

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## February 16, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Attendance

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Kittelman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Rundell  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Burriss         | <input type="checkbox"/> Kittie Coons              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Mast     | <input type="checkbox"/> Gene Vroman             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Chapman           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Johnsrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Reinhart  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gene Zuiches |

### Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Lee Russell

### Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the January 2016 board meeting (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 6, 2016, and authorized payment of the bills (motion by Rick Reinhart, second by Gene Zuiches).

Beginning Balance: 1 January 2016		\$117,786.06
Deposits:	\$14,192.11	
Checks:	(6,110.15)	
Ending Balance: 31 January 2016		\$125,868.02
Outstanding Checks		(\$25,385.13)
Balance		\$100,482.89
Accounts Receivable	\$12,785.00	
Accounts Payable	(\$133.48)	
Fund Balance		\$113,134.41

### Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie Mast circulated a draft Action Plan for Jack Creek, received from John Runyon (Cascade Environmental).

The Executive Committee has been meeting since October with Lee Russell and Jen Bailey about Lee's workload. There's more on Lee's plate than he can handle on his own. The recommendation of the committee is for Lee and Jen to share the responsibilities of running the council. Lee will remain the Executive Director, while Jen will be the Council Coordinator. The personal services contracts were sent to board members for their review.

The Board approved the personal services contracts for Lee Russell and Jen Bailey for \$30,000 each for 2016 (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

## Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe and Joe Blanchard had last-minute emergencies and could not attend the meeting. One of them will be at the March meeting.

Via e-mail, Joe Blanchard provided an update on the Headwaters Elk Creek project. He recently finished site layout which includes 20 sites on the main stem and 10 sites on a tributary. All sites involve log placement with an excavator. Logs will be cut or downed trees with rootwads will be harvested from locations near each log jam site. The NEPA review process for this and other in-stream restoration projects is ongoing. The next project meeting is March 23rd. Joe has been working with specialists at BLM to get wildlife, botany, and archaeology clearance for the project.

In terms of funding for FY17, Joe has submitted for additional BLM funds through BLM's internal project funding process and plans on submitting for additional funding for the spring round of Title 2. This funding would cover replacing culverts on the tributary that are barriers to juveniles and finishing sites that were not done in 2016.

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich provided an update via e-mail. He is giving a presentation at the annual meeting of the Oregon chapter of the American Fisheries Society in early March about the Camp Creek project. He will give this presentation at our March meeting. It is mainly about the basin-wide restoration approach, which includes helicopter placement, line-pulling, and large material placed by excavator into big water – 8.5 miles of restoration in 3 phases over 3 years.

Eric reported that Reedsport high school students put 100 Christmas trees into seven existing restoration sites to increase their functionality and to educate the kids. He suggested that this might be something we could do with our local schools.

Eric and Jen are surveying stretches of Elk Creek and a tributary tomorrow, for the Headwaters Elk Creek project.

## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton was delayed and could not make the meeting. Jen reported that he is designing the bridge repair for the Headwaters Elk Creek project. He is also working with Cindy Johnsrud to plan the remaining restoration work on her land.

## Executive Director *(see attached report)*

Lee is finishing up the two-year monitoring reports from the 10 OWEB small grants we received two years ago.

Lee and John Runyon are doing iterative revisions of the Action Plan. The goal is to have something that's pretty complete, to the point where it can be shared with ODFW and BLM

biologists and other technical experts. It's more than a plan – it's a process as to how we go about assessing and prioritizing restoration work.

The council discussed the issue of fencing livestock out of riparian areas. Lee reported that the funding agencies are increasingly reluctant to fund projects where cattle have access to the creek. Jamie believes that we will lose many landowners if this is a requirement of restoration work. Jamie will be discussing this issue with John Runyon.

Lee circulated the 2015 Annual Report, which was recently sent to the County Commissioners.

The extent of the Rapid Bioassessment work in 2016 will depend on whether we get the OWEB grant. We should hear about that in a couple weeks. It will be difficult, as we received limited funding from the BLM RAC.

Lee went to Salem with Eric Riley (PUR) for OWEB meetings on the Focused Investment Partnership program. The OWEB board approved funding the Umpqua Basin Partnership (UBP) capacity-building grant to produce a strategic plan for the Umpqua Basin. Lee spent a lot of time last week reviewing the coastal coho recovery plan written by Rob Walton, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Rob will be at the UBP meeting this Friday. Lee believes NMFS is looking at the strategic plans produced by the focused investment partnerships as the process by which the coho recovery plan will be implemented.

