

Elk Creek Watershed Council

June 21, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance

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|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons | <input type="checkbox"/> John Kittelman | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Rundell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Burris | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kittie Coons | <input 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, Walt Barton, Jeff McEnroe, Lee Russell, Glenn Swift, community member

Meeting Minutes

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

Treasurer’s Report

The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report of June 13, 2016, and authorized payment of the bills (motion by Gene Zuiches, second by Kittie Coons).

Beginning Balance: 1 May 2016		\$116,869.26
Deposits:	\$170.00	
Checks:	(\$20,230.68)	
Ending Balance: 31 May 2016		\$96,808.58
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$15,268.81)
Balance		\$81,539.77
Accounts Receivable	\$15,973.06	
Accounts Payable	(\$50.00)	
Fund Balance		\$97,462.83

Lee Russell noted that the expected CREP payment of \$15,973.06 was received after this report was published.

Council Presentation

Jeff McEnroe, BLM Fish Biologist, gave a presentation on beavers. The key messages were that “beavers do stream restoration better and for free”, and that “beavers = more fish and healthier watersheds”. Topics included: Beaver Ecology, Hydraulic Benefits of Beavers, Ecological Benefits of Beavers, Oregon Beaver Laws, Oregon Beaver Population, Umpqua Basin Beaver Working Group, Beaver Recovery, Helping Landowners, Beaver Relocations.

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast was not present. There was nothing new to report.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported that

- BLM's new resource management plan is about to come out. They are expecting lawsuits about it.
- The Headwaters Elk Creek project will start on July 18th. It is relatively inexpensive, as the trees are coming from the riparian zone, instead of being purchased. There's a beaver population in the project area.
- RAC grants are coming up. The deadline is July 15th.
- His colleague Steve Clark, another BLM fish biologist, has replaced Jeff on the OWEB Regional Review Team. Evaluation of grant applications has changed in recent years, with projects being rated just on merit, not dollars. Therefore a single high-collar project can eliminate funding for the other projects proposed.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich did not submit a report this month.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton reported that

- Weed control season has started on distaff thistle and Paterson's curse. There is distaff thistle at the old Heaven's Gate ranch and Metz Hill. There is money to treat spurge laurel. It is along Mehl Creek. Walt just saw spurge laurel on the west side of I-5, north of Kittelmans. He found six more sites of it near the Oakland I-5 exit. Cooper Creek Reservoir has it as well.
- There's an oak woodland restoration project going on in the Driver Valley area, killing hawthorns and scotch broom.
- Beaver have cut down knotweed on Deer Creek, thus spreading it. Closer to home, there's giant knotweed along Anlauf Road.

Executive Director

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

Executive Director Report

21 June 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.
 - 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.) **Applegate Livestock Water:**
- The 2-year monitoring report has been completed and accepted by OWEB.
- IV.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.
 - The new landowner lives out of the county, but he has been responsive to e-mails.
- V.) **Gilliland Erosion Control:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in June 2017.

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.
 - John Runyon is planning on doing RBA for the Clackamas Watershed Council. We should be able to use his crew without having to commit a minimum amount of funding to the project.
 - 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:

- 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 the forms for ODFW review have been submitted.
- 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.
- The OWEB Regional Review Team visited the site on June 9th.
- 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.
- Jen Bailey is working on getting ODOT permission since most of the site is on their property.

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.
- Eric Himmelreich and I will look at the site when the water levels are lower.

Watershed Council Capacity Grant:

XII.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- An update of the OWEB online work plan has been completed and submitted to OWEB. This reports progress on the projects that were ongoing last year.

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:

- John Runyon 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 is still being 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.
- After including comments from reviewers, John has nearly completed the second draft. I will continue to get more input from biologists and make suggestions for the final document.
- Together, the sub-watershed plans will be the basis for a basin-wide comprehensive watershed assessment and action plan.

XVI.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

- This BLM RAC grant (\$13,310) will begin landowner outreach for rapid bioassessment work in priority sub-basins.
- Depending on how much funds will be available, priorities may include Hardscrabble Creek and Ellenburg Creek.

XVII.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:

- 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 Umpqua Basin Partnership has hired Kendra Smith of Bonneville Environmental Foundation to facilitate the action planning process. An organizational meeting was held June 2nd.
- Kendra is collecting available data for the Umpqua Basin, and a group of core stakeholders will be invited to a meeting to identify watershed issues. The meeting will be at the Big K in Elkton on July 22nd.

Other Activities:

XVIII.) SW Oregon RAC Grants:

- The awards for the two RAC grants that were approved this spring will be incorporated into a new assistance agreement with Oregon BLM. I’ve completed the application forms to get this process started.
- This seemed like the best solution since our current agreement expires next year.