

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## May 17, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Attendance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons	<input type="checkbox"/> John Kittelman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Rundell
<input type="checkbox"/> Harold Burriss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kittie Coons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Mast	<input type="checkbox"/> Gene Vroman
<input checked="" 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, Walt Barton, Lee Russell

### Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the March 2016 board meeting as corrected (motion by Joe Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Reports of April 15 and May 10, 2016, and authorized payment of the bills (motion by Rick Reinhart, second by Brad Chapman).

Beginning Balance: 1 March 2016		\$100,396.89
Deposits:	\$23,255.84	
Checks:	(\$6,783.47)	
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Ending Balance: 30 April 2016		\$116,869.26
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$6,045.53)
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Balance		\$110,823.73
Accounts Receivable	\$15,973.06	
Accounts Payable	(\$23,769.42)	
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Fund Balance		\$103,027.37

### Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie said that relevant business will be covered in Lee's report.

### Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe sent the following report:

- The NEPA for the Headwaters Elk Creek project is completed and waiting public comment.
- Designs are all finalized and the project is currently being bid on by contractors, the tentative start date is July 18, 2016.

- Anyone from the council is more than welcome to come out to the project site during implementation, just make arrangements through Jen.
- The BLM Resource Management Plan is almost complete and will be finalized within the month.

Jeff will be presenting at the June board meeting (held at the Drain Civic Center) about beavers:

*With the large amount of instream restoration happening in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, the biologists at the Bureau of Land Management have been looking at ways to modify instream restoration projects to provide the greatest benefit to beavers. Providing the means for beavers to establish quickly into stream restoration reaches will help the project reach its restoration goals much more quickly and provide greater ecological benefit. In addition, beavers will maintain and provide greater longevity to stream restoration projects. Ways to modify your restoration projects that will be discussed include willow planting strategies, creating forage openings, proper spacing on instream structures, structure design, and willow weaving techniques. The talk will also include discussion of some other projects to improve beaver awareness and education in the Umpqua basin including establishing a Beaver Working Group, educational efforts, beaver deceiver placements, and relocation efforts.*

#### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich did not send in an update this month.

#### Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton reported on the following topics:

- The Local Advisory Committee for the Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan is updating their plan. Representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture are meeting with Jamie (who is on the LAC) to review his concerns. There have recently been two complaints in the North Myrtle Creek area.
- Representatives from two timber companies, but no private landowners, showed up for the Cox Creek Portuguese Broom weed meeting. Fortunately the timber companies will do the work on their land on their own. BLM owns 1/3 of the area, and has given DSWCD funding to treat the broom.
- A biological control for scotch broom – a gall mite that eats the seeds – is spreading through the county.
- Douglas Fir are dying, especially in areas that were marginal sites that probably should not have been planted in the first place.
- ODA has issued a memo on food safety rules that impact private landowners, regarding leafy vegetables contaminated with E. coli. This will have relatively little impact in Douglas County.

#### Executive Director

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

# Executive Director Report

17 May 2016

## Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

- I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- I'll try to start moving logs to the site later this month or early June.
  - The project will be completed later this summer.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- Spraying was done last week.
  - This completes the small grant. We'll do the completion report and fund requests.

## 2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Baimbridge Livestock Crossing:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is complete and has been accepted by OWEB.
- IV.) **Applegate Livestock Water:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in July.
  - I'm working on the monitoring report now and should have it finished this month.
- V.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.
  - The new landowner live out of the county, but he has been responsive to e-mails.

## Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- VI.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**
- We're in the process of developing a strategy for source tracking. This work will continue this summer.
- VII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**
- The SW Oregon RAC has approved a total of \$23,310 for next season's bioassessment and landowner outreach. The OWEB grant was not successful.
  - We're looking for other funding to have enough to train a crew for some limited work next summer.
  - John Runyon and I met with Rob Walton (NMFS) last month to discuss how our bioassessment process fits in with the Coho Recovery Plan. The two strong points of our process is its ability to track changes in habitat over time (effectiveness monitoring), and its potential to engage landowners by showing how salmon habitat and stream conditions on *their* properties fit into salmon restoration in their sub-watersheds.
  - The action plan being developed for Jack Creek, which is based on last summer's bioassessment, was used to support the OWEB application for Jack Creek.

