

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## August 16, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Attendance

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input 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 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 July 2016 board meeting (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Kittie Coons).

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of August 11, 2016 (motion by Joe Coons, second by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 July 2016		\$96,282.93
Deposits:	\$17,079.37	
Checks:	(\$16,379.12)	
<hr/>		
Ending Balance: 31 July 2016		\$97,033.18
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$0.00)
<hr/>		
Balance		\$97,033.18
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Accounts Payable	(\$0.00)	
<hr/>		
Fund Balance		\$97,033.18

### Executive Committee and Council Business

The Executive Committee has not met recently.

### Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe did not provide an update this month.

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich did not provide an update this month.

### Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt has not had any luck locating a railcar bridge for the Yoncalla Creek livestock crossing project.

A new 180-acre site of mature distaff thistle was discovered near Glide. This is discouraging news. Distaff thistle is spread by cattle and equipment.

#### Executive Director

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

# Executive Director Report

16 August 2016

## Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**

- I've started decking the logs for the project.
- The project will be completed later this summer.

II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**

- Nothing new to report.

## 2013 OWEB Small Grants:

III.) **Small Grant Team:**

- The Small Grant Team met to approve its members and bylaws.
- First round of applications are due August 31st.

IV.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**

- new to report.
- Nothing The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.

V.) **Gilliland Erosion Control:**

- The 2-year monitoring report is due in June 2017.

## Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

VI.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**

- Nothing new to report.
- Jen is managing the analysis of samples by the Seattle lab.

VII.) **Action Plans:**

- The final draft of the action plan needs to be accepted and approved.
- The action plan is based on last summer's bioassessment, and was used to support the OWEB application for Jack Creek.

VIII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**

- I've place temperature loggers in Hardscrabble, Ellenburg, Jack, and Tom Folley Creeks.
- Survey work for 2016 started on August 6th.
- Priority watersheds are Hardscrabble, and Ellenburg Creeks.
- If time permits, we'd like to do a section of Tom Folley Creek for BLM, Johney Creek, and check for coho above the barrier on Buck Creek.
- The BLM RAC grant for 2017 work has been submitted.

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

### **IX.) 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.

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

- Nothing new to report.
- The OWEB application has been submitted and followed the recommendations from the Restoration Action Plan (draft) 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.
- The relationship with the Woolley people has been going very well. They were eager to do the survey on Hardscrabble Creek and I think it is likely that we will be able to do more habitat restoration on Woolley lands.

### **XI.) 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.

### **XII.) 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.
- A bioassessment was done on Ellenburg Creek on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- After the bioassessment data has been analyzed, we will get landowner permissions to prepare a proposal for habitat improvements.

### **XIII.) Elk Creek Fish Passage Improvement:**

- Nothing new to report.
- 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.

## **Watershed Council Capacity Grant:**

### **XIV.) 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.
- The bioassessment came up a lot in the conversation with Courtney Shaff. OWEB liked 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. Both of these are areas that the Council needs to improve upon if it is going to get full OWEB funding.

**XV.) 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.

**XVI.) 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:**

**XVII.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):**

- This BLM RAC grant (\$13,310) will begin landowner outreach for rapid bioassessment work in priority sub-basins.

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

- A diverse group of stakeholders met at the Big K Ranch on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting brought out some of the important issues for people in the Umpqua.
- 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.
- 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:**

**XIX.) SW Oregon RAC Grants:**

- The application for a new assistance agreement with Oregon BLM has been completed.
- Applications for the Bioassessment and the Jack Creek Habitat Improvement project were submitted on August 10<sup>th</sup>.