

Elk Creek Watershed Council

October 18, 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 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 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 August 2016 board meeting (motion by Kittie Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Approval of the September 2016 board meeting minutes was deferred to the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of October 18, 2016 and to pay Accounts Receivable (motion by Joe Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart). James noted that Lee needs to catch up on invoicing through September.

Beginning Balance: 1 September 2016		\$97,033.18
Deposits:	\$4,410.56	
Checks:	(\$23,891.76)	
Ending Balance: 30 September 2016		\$77,551.98
Deposits		\$0.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$0.00)
Balance		\$77,551.98
Accounts Receivable	\$40,415.88	
Accounts Payable	(\$25,963.86)	
Fund Balance		\$92,004.00

Executive Committee and Council Business

The Executive Committee has met for the last couple weeks. Jamie will defer discussion and decisions to Lee's report.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe provided an update via e-mail:

- He, Joe Blanchard, Eric Himmelreich, Lee Russell and Jen Bailey met in the field to review the OWEB Regional Review Team's feedback on the Headwaters Elk Creek project.
- BLM finished 1.0 miles of stream restoration on North Fork Big Tom Folley Creek. They placed 60 logs and 20 trees into the creek along with some already existing pieces (from a previous restoration project). They did the project in two days with Rundell as the contractor on October 3-4.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich provided an update via e-mail. He has been participating in the "collaboration with ODFW, Elk Creek Watershed Council and the BLM and the upcoming meetings and the support for the resubmission of both the Upper Elk Creek and Jack Creek grants." Eric couldn't make it to the meeting tonight but plans on being at next month's meeting.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton reported

- DSWCD has completed this year's treatment of distaff thistle and Paterson's curse. Spurge laurel was treated in Sutherlin and by the Oakland freeway interchange, and will be treated at Mehl Creek. It's not too late to spray blackberries. There was discussion about Beggar's Tick: while it's not on an official weed list, it's very invasive and can be sprayed in the spring.
- Walt drove to Medford for the BLM RAC grant presentations, and had the opportunity to talk with three RAC members. The RAC is very different now that three regions have been combined into one.
- Rivers are up (though run-off creeks are not yet flowing).
- No news on the Kennewick railcar bridges.

Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*). The Board discussed the following topics:

- Criteria for evaluating restoration projects: enhancing habitat where fish are already present vs. restoring habitat to extend their reach, and the use of fencing in livestock operations. Walt Barton elaborating on techniques to keep cattle out of the streams without fencing: stock water and feeding stations installed away from the water have documented success. Bob Rundell indicated that a landowner on Hardscrabble Creek is interested in restoration work on his land and may be open to CREP.
- Upcoming council self-evaluation process.
- Outreach to local stakeholders.
- BLM RAC funding that expires in August 2017.

New Business

The Board approved the Jack Creek Action Plan (motion by Bob Rundell, seconded by Gene Zuiches).

Announcements

The Local Advisory Committee for the Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Plan is meeting on Friday, October 28th at 6:00 PM at Elmer's in Roseburg.

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

18 October 2016

Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

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

- The instream work has been completed.
- Riparian planting will be completed later this winter.

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

- Final Completion report in progress.

2013 OWEB Small Grants:

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

- Project completed. The 2-year monitoring report is due in December 2016.

IV.) **Gilliland Erosion Control:**

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

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

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

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

VI.) **Action Plans:**

- The final draft of the Jack Creek Action Plan needs to be accepted and approved.

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

- 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:

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

- 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. The review of this application was pathetic.
 - Jen Bailey and I met with Eric Himmelreich (ODFW) and Jeff McEnroe (BLM) to discuss project designs. Both agreed that it appeared the Regional Review Team was evaluating Elk Creek Projects differently from PUR projects, and that the shortcomings of the Regional Review process needed to be addressed.

IX.) Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:

- 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.
- The Jack Creek application will be resubmitted to OWEB with the section where cows access the stream removed.

X.) Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing:

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

XI.) Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- A bioassessment was done on Ellenburg Creek on August 11th and 12th.
- 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.

XII.) 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.

Watershed Council Capacity Grant:

XIII.) 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.

XIV.) 2015 Action Plan:

- The 2016 Action Plan was accepted and approved last month.

XV.) 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:

XVI.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

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

XVII.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:

- 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:

XVIII.) 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 10th.
- A presentation to the RAC was made in Medford on October 13th.

XIX.) OWEB Grant applications:

- OWEB grants are now accepted in an online version. Deadline is November 1st.
- Jen and I attended a training on the new online system in Coos Bay.
- Applications will be submitted for Bioassessment, Jack Creek, and Headwaters.