## **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.
- An OWEB application was submitted for instream habitat improvements on Elk Creek and Shingle Mill Creek, and riparian fencing and a livestock crossing on Elk Creek.

### **IX.) Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:**

- This project will construct instream habitat improvements in nearly two (2) miles of Jack Creek. Eric and I flagged forty-six (46) sites that will utilize more than 177 logs and 485 boulders. Hardscrabble, LLC will also replace a failing, perched culvert that's blocking coho access to most of Johney Creek.
- The engineering designs have been completed by Don Porior (Porior Engineering) and we're just finishing up the forms for ODFW review.
- The OWEB application has been submitted and followed the recommendations from the Restoration Action Plan (draft) that John Runyon and I are working on based on last summer's bioassessment.
- This is an important project, and I have been very cautious, as I'm building a relationship that may open the door to many miles of future habitat restoration on Woolley lands.

### **X.) Buck Creek Riparian Planting:**

- This landowner called me after our Open House Free Lunch. It's a small planting project that may be a good fit for the Small Grant Program.

### **XI.) Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:**

- Another landowner on Elk Creek has contacted me about a potential project after seeing other work we've done in the area.
- The site is in Elk Creek and is mostly incised and eroded down to bedrock. This is contributing to the extremely low flows and high water temperatures in the summer.
- It is probably impossible to get permits to do the full-spanning weirs we've done in the past. I'm still looking for any designs that will capture sand and gravel and build up the streambed.

## **Watershed Council Capacity Grant:**

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

- An update of the OWEB online work plan is due in June. This will report progress on the projects that were ongoing last year, and add the new ones we are working on.

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

- The Executive committee has been discussing the need to update our Action Plan. We should be able to include some of the recommendations from the Cascade Environmental watershed assessment into the update.

### **XIV.) Watershed Council Self-Evaluation:**

- OWEB requires a self-evaluation every two (2) years. Courtney Shaff is working on a revision for this that should be available in June.

## **Watershed Action Planning:**

### **XV.) 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.

### **XVI.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):**

- 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 (UBP). 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.
- 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.
- At the least, the action plan should identify priority watersheds and priority actions. With the most miles of high intrinsic potential coho habitat in the Umpqua Basin, by far, Elk Creek should be a high priority.
- The UBP is in the process of hiring a facilitator to guide the action planning process.
- I'd like to see this planning effort bring together the elements of the Coho Recovery Plan, the Oregon Coho Conservation Plan, and the Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan. So far, I see the plan looking like an analysis of existing data at sixth-field scales with the addition of some results from climate change models. We'll see.

## Other Activities:

### **XVIII.) 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Lunch Program:**

- The Elk Creek Watershed Council's sixth annual Free Lunch Program was held at the Drain Civic Center on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Though we never get everyone to sign in, the head count was nearly 50, and I got two or three calls from people who were interested, but could not attend.
- In addition to the chicken dinner served by the Sunnysdale Grange, Chrissy Morgan from Douglas SWCD gave a presentation on their weed program, and I gave a presentation on salmon and the restoration work the Council has been doing.
- There were table displays on the SWCD's weed program, and on the Douglas County CREP Program. Walt Barton and Georgina Kennedy were there to answer questions.
- I've visited with two landowners since then to look at potential projects.

### **XIX.) Prioritization and Monitoring Workshop:**

- Jen and I attended a two-day workshop on restoration prioritization and monitoring in Corvallis. It fit in well with the bioassessment and action planning work we are doing.
- The presenters were Jon Souder and Guillermo Giannico from OSU Extension, and Phil Roni from Cramer Fish Sciences. There were only about 20 people in attendance, so there was plenty of time to talk with all of them at length. All were interested in our bioassessment work, and I'm hoping to get some feedback from them.
- I also had a chance to talk some more with Rob Walton (NOAA Fisheries) about the Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership and strategic planning process.

### **XX.) Umpqua Hydrologists:**

- I attended the monthly meeting of the Umpqua hydrologists. This month's presenter was Kelly Coates who talked about the Tribe's natural resource and fisheries program.