

AGENDA
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, January 9th, 2025
Virtual

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85866003368?pwd=L2cJgDAzFaL1IClBudw4sQx51ab56d.1>

5:05 – 6:40 p.m.

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| 1. Agenda Check and Zoom Logistic Reminders
Facilitator – Jared Weybright
<i>Action Requested</i> – Approve January Meeting Agenda | 5:05 – 5:15 |
| 2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes
<i>Action Requested</i> – Approve December Meeting Minutes
<i>Attachment:</i> December 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes | 5:15 – 5:20 |
| 3. Partner Updates and Public Comment
<i>Information Only</i> | 5:20 - 5:50 |
| 4. Presentation: So where did these Coho come from and what might be their future?
(with a few sub notes on McKenzie cutthroat and lamprey)
Jeff Ziller, District Fish Biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will provide an update on the populations of several species of fish in the Upper Willamette basin.
<i>Information Only</i> | 5:50 – 6:30 |
| 5. Director’s Report
<i>Information only</i> | 6:30 – 6:40 |

Next Meeting

- February 13, 2025.
- Time: 5:05 pm – 6:45
- Location: TBA
- Topic: TBA

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

Minutes
McKenzie Watershed Council
Thursday, December 12, 2024
Virtual

Present: Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Darren Cross (USFS), Nate Day (McKenzie Schools), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Christopher Finn (BLM), Susan Fricke (EWEB), Dave Kretzing (Resident Partner) Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Kelly Wood (Wildish) Sue Zeni (Resident Partner), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

Proxy:

Staff: Lara Colley, Alex Renirie, Vanessa Taylor, Joe Ycaza, Jared Weybright

Guests: Daniel Dietz

Facilitating: Jared Weybright

1. Approval of December Agenda Meeting Agenda

Jared provided Zoom logistics reminders and added one agenda item – MWC Steering Committee Nominations to the agenda. Arlene Deitz called for consensus approval of the agenda as amended. All partners showing consensus level 3.

2. Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

Arlene Deitz called for consensus approval of the November. All partners showing consensus level 3.

3. Pure Water Partners – 2024 Year in Review

Daniel Dietz and Nancy Toth lead a presentation on the history of the PWP with a focus on Holiday Farm Fire response and 2024 achievements. Presentation is available upon request. Following the presentation there was a general question and answer session.

- Andy McWilliams stated that he was so thankful for the PWP immediately post-fire. They came in and provided clarity and helped focused on the projects. Post-logging replanting of Marten Creek has been great too.
- There was a question regarding working on non-riparian sites – Nancy responded that the PWP worked on some upland sites post-fire, but that the work has shifted back to a focus on riparian on the river and major tributaries now.
- Jared stated that this collaborative has been unique in my career. The scope of work this group undertook and navigated is remarkable. A lot of this couldn't be done without EWEB's leadership. EWEB rate fee is sunseting in 2026 and winding down the current version of PWP. Been working hard to build partnerships so that we're ready for the next big event/need.
- Arlene asked how can we effectively communicate this success in the community and the professional community nationwide? Need to blow our horn, celebrate our success, and share our lessons learned.
- Susan responded that several EWEB staff are involved in American Water Works Association (AWWA). Nancy presented at their national conference and wrote an article. Has gotten some attention from CA, HI. Fire Resiliency Leadership Summit – traveled there to talk about wildfire

recovery a couple years ago.

4. Steering Committee Nominations

Jared stated that four Council Partners have volunteered for the new MWC Steering Committee; Dave KRETZING, Bob Bumstead, Nancy Toth, and Carla Rothenbuecher. The newly revised Council Charter calls for 3-5 members, and we are pleased to have 4 volunteers. Dave will serve as the MWA Board representative on the Steering Committee. Chase and Jared will provide staff support to the committee. Jared stated that he would like to open the floor to discussion and/or nomination of the four volunteers. Andy McWilliams called for consensus approval of Dave Kretzing, Bob Bumstead, Nancy Toth, and Carla Rothenbuecher to the MWC Steering Committee. All partners showing consensus level 3.

Jared expresses gratitude for the volunteers and that he looks forward to working with them.

5. Partner Updates and Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Ralph: SWCD board met on Tues – normal business meeting except the beginning included some changing of guard of new members. Had a reception for those leaving. Ralph also commented on W about Karl Morgenstern. It was his vision for the conservation community that developed into the PWP. The fire devastated a lot of communities, but PWP was uniquely positioned to get things on the ground based on how much collaboration was already set up.

