

Elk Creek Watershed Council

January 17, 2017 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 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

Jamie Mast announced that our very own Nick Botner will be a Grand Marshall in Yoncalla's 4th of July parade, as one of three WWII vets.

The Board approved the minutes of the November 2016 board meeting (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Treasurer's Report

There were two additions to the Treasurer's Report: \$450 to the Sunnydale Grange for January – March 2017 rent, and \$200 to the City of Drain as a deposit on the Civic Center for the Free Lunch program.

Kittie Coons asked about the declining balance in the bank account. Lee explained that he holds off on invoicing OWEB until the very end, to balance expenses amongst the various funding sources. Jamie reminded everyone that the Council was taking \$10,000/year from the general fund to pay both Lee and Jen.

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of January 17, 2017, with these two additions, and payment of Accounts Receivable (motion by Kittie Coons, seconded by Brad Chapman).

Beginning Balance: 1 December 2016		\$97,202.28
Deposits:	0.0	
Checks:	(\$13,450.00)	
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Ending Balance: 31 October 2016		\$83,752.28
Deposits		0.0
Outstanding Checks		(\$10,881.25)
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Balance		\$72,871.03
Accounts Receivable	\$14,455.13	
Accounts Payable	(\$13,957.13)	
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Fund Balance		\$73,369.03

Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie reported that the Executive Committee has only met once in the last five weeks, and have nothing to report.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe sent in the following report via e-mail:

- Coho-ho-ho Christmas tree project - we are placing about 100 Christmas trees into North Fork Big Tom Folley Creek this Thursday (Jan. 19) with about five veteran volunteers. The trees will supplement our instream restoration work there this summer by filling in gaps in the log jams and providing some much needed juvenile coho and steelhead cover from winter flows (plus we get to recycle Christmas trees).
- The BLM is starting to work on its first timber sale under the new Resource Management Plan. This sale would be titled "Robin Peter" and is doing wildlife restoration work in a Late Successional Reserve Stand. The sale is in the Elk Creek Watershed (Pheasant Creek and Ward Creek) and I'll keep you updated as it progresses.
- The State of the Beaver Conference is coming up in Canyonville from February 22-24. This is the only Beaver Conference in the world (that we know of) and shares the latest in beaver research in the U.S. and Europe. <http://stateofthebeaver.org/>

Jen will be visiting the Christmas tree project to learn about the logistics of implementing such a program.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich was not present, and had nothing to report this month.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton could not attend the meeting due to illness.

Weed Day is February 1st at the Fairgrounds. Gene Zuiches went last year, and reported that it was well worth it. Umpqua Tree School is on Saturday, March 31st at the Phoenix School this year.

Executive Director

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

Fruitgrowers gave the go-ahead to remove a failing culvert on Fitch Creek on their land. Lee is developing an OWEB small grant for this project, but won't get the landowner signature in time for the upcoming grant deadline. Hopefully one of Walt Barton's projects will be ready by the deadline.

The Board discussed the status and implications of the Umpqua Basin Partnership.

The council self-evaluation needs to be completed by the end of next month.

The Board agreed that another audit is not necessary at this time.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

17 January 2017

Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

- I.) **Upper Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
 - Riparian planting has been completed. Report is due in March.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)**
 - Final Completion report in progress.

2013 OWEB Small Grants:

- III.) **Elk Creek Channel Improvement:**
 - Monitoring report has been completed.
- 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.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**
 - The BLM RAC grant for 2017 work was approved by the SW Oregon RAC.
 - 100% - \$29,210.
 - The OWEB grant was resubmitted.

Current Watershed Council Projects - In Development:

- VII.) **Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:**
 - The boulder structures were re-designed and the OWEB application resubmitted.
- VIII.) **Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:**
 - The Jack Creek project was scaled down to include only the section where there are no livestock accessing the creek, and resubmitted to OWEB.
 - The BLM RAC application was approved at 64% - \$20,264.
- IX.) **Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing:**
 - We have purchased a railroad car bridge for the project. We'll arrange for transport and installation next summer.

X.) Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- 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.

XI.) 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:

XII.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- 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.
- The structure for both the website and the Facebook page have been set up. Jen and I have started adding content.

XIII.) Watershed Council Self-Evaluation:

- OWEB requires a self-evaluation every two (2) years. Courtney Shaff's revision for this process is now available.
- The Executive Committee has started working on the OWEB forms.

Watershed Action Planning:

XIV.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

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

XV.) 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.
- The partners met on November 8th to review the first drafts of the goals and objectives. A lot of talk about economic and social goals and the scope of the plan. Not much was resolved.
- The partnership agreed to meet every 2nd Tuesday to work on the plan.

Other Activities:

XVI.) 2015 State and Federal Taxes:

- State and federal tax returns were submitted. 1099s will be filed in January.