

**AGENDA**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2024**  
**McKenzie Fire & Rescue**  
**42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg**  
**5:15 – 6:50 p.m.**

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| <b>1. Dinner and arrival</b>   | <b>5:00 – 5:15</b> |
| The Council will provide a pizza and salad dinner. Please reach out with any dietary restrictions.   |                    |
| <b>2. Introductions and Approval of Agenda</b>   | <b>5:15 – 5:20</b> |
| Facilitator – Jared Weybright<br><i>Action Requested</i> – Approve November Meeting Agenda   |                    |
| <b>3. Approval of October Meeting Minutes</b>  | <b>5:20 – 5:25</b> |
| <i>Action Requested</i> – Approve October Meeting Minutes<br><i>Attachment:</i> October 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes   |                    |
| <b>4. Presentation: Quartz Creek Ecosystem Resilience</b>  | <b>5:25 – 6:00</b> |
| MWC Floodplain Restoration Projects Manager, Lara Colley, alongside McKenzie River Trust Restoration Projects Manager, John Trimble, will be presenting on the Quartz Creek Ecosystem Resilience Project slated for implementation in 2025.<br><i>Information Only</i> |                    |
| <b>Break</b>   | <b>6:00 – 6:10</b> |
| <b>5. Partner Updates and Public Comment</b>   | <b>6:10 - 6:40</b> |
| <i>Information Only</i>  |                    |
| <b>6. Director’s Report</b>  | <b>6:40 – 6:50</b> |
| <i>Attachment to follow:</i> November 2024 Director’s Report   |                    |

**Next Meeting**

- December 12th, 2024.
- Time: 5:05pm – 6:45
- Location: Virtual Meeting, Zoom
- Topic: TBA

Contact: Jared Weybright, Executive Director, 541-520-8891, [jared@mckenziawc.org](mailto:jared@mckenziawc.org)

**Minutes**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
**Thursday, October 10, 2024**  
**International Paper**

**Present:** Commissioner John Barofsky (EWEB), Brian Brazil (IP), Bob Bumstead (McKenzie Fly Fishers), Dana Burwell (McKenzie River Guides), Arlene Dietz (Rice Farms), Rod Fosback (NW Steelheaders), Ralph Perkins (UWSWCD), Andy McWilliams (Resident Partner), Todd Miller (City of Springfield), Brian Robinson (City of Springfield), Carla Rothenbuecher (Resident Partner), Emily Semple (City of Eugene), Wade Stampe (Resident Partner), Nancy Toth (EWEB), Jeff Ziller (ODFW)

**Proxy:** Jared Weybright for David Kretzing, Jeff Ziller for Chad Helms

**Staff:** Chase Antonovich, Alex Renirie, Vanessa Taylor, Jared Weybright

### **1. Introductions and Approval of October Meeting Agenda**

Ralph Perkins motioned to approve the October 2024 meeting agenda; Bob Bumstead seconded the motion. Meeting agenda approved as written, all Partners showing consensus level 3.

### **2. Partner Updates and Public Comment**

Todd Miller reported that he is now the Deputy Director of Environmental Services with the City of Springfield, and that Bryan Robinson will be participating more heavily on the Council while Mr. Miller adjusts to his new position. He continued that the current TMDL draft is out, comments are due Monday. The draft will go to EPA in February 2025 to be adopted. Mr. Miller noted that under the new draft, the MWMC wastewater allocations will be compliant so all shade credit work will be a bonus. He noted that he anticipates the MWMC will fulfill the existing contract through 2027. Lastly, Mr. Miller noted that there is a lot more emphasis in the new TMDL for riparian restoration, and we will know more as it evolves.

Rod Fosback reported that the NW Steelheaders are still digging out from the ice storm, noting that they have about 16,000 steelhead smolts clipped and in the pond being fed until they're released.

Commissioner John Barofsky reported that at the last EWEB Board meeting they had public testimony from Jared Weybright thanking EWEB for the work they've done. He continued that they are now having discussions on the \$3 fee that was initiated following the Holiday Farm Fire and are trying to figure out how to move that work forward when the fee sunsets. Mr. Barofsky noted that the EWEB Board meeting also featured a presentation on dam safety, pointing out all the FERC requirements that EWEB is working through. He continued that EWEB staff are still working to figure out a solution to the sink holes at Trail Bridge Dam, as they can't work on fish passage planning until that is resolved. Lastly Commissioner Barofsky noted that Leaburg Dam decommission planning is ongoing.