Arlene: pass

Andy: Contractors finished the infrastructure phases (water, power, septic) and getting along with geotesting, foundation engineering at the Wayfarer. Getting ready to get rentable units at the Wayfarer. Additional planting on Marten Creek where they had some attrition of plants. Trying to get shade on the water as soon as they can. Curious about whether it's too early to look at EWEB's testing equipment to assess water quality with new logs in Marten Creek. It already seems to be having some positive impact. Susan commented that the Council could consider bringing David Donahue, EWEB water quality monitoring staff to present at a future Council meeting (Nancy can help coordinate). Would also be good to present on the 'State of the Watershed' report around March.

Carla: pass

Christopher: In September, the BLM and MWC completed the initial reworking of the road at Deer Creek, where there was failure at the culverts due to high water events and impacts from a recent restoration project. The project includes efforts to rework the stream channel. The work including replaced culverts, additional road bedding/gravel to raise the elevation. Staff will assess the work over the coming winter. Really pleased with how the work turned out, in collaboration with MWC. Additional collaboration with the MWC this year included

- Marten Creek: 4 days of helicopter work to place large wood in Marten Creek.
- Starting to discuss possibilities at Ennes Creek with MRT.
- Review of Gate Creek and Deer Creek will handle winter storms. Have money for maintenance of those projects. Meeting with Weyerhaeuser soon on this.

Darren: Expressed thanks to Nancy for coordinating the McKenzie River Stewardship Group earlier this month. We hope to have some funding through Stewardship sale in the watershed in the next year or two. Christmas tree harvest is open! The 'find your trail ornament hunt' is also on.

Danan: Mckenzie River Drift boat showed at the Wildish in Springfield. It was a huge success and standing room only Working on a second showing there and in Vida. Very popular!

Jeff Ziller: Over 60k Coho passed Willamette Falls this year. Largest number ever. 50 Coho came over Leaburg dam last year. Got all prepared with radio tags this year, but only one came over Leaburg in 2024. Jeff reported on the pHOS (percentage of Hatchery Chinook spawning with the wild population) for the Mckenzie in 2024: 10.8%, which is about what they aim for (goal is less than 10%). Without the sorter and ladder trap, it would've been over 40%. Good removal rate. 2022-2024 was much better than most of the 20 years prior. Overall wild run of Spring Chinook (returns above the Leaburg dam) has been pretty steady over the past 10-15 years.

Nancy: pass

Nate: Busy fall at McKenzie High Schools. WATERS program is in full swing. 14 kids with a waitlist of 3-4. Soon hoping to look at Quartz Creek project. Dassy from the Middle Fork WC is helping setting that up. It's been a fun year. Salmon Watch was great this year. Took a class of only about 8 kids. Group of kids doing a regional science fair at UO looking into water quality at the Deer Creek hot spring, including macroinvertebrates concentration upstream and downstream.

Sue Zeni: pass

Susan: No updates from EWEB, but happy holidays.

6. Executive Director Updates

Jared provided several general updates. MWC staff is working on several projects with the BLM right now including;

- Culvert replacement on Mohawk tributary, Cash Creek. Nearing the end of engineering and design. About 90% complete. Anticipate design being approved soon, implementation this fall (Sept-Oct).
- Have engineer under contract for Silver Creek watchable wildlife section. Working to rebuild that viewing platform (ADA accessible). Hope to complete the design in early 2025, then put it out for a bid.

The MWC was successful on a National Fish & Wildlife Section's America the Beautiful program grant. \$1.5M that will support South Fork Phase 3 project. Looking at putting in a second bridge crossing on Road 19 (still under development). Very excited about that. Earliest it would take place is 2026. Additionally, the MWC is working closely with the USFS on the South Fork McKenzie River Phase 3 restoration project. USFS partners are working to get us to a 90% design by the end of Jan. Up against the clock for permitting work. Lara just completed an RFP to bring in outside help to get a County and FEMA permit. Aiming to have the permitting work underway by April or May 2025.

The Quartz Creek project is looking good for 2025 implementation. Went through the bidding process (most contractors we've ever had on site – approx. 7). Got only 2 bids, very competitive. Awarded to

Haley Construction out of Sweet Home. Currently in contract negotiations, looking to finalize in January. Vanessa leading some work on the revegetation plan RFP that we plan to release in January 2025. The overall project is 90% federally funded, with a bit of state and local money supporting. Hoping to break ground in May 2025.

