

**AGENDA**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2024**  
**5:05 – 6:50 p.m.**

**Virtual:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87971402046?pwd=JfI9U4QHsINd5qBpRb2PljPWtFTVCa.1>

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| <b>1. Approval of Agenda and Zoom Logistics</b>  | <b>5:05 - 5:10</b> |
| Facilitator: Jared Weybright   |                    |
| <i>Action Requested</i> – Approve January 2024 Meeting Agenda.   |                    |
| <br>   |                    |
| <b>2. Approval of December 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes Attachment:</b>   | <b>5:10 - 5:15</b> |
| December 2023 Meeting Minutes  |                    |
| <i>Action Requested</i> – Approve December meeting minutes.  |                    |
| <br>   |                    |
| <b>3. Presentation: How to Plant a Tree - Riparian Planting Program</b>  | <b>5:15 - 6:00</b> |
| Olivia Duren, Restoration Program Manager with The Freshwater Trust, will present on the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission sponsored riparian planting program underway in the Upper Willamette Basin. |                    |
| <i>Information Only</i>  |                    |
| <br>   |                    |
| <b>4. Partner Updates and Public Comment</b>   | <b>6:00 – 6:30</b> |
| <i>Information Only</i>  |                    |
| <br>   |                    |
| <b>5. Director’s Report</b>  | <b>6:30 – 6:45</b> |
| <i>Information Only</i>  |                    |

**Next Meeting:**

- Date: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Time: 5:15pm – 7:00 pm
- Location: McKenzie Fire & Rescue, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg, OR 97489
- Topic: McKenzie Lamprey Radio Tag Study

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87971402046?pwd=JfI9U4QHsINd5qBpRb2PljPWtFTVCa.1>

Meeting ID: 879 7140 2046

Passcode: 428828

**Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**December 14, 2023**  
**International Paper**

**Present:** Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), (Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Fly Fishers), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Darren Cross (USFS), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Emily Semple (Eugene City Council), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

**Proxys:** Chad Helms for Jeff Ziller

**Staff:** Chase Antonovich, Lara Colley, Andy Petersen, Vanessa Taylor, Joseph Ycaza, Jared Weybright

**1. Introduction and Approval of December 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. Agenda approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

**2. Approval of November 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Arlene Dietz motioned to approve the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

**3. Presentation: Rooted in Place, Connected Across Landscapes: Regional Education in the Upper Willamette**

Emma Garner, Regional Education Manager for the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, presented on the regional education activities taking place locally. Ms. Garner introduced the advantages of a regional approach to environmental education, before outlining the metrics and growth experienced in recent years. She then described the various programs including Salmon Watch, WATERS, and the WELL Program, before introducing potential new program topics such as Firewise.

Bob Bumstead asked if there is anything occurring to work with underserved students. Ms. Garner noted that they are working with the UWSN's Tribal Liaison while also connecting with local schools to identify student needs. Mr. Bumstead then noted that Salmon Watch has been operating since 1993 and is functioning better than it ever has.

Jared Weybright asked how UWSN is funding and supporting this work overtime. Ms. Garner noted that the network approach has been instrumental in identifying and diversifying the funding required to support this work. She noted that the UWSWCD is also contributing significantly.

Stuart Perlmeter noted that SUB has funded the WELL project for 20+ years contributing 3 million dollars or more to this specific program which is significant and rare.

Nate Day noted that this education program has been instrumental in getting students connected with science fields. He continued that he recently met up with 10 students who were all WATERS alumni, who

are now studying at OSU. Mr. Day noted that very few students go on to college from McKenzie High School so to see these students excelling in that way was really encouraging.

Jared Weybright asked what they envision this program looking like in 10 years. Ms. Garner noted she would like to see additional staff brought on to meet expanding needs and continue to grow at a sustainable rate.

#### **4. Presentation: McKenzie Natural Resources Scholarship Update**

Stuart and Anne Perlmeter, former longtime educators, provided an update on the McKenzie Natural Resources Scholarship that was introduced last year. To date they have donated \$15,000 and would like to continue contributing an additional \$5,000 per year. Mr. Perlmeter continued that the program recently selected their first student who will be attending the University of Puget Sound, with aspirations to become a Park Ranger. He noted that these scholarships account for \$15,000, distributed over 4 years with no strings attached other than that the student must remain in natural resource tract. Mr. Perlmeter noted that he would like to diversify the pool of students they can sponsor and would like to see this scholarship offered to schools in rural areas. Ideally, the program will raise \$10,000 per year to fund 4 students at one time.

Bob Bumstead asked how the scholarship is being advertised to students and participating schools. Mr. Perlmeter responded that they have visited college career guidance counselors at these schools and made a personal pitch. In the future, they hope to create an infographic or poster to outline the program. The program relies on FAFSA data to show financial eligibility.

#### **5. Partner Announcements and Public Comment**

Mark Schulze reported that the Lookout fire burned 68% of the HJ Andrews. He noted that the headquarters avoided significant damage and that the old growth trees had the highest severity burn. Mr. Schulze continued that there was a great deal of research equipment lost but feels that this is an interesting opportunity to learn from the fire and study its effects.

Nancy Toth reported that the septic grant program has been approved and will increase the program across a wider region. She noted that there is a low poverty threshold, but anyone can apply, and if approved, can get septic repairs or replacements covered.

