen with Lloyd Knox Park. Ms. Krentz responded that they still don't have a plan for the park although they know that it is important to the community.

Mr. Weybright inquired as to what the public and community feedback requirement looks like. Ms. Krentz responded that as part of the official regulatory process there are specific requirements with federal and state regulatory agencies. Adam Spencer noted that EWEB will be creating a Leaburg updates newsletter and action plan. Additionally there will be an upriver board meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>, and an email account created to field Leaburg inquiries.

Rod Fosback asked if any boulders will be removed or if boater navigability will be addressed. Ms. Krentz responded that navigability will be addressed in the long term plan, and they assume the river will look much different following the dam removal.

Chad Helms asked if there is going to be a fish salvage effort for the lamprey ammocoetes present in the sediment behind the dam. Mark Zinniker responded that it is difficult to salvage those so they will be looking to agencies for advice. He continued that a slow reduction in water level gives the ammocoetes time to migrate so they may utilize that type of strategy.

For more information and background about the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation: <https://www.eweb.org/about-us/power-supply/mckenzie-river-hydro-projects/future-of-the-leaburg-hydroelectric-project>

Link to the full TBL: [https://www.eweb.org/documents/board-meetings/2023/01-03-23/m10-record\\_of\\_decision\\_with\\_attachments\\_leaburg\\_hydroelectric\\_project\\_future\\_2022\\_12\\_27.pdf](https://www.eweb.org/documents/board-meetings/2023/01-03-23/m10-record_of_decision_with_attachments_leaburg_hydroelectric_project_future_2022_12_27.pdf)

To sign up for the Leaburg Updates newsletter: <https://www.eweb.org/about-us/power-supply/mckenzie-river-hydro-projects/future-of-the-leaburg-hydroelectric-project/leaburg-newsletter-sign-up>

At any time, please email [LeaburgInfo@eweb.org](mailto:LeaburgInfo@eweb.org) with questions

#### **4. Partner Updates**

Councilor Emily Semple reported that the City Council has approved moving their facilities to the old EWEB building.

Nancy Toth reported that the EWEB septic grant program is in full swing, with residents able to get their whole system repaired with grant funding.

Bob Bumstead reported that the next McKenzie Fly Fishers meeting will feature Emma Garner, education coordinator for the MFWWC. Bob continued that the Fly Fishers are looking forward to using the new pond at the McKenzie Discovery Center to educate students on fish and proper fish handling.

Rod Fosback reported that the NW Steelheaders hatchery is open and waiting for fish, with 20,000 smolts currently in the pond ready for April.

Dana Burwell reported that the McKenzie Guides have decided to not take a position on the removal of Leaburg dam, although many guides strongly encourage ODFW to keep the hatcheries open.

Todd Miller provided kudos to the MWC for the series of presentations that have occurred at recent meetings. He continued that in regards to the cooling of wastewater outflow studies they have been working on there is a shortcoming in some of the data analysis so they could not present some of the findings. They plan to go back to USGS and do it correctly, but they were able to present other information to DEQ staff that helped gain traction. Mr. Miller noted that hopefully in the next year there will be an opportunity to demonstrate what floodplain projects do for stream temperatures. Mr. Miller added that they are launching biochar production next month with several users lined up, and plan to study how biochar can be beneficial in wastewater treatment.

Nick Grant reported that Darren Cross has taken a temporary detail as the Siuslaw Forest supervisor for 120 days. Additionally, Johan Hogervorst has taken a job with forest service enterprises so he will no longer be on the Willamette but instead will be able to focus more on restoration both on the McKenzie and across the country. Matt Helstab will also be moving on to enterprise.

Link to Johan's thank you page: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/8RMNftbL>

Jeremy Romer reported that the Discovery Center pond is watered and the trail is looking good, making this a great opportunity for education and outreach. Additionally, Mr. Romer noted that AFS will be held February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with registration currently open.

Chad Helms reported that the USACE has begun refilling reservoirs as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, with the exception of Cougar, Fall Creek, and Foster. Mr. Helms added that the Willamette basin fisheries review is in April, and he will share out that date soon.

Will Rutherford reported as a proxy for Andy McWilliams that the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History is hosting a nature night May 20<sup>th</sup>, and wanted to know if the MWC would like to table. Mr. McWilliams volunteered to help out if there is interest.