The PWP planting effort in 2025 will be slightly smaller for PWP in 2025 (starting Feb). 1-2 shade credit planting sites, funded through the MWMC, will get earlier planting this winter.

Next Meeting:

- Meet in January will also be virtual. Presentation from Jeff Ziller on Willamette Coho and several other native fishes.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Meeting Adjourned 6:30pm

**McKenzie Watershed Council
Directors Report
January 2025**

1. Operations

Staffing

The McKenzie Watershed Alliance plans to release a job announcement for an Operations/Administration assistant in January 2025. The position will help with a range of contract management and organizational logistics. The MWA is also exploring options for hiring additional staff to assist with 2025-26 floodplain projects.

MWC Steering Committee

The new MWC Steering Committee has been established and we are currently working to schedule our first meeting.

MWA Board

The Board is seeking an interested volunteer to join the MWA Board of Directors. These are two-year terms with 4-5 meetings annually. Please contact Jared or Chase if you would like more information or would like to volunteer. The next MWA Board meeting is February 4th.

Council Meetings, Tours, and Outreach

Staff are working on finalizing the 2025 meeting schedule. If you have any suggestions for presentations or topics, please contact Jared or Chase. We plan to work with EWEB to have a water quality presentation in March or April 2025 and will likely have a follow-up meeting from OSU STEM Research Center and HJ Andrews staff at some point this spring. We are also working to develop an HJ Andrews Tour. We will also have a Council tour of the active Quartz Creek restoration project at some point in July. The September meeting will likely be another BBQ or some type of celebratory event.

Outreach

Staff are working on the 2024 Annual report and plan to release it by the end of January.

2. Restoration Program

The PWP will start its last round of major post-HFF planting in late January or early February 2025. The plan is to plant approximately 28,000 native trees and shrubs on 40-50 properties.

Contracting is underway for the Quartz Creek restoration project. The contractor will begin mobilizing to the site in April and begin work outside of the creek channel in May. We hope to complete the project by early-mid August 2025.

The MWC plans to release an RFP for revegetation work on Quartz Creek in mid-January. The revegetation project will take place once the instream restoration work is completed. We plan to complete one season of site preparation in fall 2025 prior to planting in winter 2026. The contract will also cover maintenance activities in spring and fall 2026.

The MWC and USFS plan to continue sourcing and transporting large wood for the South Fork Phase 3 restoration project. The wood will be sourced from several USFS sites. Contracting is currently underway, and we expect to begin work once wet-weather haul restrictions allow.

The MWC currently has an RFP out seeking bids to assist with permitting work on the South Fork Phase 3 restoration project. Bids are due January 13th and we hope to begin work by February in order to meet several different timelines with complex permitting processes.

Designs for a culvert replacement project on Cash Creek are undergoing a final review by the BLM. The MWC is assisting with contracting and will release an RFP for the replacement once the final design is approved by BLM engineers. We anticipate the culvert replacement taking place in late summer or early fall 2025.

The MWC is also working with the BLM to redesign the Silver Creek Watchable Wildlife viewing platform. The MWC is assisting with contracting and hopes to have engineered designs completed by late winter 2025. Reconstruction of the viewing platform will occur in late 2025 as funding allows.

3. Funding

The MWA recently submitted a \$76,000 grant application to the [Drinking Water Providers Partnership](#). If successful, the grant will support staff capacity at the MWC and UWSWCD for ongoing PWP program work. The application covers an 18-month timeline through the end of 2026. Thanks to Daniel Dietz (UWSWCD), Nancy Toth (EWEB) and Alex Renirie (MWA) for working on the application over the Holidays.

The MWA is starting to work on two applications to OWEB. The first is a council capacity grant due in March. This application will fund a range of operations and non-project specific work over the course of the 2025-2027 biennium. Chase is leading this application. The second OWEB application will support the planned South Fork Phase 3 restoration project. This project has significant federal dollars and requires a percentage of non-federal match, which this application will help provide if successful. Lara and Jared will lead this application process.

The MWA is currently working on finalizing contracts for two previously approved grants; 1) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation America the Beautiful Challenge - \$1.5 million for the South Fork Phase 3 project and 2) NOAA - \$355,849 for monitoring work on Quartz Creek and Finn Rock Reach. We hope to have the NOAA project under contract in January and the NFWF project by mid-spring 2025.