

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, June 13th, 2024
International Paper
785 North 42nd, Springfield,
5:05 – 6:55 p.m.

- 1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda** **5:05 – 5:10**
Facilitator – Jared Weybright
Action Requested – Approve June Meeting Agenda.
- 2. Approval of May 9th Meeting Minutes** **5:10 – 5:15**
Attachment: May Meeting Minutes
Action Requested – Approve May meeting minutes.
- 3. Partner Updates and Public Comment** **5:15 – 5:45**
Information Only
- Break** **5:45 – 5:55**
- 4. Presentation and Group Exercise: UWSN Framework for Tribal Partnerships and Decolonization** **5:55 – 6:40**
Upper Willamette Stewardship Network Coordinator, Sydney Nilan, and Upper Willamette Stewardship Network Tribal Liaison, Haley Case-Scott, will discuss the Network’s collaborative efforts to date in creating the framework for Tribal Partnerships and Decolonization and beginning to implement it in collaboration with our Native partners
Information Only
- 5. Director’s Report** **6:40 – 6:55**
Information only

Next Meeting

- September 12th, 2024.
- Time: 5:05pm – 6:45
- Location: TBD
- Topic: TBD

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

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, May 9th, 2024
McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Present: Brian Brazil (International Paper), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Chad Helms (USACE), David Kretzing (Resident Partner), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Steve Mealey (McKenzie Guides), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Mark Schulze (HJ Andrews), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish), Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Staff: Chase Antonovich, Lara Colley, Andy Petersen, Jared Weybright

Guests: Jack Richardson, Carol Ach

Proxies: Nancy Toth for Todd Miller, Susan Fricke for Commissioner John Barofsky

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of April 11th Meeting Minutes

Jeff Ziller made a correction to the minutes to add Jeremy Romer to the list of Partners in attendance. Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the April 11th meeting minutes as modified. Meeting minutes approved as modified, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Partner Updates

Nancy Toth reported that a naturescaping workshop was held April 30th, and was well attended with roughly 16 participants.

Sue Zeni reported that the McKenzie River 50k is taking place on June 8th with roughly 120 runners expected to compete.

Jeff Ziller reported that 8500+ winter steelhead have traveled over Willamette Falls thus far, marking one of the best runs in decades. He continued that this is good news, with favorable ocean conditions contributing to these numbers. Mr. Ziller continued that there are already 3500+ summer steelhead over the falls as well which should account for roughly 15% of the total run. If these trends continue there is potential for 13,000-20,000 summer steelhead traversing Willamette Falls this year. Mr. Ziller continued that 15 of these summer steelhead have already gone over Leaburg Dam, although ODFW will begin stopping them with the fish sorter in early June. He continued that at least 2 spring chinook have passed the dam as well which is good news thus far.

Andy McWilliams reported that the Wayfarer is working with an excavation contractor to finish prepping for the final EWEB inspection to get power poles put back in the ground. He continued that following this step they will begin looking at rebuilding cabins.

Dana Burwell reported the McKenzie Guides' life jacket program is up and running, and that they are trying to work with lodges to carry lifejackets due to the lack of stores along the river. Mr. Burwell continued that the McKenzie Wooden Boat Festival was well attended with 40+ boats and hundreds of people.

Chad Helms reported that the Willamette Project water storage is currently at 81%, with most reservoirs nearing full except for those affected by the injunction.

Carla Rothenbuecher reported that the Lookout Fire closure will continue through the fall so that crews can accomplish suppression work and hazard tree mitigation in July. She continued that the McKenzie River trail is now open in its entirety.

Jack Richardson asked where the information is available about trail closures. Ms. Rothenbuecher noted it's on the USFS website and social media.

Steve Mealey reported that cuts in the USACE budget would reduce salmon production, and all the steelhead production on the McKenzie River ultimately affecting the guides who rely on these fish. He continued that the Northwest Sportfishing Association is working with the Guides Association to try to increase the USACE budget. Mr. Mealey continued that there have been 3000 letters generated thus far and although there is no word yet, the budget hasn't been approved and they are continuing to fight. He noted that exciting things are happening at the McKenzie Discovery Center, including a boat-building workshop currently in its second week. He continued that they are also rebuilding the original Keith Steel boat that made its first trip down the Colorado River.

Ralph Perkins reported that the UWSWCD is currently going through its public budget process, with staff looking forward to another successful year.

Dave Kretzing reported that he is working with Friends of Fish Lake to hold a teachers workshop this summer. There was a geology-focused version held last year, and this year will focus on hydrology.

4. Director's Report

Jared Weybright reported that The McKenzie Watershed Alliance is nearing completion of initial interviews for the PWP Coordinator position. Second-round interviews with the top 3-4 candidates will take place over the next several weeks. Additionally, we have also posted a Project Manager position and received around 70 applications. He continued that The MWC approved the revised Charter at its April meeting. The revised Charter creates a Steering Committee to help guide the Council. We will discuss the formation of the Steering Committee at the June Council meeting. Mr. Weybright also noted that Wade Stampe has stepped down from his Board position. The Board is seeking interested volunteers to join the MWA Board of Directors. These are two-year terms. Please contact Jared or Chase if you would like more information or would like to volunteer.

5. Presentation and Work Session: Collaborative Futures: Community-Engaged Ecology to Bridge Research and Local Interest

Jared Weybright introduced the Collaborative Futures project, noting that the MWC has been eager to reengage with the local upriver community following several years of fire recovery and Covid restrictions.

Mark Schulze presented on the post-fire research agenda for the HJ Andrews LTER Program. He noted that the Lookout fire was a classic mixed-severity fire, although it occurred in the most heavily studied forest in the US. About 70% of the HJ Andrews burned, but it is a great learning and research opportunity. Mr. Schulze continued that the 2 elements of research and recovery are to restore research plots and infrastructure to continue long-term ecological research and pursue opportunities to add complementary studies.

Kari O'Connell explained how RAPID grants are awarded, and how scientists and researchers through the OSU STEM Research Center were interested in working with the local community. She continued that the project aims to help the local community and the HJ Andrews build relationships centered on common interests related to wildfire research.