

Elk Creek Watershed Council

March 15, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance

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|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Kittelman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Rundell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Burris | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Gene Zuiches |

Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Walt Barton, Eric Himmelreich, Lee Russell

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the February 2016 board meeting (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Kittie Coons).

Treasurer’s Report

The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report dated March 15, 2016, and authorized payment of the bills (motion by Rick Reinhart, second by Joe Coons).

Beginning Balance: 1 February 2016		\$125,868.02
Deposits:	\$0	
Checks:	(\$25,471.13)	
Ending Balance: 29 February 2016		\$100,396.89
Deposits		\$12,785.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$47.48)
Balance		\$113,134.41
Accounts Receivable	\$10,450.00	
Accounts Payable	(\$8,362.53)	
Fund Balance		\$115,221.88

Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie Mast announced that the April 19th board meeting is cancelled, as Jen Bailey and Lee Russell will be gone, attending the CONNECT conference.

Jamie announced that the annual Free Lunch program is Saturday, April 30th, from noon to 3:00 PM at the Drain Civic Center.

Council Presentation

Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologist, gave a presentation titled “Complete Watershed-Level Restoration Treatments of Camp Creek”. He recently

gave this talk at the annual meeting of the Oregon chapter of the American Fisheries Society:

Abstract: Camp Creek, a 13,489 acres basin located approximately five miles south of Scottsburg, Oregon, has been heavily impacted by past land-use practices. Camp Creek provides important summer and winter habitat for Chinook salmon, Oregon Coast coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. However habitat is currently limited by large amounts of bedrock, lack of wood, poor riffle and pool ratios, and poor pool depths. Combined base-wide restoration efforts by the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, Roseburg Resources Company, Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District have accomplished 8.5 miles of stream restoration from 2013-2015 with 4 more miles of restoration scheduled for 2016. Phase 1 resulted in 185 logs and 150 boulders being placed into Buck Creek, a major tributary to Camp Creek. Phase 2 was implemented using a helicopter which placed 133 whole trees, 32 trees with root wads and fifty-six 30 foot logs in three tributaries of Camp Creek. The goal of the first two phases was to increase spawning habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. Phase 3 resulted in 46 sixty foot logs and 2500 boulders being placed into mainstem Camp Creek. If funded the final phase will be completed in 2016 where 60 logs and 3,500 boulders will be placed throughout 4 miles of mainstem, for a total of 12.5 miles and a total cost of \$1,360,668.

Discussion points included:

- Eric is continually monitoring the project sites. Over 65% of the structures were barbs, which he thinks are very successful. The overall strategy was to plan multiple phases, hit the tribs hard and then address the mainstem.
- Jamie expressed concern about a Polk County landowner being fined by EPA under the Clean Air Act §404 for getting dust into a stream, even though he had a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Adding Christmas trees into the creek provided an educational opportunity for local students.
- The fact that there was only one landowner vastly simplified this project, as well as that it was not on agricultural land. Usually there are multiple landowners for this sized project.
- “Restoring” habitat does not mean putting the land back to its historic condition. Boulders are not historic, but a tool to create the desired habitat.
- There will be a tour in the spring.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe is out of town. Joe Blanchard reviewed last month’s report, and had nothing new to add. Jen has asked Jeff to give a presentation on beavers at the May meeting.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich reported that he's working with Jen on the Headwaters Elk Creek project.

Eric has arranged to meet with Tim Truax (Roseburg Forest Products) and Jamie Mast at Cassidy Creek to discuss the impact of a landslide caused by logging.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton announced the CONNECT conference, from April 19-21st. Walt, Lee and Jen will be attending.

Unfortunately DSWCD did not receive Oregon State Weed Board funding for Portuguese broom. They are not seeing as much gorse or Portuguese broom, so they'll be funding it just every other year. However, one-year old gorse produces seed. Gorse and scotch broom are blooming now. Fortunately, Lone Rock will treat gorse on Frasier Canyon, which would have cost \$40,000.

There's a meeting on March 26th with Cox Creek stakeholders to talk about strategy, so they don't lose ground. Portuguese broom typically produces seed. Hopefully Weyerhaeuser and the other big timber companies will put money into spraying their land.

DSWCD did get \$98,000 to treat spurge laurel by Oakland and Japanese knotweed in the north Deer Creek and north Myrtle. Also distaff thistle and Paterson's Curse.

Walt has been working with Jen on alternatives for the bridge for the Headwaters Elk Creek project. He was at Cindy Johnsrud's property with the CREP technician.

Chrissy Morgan and Walt will be at the Free Lunch with the weed display and CREP display.

Executive Director

Lee reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*).

Executive Director Report

15 March 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)
- Spraying will be done in April.

2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Baimbridge Livestock Crossing:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is complete.
- IV.) **Applegate Livestock Water:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in July.
- V.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- VI.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**
- We're in the process of developing a strategy for source tracking.
- VII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment:**
- The SW Oregon RAC has approved a total of \$23,310 for next season's bioassessment and landowner outreach.
 - Additional grants for next season have been submitted to OWEB.

Current Watershed Council Projects - In Development:

- VIII.) **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:

IX.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- The annual report to the County Commissioners has been submitted.
- An update of the OWEB online work plan is due in June.

X.) Council Support Personal Services Contracts:

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

XI.) 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:

XII.) 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 has completed the first draft of the "process" that will be used to set restoration goals at the sub-watershed scale. The draft of the action plan for Jack Creek has been sent to fish biologists for review and comment. It 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.

XIII.) 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.
- An addition application to the RAC is being prepared for submittal in late March or April.
- Once we know how much we have to work with, we will establish priorities for this summer's work.

XIV.) 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.

XV.) 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 may 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.