Nancy Toth noted that Karl Morgenstern is retiring March 1<sup>st</sup>, and will be joining the UWSWCD and McKenzie Land Trust boards. Susan Fricke will be replacing Mr. Morgenstern at EWEB. Bob Bumstead suggested gifting Karl a plaque or another award. Mr. Weybright volunteered to take the lead on the gift.

## **5. Director's Report**

Jared Weybright provided a brief update of Council activities. He noted that the 2022 annual report is out and had been sent out to Partners earlier in the week. He noted that the DOGAMI presentation will be moved to the April Council meeting, with March being used for reviewing the Council charter. Mr. Weybright continued that Delta Campground decommissioning is underway and going well, with much of the infrastructure being recycled in Eugene. Mr. Weybright briefly noted that planting season is also underway, with the PWP planning to have 1.1 million native trees and shrubs planted in the HFF footprint following this planting season. Lastly, Mr. Weybright noted that 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 interested contractors through February. Partners expect the project to begin in the spring of 2023.

**Meeting adjourned, 6:55pm.**

**Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**International paper**

**Present:** Diane Albino (Resident Partner), Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Becca Brooke (BLM), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Brandi Crawford-Ferguson (MRT), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

**Proxys:** Wade Stampe for Mike McDowell

**1. Approve March 9<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Meeting agenda approved as written, all partners showing consensus level 3.

**2. Approve February 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

No quorum present, approval of February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes will be addressed at next meeting.

**3. Partner Updates**

Becca Brooke reported that a char boss has been working on Goodpasture Road for the past few weeks, a machine that creates charcoal from slash. She continued that this is new technology for the BLM, and the first time it has been used nationally. Ms. Brooke noted that this may be a good piece of technology to be used by the PWP. Lastly Ms. Brooke reported that 16 timber sales have been suspended due to Spotted owl concerns, so they are awaiting biological opinion to continue with the sales.

Brandi Ferguson reported that the Finn Rock Reach boat landing is awaiting one final permit from Lane County, and is in need of \$500,000 in funding to begin construction. The MRT anticipates moving the project to October of 2023 to not interfere with river access during the recreation season.

Commissioner John Barofsky reported that EWEB is in the middle of integrated resource planning. He continued that the Board of Commissioners will discuss the recently received state of the watershed report at the next meeting.

Todd Miller reported that the MWMC poplar farm produced a small batch of biochar and are partnering with the Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership to explore the use of this new technology. Mr. Miller continued that there is a field trip March 22<sup>nd</sup> to visit the site where the biochar is being used. He noted that they are setting up a contract with the burn-boss to maximize biochar production in hopes to use it at McKenzie TFT sites in the future.

Chad Helms reported that USACE is scheduled to open the adult fish facility at Cougar dam in the next week. Mr. Helms continued that the annual fisheries science review is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff Ziller reported that the reservoir's water levels are way down although the snowpack is in good shape. He continued that the recent AFS meeting in Eugene was very informative with lots of good presentations. Lastly, ODFW is getting ready to bring on seasonal employees to operate sorters and work alongside EWEB staff.

Rod Fosback reported that the NW Steelheaders have 15-18K smolts in their pond ready to go down next month following a high water event, although nothing has made it back upstream to the traps yet.

Dana Burwell reported that the directors of the Guides association sent a letter to the USACE regarding silt in the rivers following heavy drawdowns. He continued that the Vida community center is attempting to fundraise and rebuild, and would like help from the PWP if possible.

Susan Fricke noted that EWEB submitted a letter to the USACE as well regarding the effects of heavy drawdowns. Ms. Fricke continued that Karl Morgenstern retired last month, and asked Partners to direct things to her going forward.

Jared Weybright reported that the UWSN released the tribal liaison job notice this last week. He continued that the position will be employed by the MWA but will work with the PWP and UWSN to engage Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes. Mr. Weybright noted that they are excited to have this position made public and the announcement is open until filled. Additionally the MWA will be hiring for the Community Engagement Coordinator position that will be on the advisory team with EWEB and the UWSWCD. There is targeted recruitment for the position, and staff hope to find someone plugged into the community.

#### **4. Charter Update**

Jared presented revisions to the Alliance bylaws, first introducing the relationship of MWA/MWC. He noted that the bylaws were last updated in 2006.

Commissioner John Barofsky asked if there are concerns regarding the Board having the ability to stack the board due to the nomination structure. Jared noted that is why the majority of Board members have to be representatives of the Council.