Commissioner John Barofsky reported that on January 9<sup>th</sup> EWEB staff will be bringing before the commissioners a Leaburg Dam decommission action plan. He noted that this is the first level of the decommissioning process.

Todd Miller reported that the Willamette sub-basin TMDLs received a 6-month extension so that is due now in September of next year with TMDLs for the mainstem McKenzie due in February. He continued that 2 weeks ago they received notice about bringing the entire McKenzie into the subbasin TMDL, which would include the confluence to South Fork, and cover shade capacity and heat inputs. This has been expedited because ODFW has been waiting for the process to get done because the hatchery was not covered in the original TMDL.

Darren Cross reported that Christmas tree permits are still available for anyone interested in cutting down their own tree. He continued that USFS staff been monitoring all the local Stage 0 projects following the 2–5-year flood event that recently occurred and noted that all projects are holding well.

Following the storm there has only been a single road issue on FS Rd-19 below Cougar Dam where a culvert was plugged.

Brian Brazil reported that International Paper has also just recently been informed of the new DEQ timeline and is working to get that completed by January.

Chad Helms reported that court ordered drawdowns end tomorrow for the affected dams in the Willamette project, so they will begin refilling.

Wade Stampe reported that his neighbor is interested in selling a number of valuable wooden boats that will not fit into the McKenzie Discovery Center. He continued that KEZI recently reported on the trash and sewage issue across from Armitage Park. He noted that the local McKenzie View Drive neighborhood watch is working to find a solution to the issue, and inquired as to if the Council can help with the issue. Arlene Dietz noted that the parcel of land falls under multiple ownerships and jurisdictions. Jared Weybright commented that if the Council wishes to take a stance on the trash and sewage topic, that this would be a good task for the Council steering committee to take on.

Kelly Wood reported that the LRAPA citizen advisory committee was discussing removing abandoned trailers and noted that tow truck drivers are not picking them up because of the complications with asbestos abatement and disposal.

Dana Burwell reported that regarding illegal camping, it is resulting in the closing of boat launches as seen on the Middle Fork Willamette River at Jasper. He continued that he hopes the USACE would reexamine the dam drawdowns as they are extremely detrimental. Mr. Burwell continued that the McKenzie Discovery Center is planning to remodel some of the old buildings as it far more cost effective than implementing new construction, so the project has transitioned to more of a historical restoration pending the approval of funds reallocation from legislators.

Ralph Perkins reported that the UWSWCD has had discussions on contamination of rivers from houseless camping so it would be good to partner with them.

David Kretzing noted that the MRT posted great drone photographs of the Finn Rock Reach Project following the heavy rain and flooding.

Nate Day reported he and his students got to finish out the week before winter break releasing roughly 200 salmon that were raised in the classroom. Mr. Day continued that he would like to thank EWEB for the education grant and the McKenzie Masters as well for their support.

Sue Zeni reported her 78 acres are undergoing their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of thinning. She continued that the new Forest Accord rules go into effect in the new year, but it is very difficult to work through and understand them. She noted that it is all positive, despite the difficulty in understanding how your property fits into new standards, especially for smaller landowners.

Andy McWilliams reported that after the high-water event he was reassured that logs from the Finn Rock Reach project have not contributed to logs on his property. He continued that he has an upcoming final meeting with EWEB to get a power grid plan finalized so that the Wayfarer can continue with rebuilding cabins. Mr. McWilliams also reported that the MWC removed a large log deck for the Marten Creek restoration project. Lastly, Mr. McWilliams reported that Randy Dersham has been working on a documentary called Oregon's boat about the McKenzie River drift boat. He had roughly half of the film funded and received a matching grant from the Discovery Center for \$15,000 of the remaining cost. He continued that the Guide's Association is going to paying for the rest of the project, so final editing is now underway.

## **6. Director's Report**

Jared Weybright provided a brief director's report, noting that the MWA Management team and partners (EWEB and SWCD) are in the process of hiring a PWP Coordinator position to assist with PWP operations. He continued that they are conducting initial interviews this week and will follow-up with a second (and third if needed) round interviews in January. The position will be housed at the MWA, with a realistic start date of early February 2024. Mr. Weybright continued that the MWA also intends to hire two Watershed Restoration Specialist positions in early 2024, following the successful hire of the PWP Coordinator. These positions will focus on PWP project management and work primarily with private landowners. I hope to release this job announcement in January 2024.

Mr. Weybright reported that the Alliance By-laws and MWC Charter, along with a revised MWA Financial Policy will be sent out for legal review in January 2024. The intent is to finalize a cohesive set of governance documents for a final Council and Alliance review in early 2024.

Regarding restoration, Mr. Weybright reported that the bridge replacement project on Quartz Creek is complete. This is the initial stage of an ambitious 180-acre project to restore the lower 2 miles of the Quartz Creek floodplain. Additionally, planning work has begun for Phase 3 of the Lower South Fork McKenzie River restoration project. This project will cover over 300 acres downstream of the Rd 19 Bridge and include restoration work within the old Delta Campground footprint. A large-scale funding request is pending with NOAA, and another will be submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in December.

Lastly, the PWP is focused on another planting season to begin in February 2024. The project will plant roughly 90,000 - 100,000 stems covering 80-100 acres. This will likely be the last large-scale planting project on Holiday Farm Fire impacted sites for the near future.

Meeting adjourned, 7:00pm.