

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## September 20, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

### Board Attendance

- |                                                  |                                                    |                                                    |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <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 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, Lee Russell

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 2016 board meeting were not approved, awaiting a correction.

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of September 20, 2016 and to pay Accounts Receivable (motion by Gene Zuiches, second by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 August 2016		\$97,033.18
Deposits:	\$0.00	
Checks:	(\$0.00)	
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Ending Balance: 30 August 2016		\$97,033.18
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$0.00)
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Balance		\$97,033.18
Accounts Receivable	\$28,992.27	
Accounts Payable	(\$23,577.76)	
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Fund Balance		\$102,447.69

### Executive Committee and Council Business

The Executive Committee has not met recently.

### Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe provided the following report:

- On August 5th, the BLM signed Records of Decision (RODs) for the Resource Management Plans of Western Oregon. That means the BLM is not working under the Northwest Forest Plan anymore. We have different Land Use Allocations and Riparian protections that we are now using to manage BLM lands. For more information visit this website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/>

- The North Fork Big Tom Folley instream restoration project will be starting on Monday, Oct. 3rd. We had to start this project late due to wildlife restrictions. We will be placing logs in approximately 1 mile of NF Big Tom Folley, enhancing a previous restoration project that has proven largely ineffective. This is the first phase of a multi-phase, watershed scale restoration project in the Big Tom Folley watershed.
- The SW Oregon RAC will be meeting at the Medford BLM office on October 12-13, 2016. They will be deciding on funding for Title II projects. The meetings are open to the public. <http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/sworrac.php>

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich provided the following report:

- I am now officially the permitting guy for ODFW and now work on permitting uses, up to 8 hrs per week.
- 2016 is still going on, primarily with BLM projects. An extension was given for Olalla Creek, Big Tom Folly and Bum Creek. Completed projects include the Upper Elk Creek Project on BLM land that Joe Blanchard completed, I looked at it recently and I felt he did a good job. Other projects completed include Camp Creek Phase 4, Lutsinger Creek, Sawyers Creek, Fitzpatrick Creek, Elk Valley Creek, Panther Creek and Mehl Creek.
- The Salmon Summit Conference in Canyonville will be next week.

## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton provided the following report:

- Treatment of spurge laurel at Cooper Creek Reservoir is happening today.
- Treatment of distaff thistle and Paterson's Curse is complete for this year. The distaff thistle discovered outside of Glide turned out to be on 80, not 160, acres 'gross', with four acres 'net'. DSWCD treated six acres total of distaff thistle this year, up from 1.23 acres last year.
- Walt is still working on getting railcar bridges from Kennewick. There may be four available, at a cost of \$13,000 to \$15,000 each.

## Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*). The Board had an extensive discussion concerning the watershed council's relationship with OWEB, directing Lee and Jen to make the upcoming Council Support grant application their highest priority. Addressing the perceived deficiencies in the council is key.

## New Business

The 2016 Action Plan was approved (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Gene Zuiches).

## Adjournment

# Executive Director Report

20 September 2016

## Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

- I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- Logs are staged and need to be placed. May be done by the meeting.
  - Some blackberries need to be cleared to prepare for riparian planting this winter.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
- Final Completion report in progress.

## 2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Small Grant Team:**
- The Small Grant Team met to approve its members and bylaws.
  - Projects submitted by August 31st will be reviewed September 15th.
- IV.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
- 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 Jack Creek 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 placed temperature loggers in Hardscrabble, Ellenburg, Jack, and Tom Folley Creeks.
  - Survey work for 2016 started on August 6th. Surveys were done on Hardscrabble, Ellenburg, part of Jack Creek (Reach 3), and part of Tom Folley Creek.
  - The BLM RAC grant for 2017 work has been submitted.
  - The OWEB grant will be re-submitted in October. This will be an online submittal, and it will be a monitoring application rather than the earlier Technical Assistance application.

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

### **IX.) 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.
- The OWEB application was NOT recommended for funding. The comments from the Regional Review Team claimed, “The private designs are not up to standard” even though Eric Himmelreich (ODFW) did the designs, and they are exactly the same as *hundreds* of designs he has done for PUR. In fact, the designs are exactly like the ones Eric designed for PUR’s Waggoner Creek project which was ranked #4 and funded.
- The Review Team also objected to the use of boulders in “low valley bottom systems.” Again, the same designs were approved in the Waggoner Creek application.
- Their reference to large wood metrics from 1995 to 2015 clearly referred to part of the Jack Creek project.

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

- The OWEB application has been submitted and followed the recommendations from the Restoration Action Plan (draft) based on last summer’s bioassessment.
- The OWEB application was NOT recommended for funding. The comments from the Regional Review Team focused on the need to restrict livestock access to the creek.
- The ODFW Fish Passage permit for the culvert 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:**

- Nothing new to report. We still need to locate a suitable bridge.

### **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>.
- Preliminary analysis of the bioassessment data show almost no coho use in the lower reach of Ellenburg Creek. We will work on getting landowner permissions to prepare a proposal for habitat improvements in the upper reaches.

### **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:**

- 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.
- The main reason OWEB used to reduce our funding related to outreach to the community and inclusion in the council. We have talked about a website and a Facebook page to expand access to the council's activities.

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

- The 2016 Action Plan needs to be accepted and approved.

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

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

### **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.
- 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.
- After a long conversation with Kendra Smith, I'm not optimistic that this process will lead to a project-based action plan. Kendra's opinion is that funders are interested in funding "programs" managed by "high-functioning organizations," NOT priority "projects" in selected watersheds. They are also not concerned with the "effectiveness" of restoration projects.

### **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>.

#### **XX.) OWEB Grant applications:**

- OWEB grants are now accepted in an online version. Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Jen and I attended a training on the new online system in Coos Bay.