Commissioner Barofsky also asked if the bylaws have gone to a lawyer for review. Mr. Weybright noted that this is going to the Council first before being presented to a lawyer.

Commissioner Barofsky asked if board members have indemnification. Mr. Weybright responded that yes we do have Board and Officer insurance through the MWA.

Todd Miller asked if the MWA is able to publicly endorse. Mr. Weybright responded that the Council is more focused on that as they are the public facing entity.

Wade Stampe noted that the separation of financials and liability between the MWC and MWA is for the best.

Jared Weybright noted that he wanted to use the MWA bylaws to kick off the Charter review process, before soliciting Partner interest in a charter review committee. The plan is to report back to the Council



at the June meeting, and finalize the Charter revision by Fall 2023. Mr. Weybright noted the main themes to revise are membership and decision making.

Meeting adjourned, 6:50pm.

**McKenzie Watershed Alliance  
Directors Report  
May 2023**

**1. Operations**

***Office***

The MWC and McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group, [www.mckenzievalleyltrg.org](http://www.mckenzievalleyltrg.org), formally agreed to share office space at the Council's new office at 175 West B Street in Springfield. The MVLTRG uses two of the eight office spaces at our new office. This is a wonderful collaboration opportunity, and we look forward to sharing space and exploring partnerships.

***McKenzie Watershed Alliance By-laws***

The draft revised By-laws will go out for legal review in May 2023.

***McKenzie Watershed Council Charter Review Committee***

We had an excellent response to the call for volunteers for the MWC Charter Review Committee. The first committee meeting is on May 25th. Thanks to Brian Brazil, Diane Albino, Carla Rothenbuecher, Susan Fricke, Kelly Wood, Dave Kretzing, and Sydney Nilan for volunteering.

***Council Meetings and Tours***

We were disappointed to cancel the April meeting but are looking forward to a rescheduled presentation from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) on the results of a channel migration study on the McKenzie River in June. One clarification – the study covers the mainstem river from the confluence to McKenzie Bridge. We will hold this meeting in Leaburg and hope to use the facility's virtual meeting system to make the presentation available to a broader audience.

Stand by for updates on summer tours. We plan to offer 2-3 options for Partners this summer.

**2. Restoration Program**

The PWP 2023 planting season is complete. Contractors installed approximately 237,000 plants on 136 sites covering about 130 acres. OWEB Wildfire Recovery grant funds, a partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and EWEB Source Water Protection funded the work. Thank you to all our funders, PWP colleagues, and contractors!

Contractors completed the USFS Delta Campground decommissioning project in March. The work included decommissioning three wells, de-compaction, and removal of debris from campsites, the removal of 4 vault toilets, an underground storage tank, removal of two footbridges, and removal of asphalt from the campground to the intersection with USFS Rd 19. The USFS plans to reuse several vault toilets at different sites, including Deer Creek. The project sets 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 and around the former campground.

### **3. Funding**

The MWA's application, on behalf of the Middle McKenzie Partnership (USFS, MRT, BLM, EWEB), to NOAA's Transformation Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant program seeking \$7.5 million for floodplain restoration and bridge replacement at Quartz Creek was formally approved in late April, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/more-265-million-funding-recommended-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal>

A link to the National press release with links to the Oregon projects can be found here <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-bil-investments-2023>

This project is the result of years of cooperation among local partners. We are proud to be part of this team and look forward to progressing the work. More information on the project is forthcoming!

The PWP successfully applied to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for \$800,000 to support riparian planting and maintenance in 2024-25. EWEB will hold the grant and administer associated contracts. The MWC, UWSWCD, and MRT continue to lead on-the-ground project management.

The MWA is working with the BLM to develop a \$690,000 grant to enhance three to four miles of Marten Creek and Bear Creek, which the Holiday Farm Fire significantly impacted. The project will add hundreds of pieces of large wood to the channel and floodplain to enhance habitat for native fish and wildlife.

OWEB Board approved a \$175,000 grant to continue monitoring efforts on the South Fork McKenzie River. The project is a partnership among ODFW, Oregon State University, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the Willamette National Forest. The MWC will act as the grant administrator and assist with project coordination.

A \$10 million grant application to the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant program was unsuccessful. The PWP and local partners are assessing reviewer comments and alternative next steps.