## New Business

The Board approved re-electing the following members to a two-year term: Nick Botner, Harold Burris, Brad Chapman, Kittie Coons, Cindy Johnsrud, Bob Rundell (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by John Kittelman).

The Board approved re-electing the officers to a one-year term: James Mast as Chair, Joe Coons as Vice Chair, Cindy Johnsrud as Treasurer, Kittie Coons as Secretary (motion by Bob Rundell, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Bob Rundell brought up a possible project on Jack Creek, replacing a culvert on Johnny Creek, a tributary to Jack Creek, on Woolley's land. It is definitely a fish barrier.

## Announcements

Gene Zuiches attended Weed Day, and reported the program was very good. There were over 100 people in attendance.

Gene, Jen and Lee are attending a workshop in Coos Bay on March 9<sup>th</sup>, targeted at private landowners, on fish passage and habitat restoration.

# Executive Director Report

16 February 2016

## Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

- I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- Nothing new to report.
  - The project will be completed next summer.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- Most of the trees have been planted; only a few left to be delivered.
  - Spraying will be done in April.

## 2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is complete.
- IV.) **Curtis Creek Habitat Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report has been completed.
- V.) **Baimbridge Livestock Crossing:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in February.
- VI.) **Applegate Livestock Water:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in July.
- VII.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.

## Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- VIII.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**
- Monitoring continues.
  - We're in the process of developing a strategy for source tracking.
- IX.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment:**
- Pilot study has been completed.
  - John Runyon is working on the drafts of the action plans.
  - Grants for next season have been submitted.

## **Current Watershed Council Projects - In Development:**

### **X.) Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:**

- Jen Bailey is coordinating a project on adjacent private lands with work that BLM is planning.
- There may be an opportunity to submit a grant to the SW Oregon Regional RAC to fund the private lands work.

## **Watershed Council Capacity Grant:**

### **XI.) OWEB Council Support Grant:**

- The annual report to the County Commissioners has been submitted.

### **XII.) Council Support Personal Services Contracts:**

- Personal Service Contracts for Lee Russell and Jen Bailey have been drafted. They outline both individual and shared responsibilities for council support.

### **XIII.) 2015 Action Plan:**

- The latest version of the Council's action plan was approved in April 2014. It is the Council's policy to update the plan annually. We should be able to include some of the recommendations from the Cascade Environmental watershed assessment into the update.

## **Watershed Action Planning:**

### **XIV.) Cascade Environmental - Rapid BioAssessment:**

- The pilot study, conducted this summer, used the enhanced protocols in approximately ten (10) miles of streams in the Jack Creek and Cox/Curtis Sub-watersheds. Data collected includes:
  - Snorkel surveys to document current fish numbers and distribution.
  - Habitat characteristics such as spawning gravels, deep pools and areas of bedrock.
  - Water temperatures.
- John Runyon is working on the first draft of the "process" that will be used to set restoration goals at the sub-watershed scale. This will be reviewed by the technical people that have been involved in developing the protocols – BLM Fish Biologists Jeff McEnroe and Corey Sipher; ODFW Habitat biologist, Eric Himmelreich, and others.
- This "process" will then be used for developing the action plans that will prioritize actions for restoration at a sub-watershed scale.
- These plans will form the framework for detailed restoration plans in other sub-watersheds as the bioassessments are completed.
- Together, the sub-watershed plans will be the basis for a basin-wide comprehensive watershed assessment and action plan.

### **XV.) 2016 Field Work:**

- Grants have been submitted to both OWEB and the Southwest Oregon BLM RAC for funding to continue action planning in the summer of 2016.
- The SW Regional RAC awarded \$10,000 for the bioassessment project.

- Once we know how much we have to work with, we will establish priorities for this work.

**XVI.) Landowner Outreach:**

- A grant was submitted to the SW Oregon BLM RAC for funding to develop a landowner outreach strategy to provide landowners specific information on salmon usage and conditions on their properties.
- This grant was awarded \$13,310 from the RAC.
- This will be used to enlist landowner support for the projects that will be recommended in the sub-watershed action plans.

**XVII.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:**

- PUR was awarded \$149,734 to develop a strategic action plan for the Umpqua Basin.
- This plan will be completed (probably by 2017) by the Umpqua Basin Partnership. This group consists of representatives from all three (3) watershed councils, both Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and most of the state and federal agencies involved with watershed restoration in the Umpqua Basin.
- This will be a major source of future funding for restoration in the Umpqua Basin.
- Funds will come through the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) and may be in the range of \$5-6,000,000 or more over 5 years.
- The action plan should identify priority watersheds and priority actions.
- It is important that the Elk Creek Watershed Council be represented in this process in order to take part in the restoration projects that will be identified in the action plan.