

Elk Creek Watershed Council

February 21, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance

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|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons | <input checked="" 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, Eric Himmelreich, Jeff McEnroe, Lee Russell

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the January 2017 board meeting (motion by Joe Coons, seconded by Brad Chapman).

Treasurer’s Report

The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report of February 15, 2017, and payment of Accounts Receivable (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Brad Chapman).

Beginning Balance: 1 January 2017		\$83,752.28
Deposits:	0.0	
Checks:	(\$10,566.25)	
Ending Balance: 31 January 2017		\$73,186.03
Deposits		\$14,455.13
Outstanding Checks		(\$14,922.13)
Balance		\$72,719.03
Accounts Receivable	0.0	
Accounts Payable	(\$557.00)	
Fund Balance		\$72,162.03

Executive Committee and Council Business

Jamie Mast reported that the Executive Committee has met every week in the last month. At this morning’s meeting, we discussed the following topics: Web Site, Facebook Page, Brochure, Work Plan, Free Lunch Program (March 11th), DNA Study, OWEB Grants, Rapid Bioassessment, Umpqua Basin Partnership and “FIP Lite”, and all current and potential restoration projects. March 6th is the deadline for the OWEB Council Support grant

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported that the COHOHO Christmas tree project on North Fork, Big Tom Folley, went very well. A team of disabled veterans put 150 salvaged Christmas trees into log structures installed last summer. This helps improve the structures and provides habitat to

juvenile salmon. Next year, Jeff wants to spend more days on putting Christmas trees into log structures. The bottleneck is the time it takes to load and transport the trees to the site. This new group, Veterans for Conservation, wants to do more such work in the Umpqua.

Jeff is planning a second phase of restoration work on the North Fork of Big Tom Folley this summer on BLM land. Funding comes from a Title II grant and internal BLM funding. Seneca is not involved with the project (yet).

Jeff is the local lead for Project Healing Waters, a program that teaches fly fishing to disabled veterans. This program started at Walter Read, and is very therapeutic for PTSD. There are 25 men and five women participating locally.

The BLM wildlife biologists are managing the Robin Peter timber sale, which focuses on wildlife restoration work in a Late Successional Reserve stand which includes portions of Pheasant Creek and Ward Creek. Given the political climate, it's unclear how this will proceed.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric shared his experience with the "Christmas Trees for Coho" program organized by Evan Leonetti with six Elton students putting trees into Fitzpatrick Creek. They want to expand the program next year and work in Brush Creek. Permitting is very straightforward. Jen will contact Evan and the Yoncalla and Drain schools to see if this makes sense for us to pursue. Walt Barton has a 23' gooseneck trailer to transport trees.

The Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby was a big success – the river cooperated – and raised a lot of money. Jen will be applying for matching funds for the Headwaters project.

Eric is planning his summer instream schedule. We expect to do the Headwaters project in July, if the OWEB grant comes through.

Eric will be giving a presentation at our Free Lunch program on March 11th.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Walt Barton reported that Chrissy Morgan was one of only two presenters at the Oregon State Weed Board, who approved funding both of DSWCD's grants. One is for gorse, Portuguese broom and spurge laurel. The other is for distaff thistle and Paterson's Curse, a very high priority for Oregon.

DSCWD is giving up on controlling Japanese knotweed. They only got 50% participation in North Myrtle and North Deer Creek. If not all landowners participate, it's a waste of time. Walt has money to do one final treatment this spring. He encourages landowners to address Japanese knotweed on their own, by cutting down the plants and spraying the stumps with aquatic glysohate, for two years in a row.

Kittie Coons raised concerns about ODOT mowing I-5 from south to north, which may spread invasive weed seeds from the south. Walt confirmed that they should be mowing from north to south, and will pursue this with ODOT.

New Business (*moved ahead in agenda*)

The Board approved the re-election of Joe Coons, John Kittelman, James Mast, Rick Reinhart, Gene Vroman, Gene Zuiches for a two-year term (motion by Brad Chapman, second by Kittie Coons).

The Board approved the re-election the officers for a one-year term (motion by Brad Chapman, second by Rick Reinhart). The officers James Mast (Chair), Joe Coons (Vice Chair), Cindy Johnsrud (Treasurer) and Kittie Coons.

The Board unanimously approved by show of hands the election of Susan Applegate as the second Alternate Board Director (motion by Brad Chapman, second by Kittie Coons).

Jamie Mast proposed that Linda Galetti join the Board of Directors as an Alternate. The Board approved the election of Linda Galetti as the third Alternate Board Director (motion by Brad Chapman, second by Joe Coons).

Jen Bailey reviewed the biannual council self-evaluation recently completed by the Executive Committee, Lee and Jen. Some portions of the OWEB-defined process did not apply to our organization. The four “capacity elements” we have committed to strengthen are:

- Constituent Involvement
- Dependence of Management Team & Staff on Executive Director
- Funding Model
- Communications and Outreach

Old Business

None.

Executive Director

Lee reviewed his Executive Director’s Report (*see attached*). Key points:

The Board discussed OWEB’s decision not to fund the Rapid Bioassessment. Lee believes it is a useful tool to demonstrate habitat improvements over time, as required by the coho recovery plan. To receive monitoring funds from OWEB, each participating landowner need to sign a legal agreement confirming that the data gathered on their property is public information. This will be a deterrent for getting permission from many Elk Creek landowners. We will not re-submit this grant application.

Lee will be planning which 10 miles to survey this summer. He will talk further with Jeff McEnroe about focus areas and coordination with BLM.

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

21 February 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.) **Gilliland Erosion Control:**
- Project completed. The 2-year monitoring report is due in June 2017.

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- IV.) **Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):**
- Jen is managing the analysis of samples by the Seattle lab.
- V.) **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 not recommended for funding. We will be able to complete another 10 miles of streams this summer with the RAC funding.
 - With the 30 miles of survey we will have, we should be able to get a better idea of what creeks have the highest coho densities, and **why** this habitat is being used. We will be able to use this to explain to landowners what we want to do on their properties, and we will have the baseline data that can show the effectiveness of our restoration projects.

Current Watershed Council Projects - In Development:

- VI.) **Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:**
- The OWEB application was ranked 5 of 17, and has a good chance to be funded.
- VII.) **Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:**
- The BLM RAC application was approved at 64% - \$20,264.
 - The OWEB application was not recommended for funding. We haven't seen the comments yet, but it was a much smaller and weaker project without the section where livestock had access to the creek
 - The landowner in Reach 1 of Jack Creek has expressed an interest in a project that may coincide with his riparian fencing project.

VIII.) Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing:

- We have purchased a railroad car bridge for the project. We'll arrange for transport and installation next summer.
- The OWEB small grant has been submitted. It will be voted on in late March or early April.

IX.) 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.

X.) 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:

XI.) 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.

XII.) Watershed Council Self-Evaluation:

- OWEB requires a self-evaluation every two (2) years.
- The Executive Committee has started working on the OWEB forms.

Watershed Action Planning:

XIII.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

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

XIV.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:

- The partnership will be meeting on February 27th.

Other Activities:

XV.) 2016 Reports:

- The annual reports on our RAC grants were submitted.
- The Council's annual report to the county commissioners will be done soon.

XVI.) Other:

- Biannual Beaver conference is February 22 - 24.