

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## July 19, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Attendance

<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 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 type="checkbox"/> Gene Zuiches

### Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Walt Barton, Lee Russell

### Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the June 2016 board meeting as corrected (motion by Joe Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart). The minutes did not include Jeff McEnroe as an attendee.

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of July 19, 2016 (motion by Rick Reinhart, second by Kittie Coons).

Beginning Balance: 1 June 2016		\$96,808.58
Deposits:	\$15,973.06	
Checks:	(\$16,498.71)	
Ending Balance: 30 June 2016		\$96,282.93
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$50.00)
Balance		\$96,232.93
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Accounts Payable	(\$0.00)	
Fund Balance		\$96,232.93

### Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie Mast reported that he will be reviewing the Jack Creek Action Plan with Lee and Jen on Wednesday morning.

### Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe sent the following update via e-mail:

- Headwaters Elk Creek will be starting July 18th. It should take about a week or so.
- Other restoration projects on the Roseburg District:
  - Big Tom Folley instream (starting Oct. 1st)

- Harrington Creek (Rock Creek trib) restoration (starting in early August)
- Ollala-Lookingglass instream restoration starting in mid-August.
- Title II/RAC deadline has been pushed back to August 10th.
- Not much new to report with the new RMP. It has been released and is currently under Governor's Consistency Review and Resolution of Protests. The final Record of Decision will be signed sometime this month. You can download a copy of the RMP here: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/>

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich sent in the following report via e-mail:

- He is going to be working on about 10 restoration projects this summer.
- Currently he is working on Elk Valley Creek in the West Fork Cow Creek drainage and will soon be working on Lutsinger Creek.
- He is now reviewing and commenting on Permits for the district, so that takes away 8-10 hours a week from restoration work.
- ODFW has an intern this summer, so Alvaro will join Eric in the field from time to time.
- Large projects like the Focus Investment Partnership (FIP) and West Fork Cow Creek long-term restoration have been long-term interests that the District has been participating in.

## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton reported that he is working with Lee to track down a bridge for the Yoncalla Creek livestock crossing project. There may be an 89' railcar available in Kennewick, which would probably be cheaper than a Rick Franklin bridge. Walt got pricing from Hamilton for freeway temporary bridges. They come in 4' wide segments that are attached by metal rods. A 12' wide, 40' long bridge would be \$11,040, 50' long would be \$13,800 and 80' long would be \$23,460. These prices do not include the cost of shipping or abutments.

The weed program is on the second pass through distaff thistle and Paterson curse. It typically takes two to three times. They are treating them with Tordon and glysophate (Honcho). They've seen some gorse, and are treating it as needed. Work hasn't started yet on spurge laurel or Japanese knotweed.

The Driver Valley oak woodland restoration project (hawthorn and scotch broom removal) was completed last week.

## Executive Director

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

## Announcements

Jamie announced that the Grange is looking for volunteers to clean the trailer next Friday, in preparation for the North Douglas Fair.

Lee announced the stakeholder's meeting for the Focused Investment Partnership is on Friday.

Walt announced that the Farm Bureau and the Douglas County Livestock Association are holding a joint meeting on Saturday at 1:00 PM at Riverforks Park in Roseburg. The chair of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association will speak about the agricultural water quality plan.

# Executive Director Report

19 July 2016

## Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

- I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- I've started purchasing some of the equipment needed to move the logs for the project.
  - The project will be completed later this summer.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- The project is complete.
  - When I get all the final bills and time sheets, I'll do the completion report and fund requests.

## 2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- Nothing new to report.
  - 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.
- IV.) **Gilliland Erosion Control:**
- The 2-year monitoring report is due in June 2017.

## Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- V.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**
- The first samples have been sent to the lab. We need to negotiate when the testing will be done and the results will be available.
  - This work will continue this summer.
- VI.) **Action Plans:**
- I've finished reviewing and editing the draft of the Jack Creek action plan.
  - I'm still getting feedback from local biologists, and I have a few final questions before we accept and approve the document.
  - 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.
- VII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**
- I have been working with John Runyon to schedule work for 2016.
  - We're planning to survey about 10 miles in Hardscrabble, Ellenburg, and Sand Creeks.
  - I've borrowed 8 temperature data loggers from PUR to monitor temperatures in these watersheds during the study.
  - The BLM RAC grant for 2017 work has been completed.

## Current Watershed Council Projects - In Development:

### VIII.) Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Nothing new to report.
- 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:

- 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 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 OWEB Regional Review Team visited the site on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The ODFW Fish Passage permit has been accepted and approved.
- 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:

- ODOT has identified a cultural site on one side of the creek in the project area.
- We probably won't pursue this project further.

### XI.) Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:

- 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.

### XII.) Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing:

- Walt Barton is following several leads for a suitable railroad car for the bridge.
- The Council will contribute the proceeds from the Buck Creek bridge to the project.

### XIII.) Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Jen and I surveyed the Mulder property on both Ellenburg and Sand Creeks. The landowner would not allow any agency people on the property.
- We selected about ten sites that would add complexity to pools and/or improve floodplain interaction. This is all agricultural land, so any restoration action would need to be conservative.
- We have permission to complete a Bioassessment this summer.
- Seneca Jones gave us permission to survey their property on Ellenburg Creek. Jen, Eric Himmelreich and I walked the creek to determine its suitability for a restoration project.
- Jen will contact Seneca about the Bioassessment and any restrictions on structure designs.

**XIV.) Elk Creek Fish Passage Improvement:**

- Jen is working with PUR to develop a joint project to improve fish passage at a failing culvert on Elk Creek near the Headwaters project.
- We will discuss the possibility of applying for a RAC grant for funding.

**Watershed Council Capacity Grant:**

**XV.) 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.
- Jen and I met with Courtney Shaff to clarify the issues that led to the Council's reduced level of funding for the current biennium. Two main issues were how the Council engages landowners, and how the Council plans and prioritizes its work.
- OWEB likes the Free Lunch program to engage landowners; they want to see how the program moves the work of the Council forward.
- A lot of the conversation was about the Bioassessment and how it not only engages both landowners and agency stakeholders, but it also is the foundation for the Council's planning and prioritizing of its actions.

**XVI.) 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.

**XVII.) Watershed Council Self-Evaluation:**

- OWEB requires a self-evaluation every two (2) years. Courtney Shaff's revision for this process is now available.

**Watershed Action Planning:**

**XVIII.) 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.

**XIX.) 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Kendra is collecting available data for the Umpqua Basin. I will give her information on the projects the Council has completed, and on the data that we have used to prioritize our work.
- A group of stakeholders will be invited to a meeting to identify watershed issues. The meeting will be at the Big K in Elkton on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- My fear is that the strategic action plan that is developed by this group will just be another synthesis of “broad” data at sixth-field scales with little more specific actions other than to focus more planning, or a recommendation to implement each core group’s existing action plans.

### **Other Activities:**

#### **XX.) 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.
- The next round of RAC applications are now due on August 10<sup>th</sup>..