

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, December 12, 2024
Virtual

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86059882795?pwd=DHeWSApSadKEFRSPHCacz5PO3evVgO.1>

5:05 – 6:30 p.m.

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| 1. Agenda Check and Zoom Logistic Reminders
Facilitator – Jared Weybright
<i>Action Requested</i> – Approve November Meeting Agenda | 5:05 – 5:15 |
| 2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes
<i>Action Requested</i> – Approve October Meeting Minutes
<i>Attachment:</i> November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes | 5:15 – 5:20 |
| 3. Presentation: Pure Water Partners – 2024 Year In Review
PWP – PWP-affiliated staff will provide updates on program accomplishments over the past year and a brief look ahead to 2025 and wrapping up HFF recovery efforts.
<i>Information Only</i> | 5:20 – 5:50 |
| 4. Partner Updates and Public Comment
<i>Information Only</i> | 5:50 - 6:20 |
| 5. Director’s Report
<i>Information only</i> | 6:20 – 6:35 |

Next Meeting

- January 9, 2024.
- Time: 5:05 pm – 6:45
- Location: Virtual Meeting, Zoom
- Topic: TBA

Contact: Jared Weybright, Executive Director, 541-520-8891, jared@mckenziawc.org

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, November 14, 2024
McKenzie Fire & Rescue
42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg

Present: Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Fly Fishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie Guides), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Steve Mealey (McKenzie Guides), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Martyne Reesman (ODFW), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner/USFS), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Lara Colley, Alex Renirie, Jared Weybright

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the November 2024 meeting agenda; Arlene Dietz seconded the motion. Meeting agenda approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Jared Weybright motioned to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes; Mark Schulze seconded the motion. October 2024 meeting minutes approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Presentation: Quartz Creek Ecosystem Resilience

MWC Floodplain Restoration Projects Manager, Lara Colley, alongside McKenzie River Trust Restoration Projects Manager, John Trimble, presented on the Quartz Creek Ecosystem Resilience Project slated for implementation in 2025. Lara Colley introduced the location of the project, noting the ecological significance and land management of the project area. John Trimble noted the unique geology of the Quartz Creek, while also discussing how impacted the ecosystem has been by human actions. Lara Colley then covered the costs of the project before discussing the design for the planned restoration.

Kelly Wood asked if there would be a surplus or deficit of cut and fill material. Mr. Trimble responded that there is a minimal surplus that will be kept on site. There is no need to transport any material offsite.

Arlene Dietz asked what proportion of large wood has root balls attached in this project. Ms. Colley responded that less than half of the trees although we are also planning to tip some trees.

Sue Zeni asked what role slash plays in the restoration design. Ms. Colley noted that it fills in the spaces of the logjams to allow for additional wood retention.

Sue Zeni asked if the road adjacent to Quartz Creek will be open to the public during the Project. Ms. Colley responded that the road will always remain open although there may be temporary closures with flaggers controlling traffic.

4. Partner Updates and Public Comment

Steve Mealey introduced Shirley Braunstein, the McKenzie River Discovery Center Executive Director. He noted that they will plan to start construction this winter, with the opening planned for 2026.

Andy McWilliams reported that the McKenzie River Discovery Center has sponsored Randy Dersham's documentary on the McKenzie River drift boat, and the film will be shown a week from Sunday at the Wildish Theatre with profits supporting the McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group.

Chad Helms reported that the court-ordered drawdowns at Green Peter, Lookout, Cougar, and Fall Creek reservoirs are ongoing. The idea is to help get the fish through the reservoir easier by reducing the size of the pool.

Nancy Toth reported that EWEB held a successful spill drill at Finn Rock Reach. She extended a thank you to the McKenzie River Trust for allowing the use of the site.

Bob Bumstead reported that Salmon Watch is ongoing, and a great opportunity for any interested volunteers. He then noted that KLCC featured Emma Garner as a teacher of the year, with an article available via the KLCC website.

Martyne Reesman reported that 8 salmon watch field trips have been held so far, with trips currently taking place on Whittaker Creek.

Jeremy Romer reported that the bull trout above Trailbridge are doing well, with 46 fish recorded so far. Summer steelhead numbers were extremely high this year, with the Leaburg fish hatchery seeing fish move into the facility now that it has water in it. 4000 summer steelhead have crossed over Leaburg Dam this year as opposed to 32 seen last year. These fish are being put in Junction City Pond, the Row River Nature Park, and other small systems. Mr. Romer continued that Pacific lamprey runs this year were extremely high as well. Lastly, he noted that there was only 1 coho that was recorded crossing Leaburg Dam before the removal of the fish sorter.

Susan Fricke extended thanks to the McKenzie River Trust for the use of Finn Rock Reach. She continued that the septic program is ongoing, but guidelines have changed slightly.

Carla Rothenbuecher reported that Christmas tree permits are available online or in person at the Ranger Station. She continued that the 7th annual ornament hunt starts soon through Travel Oregon as well.

5. Director's Report

Jared Weybright reported that the Alliance is getting ready to finalize an \$8.5 million NOAA agreement, with \$4.5 million of the funds going to support South Fork phase 3 restoration. He continued that agreements with NOAA are cooperative agreements, not grant agreements so they help with regulatory compliance. Regarding contracting for Quartz Creek, the Alliance hopes to offer an award in the next week. He continued that Salmon Watch is ongoing and a great example of how organizations work together across the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. Lastly he noted that next month he hopes to have a steering committee setup and members confirmed.

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm.