Emily Semple reported that December will likely be her last meeting, as her term as City Councilor comes to a close. She is grateful for the information she has learned through her time on the Council.

Brian Brazil reported that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, International Paper completed implementation of a cooling tower rebuilt and repurposed and put into use to help recycle cooling water. He noted that this reduced water usage by about 1 million gallons a day which is over 5% of total water used. He noted that there is more work to be done in the future but this is a great first step.

Arlene Dietz reported that the Rice Farms hazelnut harvest is ongoing, noting that their orchards took a significant hit from the ice storm. She continued that they originally thought that they had lost 1/3 of fruiting bodies, but turned out to be roughly half.

Nancy Toth reported that EWEB is holding a source protection spill drill on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. The MRT has offered Finn Rock boat ramp as a site to host the drill, so the site will be closed to the public on that day.

Wade Stampe reported that roughly 10 McKenzie View Drive residents participated in the McKenzie River Cleanup.

Jeff Ziller reported that ODFW will no longer be able to operate the Willamette summer steelhead program due to funding cuts from the USACE. Additionally, 200,000 spring Chinook salmon will be cut from the hatchery program. Mr. Ziller continued that these cuts are likely due to prioritizing fish passage improvements over funding mitigation measures through hatchery production. He continued that despite the cuts, there is a contract in place for 2025-2026 trout stocking although there is still ongoing planning for where those fish will be raised. Regarding fish counts, Mr. Ziller noted that there have been 1,425 spring Chinook over Leaburg Dam, 156 of which were of hatchery origin. He continued that the PHAS for Leaburg Dam is currently at 10.9% although they anticipate that will be reduced down to 8%-9%. He noted that there was an incredible summer steelhead run this year, with 4,900 passing over the dam, 73 of which were unclipped fish. 33 bull trout also traveled over the dam in addition to almost 200 lamprey that crossed in June. Lastly, Mr. Ziller noted that 50,000 coho have crossed Willamette Falls although they have not seen any at Leaburg Dam yet.

Carla Rothenbuecher reported that fire season has been longer than average, although things are slowing down on the McKenzie. She continued that they are shutting down the Streub Fire Camp, with the Boulder Fire largely contained. Ms. Rothenbuecher continued that the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest is now open to staff and researchers. The Boulder and Pyramid fires had relatively low severity with mixes of moderate to high severity. FS Rd-19 is currently closed near Box Canyon due to the Grasshopper Fire. Lastly Ms. Rothenbuecher reported that USFS staff recently finished their final redd surveys, finding 120 in the South Fork and 69 in Finn Rock Reach.

Bob Bumstead reported that Salmon Watch is underway and going well. Mr. Bumstead encouraged any interested parties to reach out to Dassi and Emma at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council for more information.

Ralph Perkins reported that the UWSWCD is currently flying a job for someone with a background in forestry, fire, and facilitation. He noted that this is an upper level position, and more information can be found via the UWSWCD website.

### **3. MWC Steering Committee**

Jared Weybright solicited interest in joining the MWC Steering Committee. David Kretzing has agreed to sit on the steering committee, with Bob Bumstead volunteering as well. Mr. Weybright noted that he will be following up with a few Partners individually, and that if anyone is interested in joining the committee to reach out to him.

### **4. McKenzie Watershed Alliance Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and 2025 Work Plan**

Mr. Weybright presented the McKenzie Watershed Alliance fiscal year 2025 budget and work plan. Mr. Weybright provided a background of the funding sources and the projects associated with them. He noted that Historically, the MWC reviewed and approved an annual work plan as an OWEB Council Capacity grant funding requirement. This requirement was retired during the Covid pandemic and has been replaced with a more streamlined process that does not require the same level of organizational approval. Mr. Weybright encouraged Partners to begin thinking about how they would like to engage in the planning process going forward. will present a streamlined version of the Council's plans for 2025 and begin a conversation on how Council Partners would like to engage in this planning process moving forward.

Commissioner John Barofsky commended the organization for how the MWC has handled significant growth in the last 4 years. He then inquired as to how we look at funding these positions going forward. Mr. Weybright responded that the we've slowed down our hiring process to ensure we are not overly staffed given future funding scenarios.