

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
International Paper
785 N 42nd St, Springfield, OR 97478
5:10 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda **5:10 – 5:15**
Facilitator Jared Weybright
Action Requested – Approve December Meeting Agenda.

2. Approval of November 9th Meeting Minutes **5:15 – 5:20**
Attachment: November Meeting Minutes
Action Requested – Approve November meeting minutes.

3. Presentation: Rooted in Place, Connected Across Landscapes: Regional Education in the Upper Willamette **5:20 – 5:55**
Emma Garner, Regional Education Manager, and Dassy Smolianski, Education Project Coordinator, with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network will be presenting on the regional environmental education programs taking place in the upper Willamette.
Information Only

4. Presentation: McKenzie Natural Resources Scholarship Update **5:55 – 6:10**
Stuart Perlmeter, long time cooperative partner, will be providing an update on the McKenzie Natural Resources Scholarship
Information Only

Break **6:10 – 6:20**

5. Partner Announcements and Public Comment **6:20 – 6:50**
Information Only

6. Director's Report **6:50 – 7:00**
Information only
Attachment: Director's Report

Next Meeting

- January 11th, 2024.
- Time: 5:05 – 6:45
- Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81392837903?pwd=IUcRXtUZtaTZD5yOOu39JSRSdLNlcN.1>
- Topic: Upper Willamette Shade Credit Program – The Freshwater Trust

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

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
November 9th, 2023
International Paper

Present: Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Brian Brazil (International Paper), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Fly Fishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner/USFS), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Proxys: Jeff Ziller for Andy McWilliams and Chad Helms

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Haley Case-Scott, Lara Colley, Andy Petersen, Jared Weybright, Joseph Ycaza

1. Introduction and Approval of Agenda

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the November 9th meeting agenda. Meeting agenda approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of October 12th Meeting Minutes

Bob Bumstead motioned to approve the October 12th meeting minutes. Meeting minutes were approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Partner Announcements and Public Comment

Ralph Perkins inquired about the dam drawdowns occurring on Willamette River tributaries, and how this will affect the overall health of the river. Jeff Ziller commented that there is a great deal of silt coming down, noting that there is roughly 70 years' worth built up behind Lookout Point reservoir. Mr. Ziller commented that this situation is like what occurred during the installation of the temperature control tower at Cougar Reservoir, which resulted in a significant loss of macroinvertebrates for a period. Mr. Ziller continued that studies of pre and post macroinvertebrate populations show that they eventually did bounce back.

Jeff Ziller reported that 1900 wild spring Chinook salmon made their way over Leaburg dam this year. Prior to the removal of the fish ladder trap, multiple Coho were found crossing Leaburg Dam. He continued that a camera was installed on the right bank fish ladder following the removal of the fish ladder trap, and 51 Coho have been recorded crossing the dam thus far. Mr. Ziller noted that there was an above average number of Coho that crossed over Willamette falls this year, with 28,000 adults and 11,000 jacks. Jacks typically indicate the strength of next years' run so we may see 35-40,000 coho over Willamette falls next year. Mr. Ziller noted that this is a unique situation in terms of fisheries management as we do not want these fish competing with spring Chinook populations. ODFW hopes to monitor these fish going forward to see if there is natural reproduction above Leaburg Dam. Commissioner John Barofsky reported that the River Reflections recently reported that there are issues with the National Marine Fisheries and the relicensing of Carmen Smith. Mr. Barofsky noted that EWEB takes this commitment very seriously and will be moving forward with resolving the issues. They are currently not compliant with FERC, although aside from being behind on their schedule for trap and haul due to natural causes (sink holes, wildfire, etc.) they feel as though they are compliant.

Bob Bumstead reported that Salmon Watch is ongoing, with the current fall foliage resulting in some gorgeous days on Whittaker Creek. He noted that the McKenzie Fly Fishers are continuing to donate funding and volunteers to the program and would encourage any interested parties to volunteer as an educator.

Dana Burwell commented that sediment in the river from reservoir drawdowns is detrimental to the local guides, noting that there was no caddis hatch for almost 10 years and a decrease in native trout populations following the Cougar drawdown.

Carla Rothenbuecher reported that the natural resources division of the McKenzie Ranger District is nearly fully staffed, with Logan Bodiford recently onboarded as an assistant fish biologist.

Nancy Toth reported septic assistance grants are still available for Holiday Farm Fire victims, with the hope to extend these to the rest of the McKenzie community soon. She continued that EWEB storm sampling is ongoing, as they are currently waiting on lab results.

Todd Miller reported via email that the City of Springfield adopted code amendments related to stormwater permitting to reflect new permit requirements to protect the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Detailed information is available online: <https://springfield-or.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-11-06-Amended-JEO-Agenda-Packet.pdf> The Freshwater Trust is moving ahead with MWMC shade projects in the lower McKenzie with several promising leads, thanks to the familiarity of landowners with the Pure Water Partners and local outreach staff. We expect to ramp up several projects in 2024. The Willamette sub-basin temperature TMDLs, which include the McKenzie, have been postponed approximately 6 months – they had been originally due to go before the Environmental Quality Commission this month. Stakeholders tracking the TMDL development by DEQ raised concerns about the legitimacy and feasibility of effective shade targets identified in the draft TMDLs – or to translate, is it practical to ever achieve temperature goals given the assumed increase in riparian shade mandated by the TMDLs but with no regulatory requirements to enforce any action on the ground?

4. Presentation: Finn Rock Reach Restoration Phase II Completion Report

John Trimble, Restoration Projects Manager with the McKenzie River Trust, presented on the completion of Phase 2 efforts to restore floodplain conditions at the MRT-owned property. Mr. Trimble began by introducing valley bottom restoration techniques, noting that Finn Rock Reach restoration is a stage 8. He then introduced the location of the project, outlining the ways that the region has changed over time. Lastly, Mr. Trimble provided an overview of the restoration that has occurred, and the plans for the future of the site.

Sue Zeni asked what the McKenzie River Trust's next project is. Mr. Trimble responded that they are planning restoration on the Willamette Confluence as they just acquired the property.

Kelly Wood asked how much interference or maintenance is expected to occur following the completion of the project. Mr. Trimble responded that ideally, they will no need to alter the project at all.

Commissioner Barofsky asked what the MRT foresees for public access. Mr. Trimble responded that there is currently no public access and no plans to improve public access to the site except. He noted that there are talks of how to allow for tribal populations to access the site.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Weybright asked if there was any interest in a Council tour to make up for the cancelled tours over the summer. He continued that Finn Rock Reach and Quartz Creek would make for a good pre and post restoration tour. Council members preferred Fridays over Thursdays.

Mr. Weybright continued that the Quartz Creek bridge replacement is currently wrapping up, while wood is still being rounded up for Quartz Creek restoration. Additionally, PWP staff is preparing for planting in January through March of 2023. The PWP is also looking at strategic planning following a prolonged

period of HFF recovery work. In regard to monitoring, there are currently 4 monitoring proposals in various stages. Mr. Weybright continued that the Firewood Program just began for the year, with roughly 22 cords provided to the community in the last month. Lastly, Mr. Weybright noted that the PWP Coordinator job listing recently went live, with initial interviews planned for early December.

Meeting adjourned, 7:10pm.