

Elk Creek Watershed Council

April 18, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance

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|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Applegate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Coons | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Kittelman | <input type="checkbox"/> Gene Vroman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Botner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kittie Coons | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Mast | <input type="checkbox"/> Gene Zuiches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Burris | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Galetti | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Reinhart | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Chapman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Johnsrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Rundell | |

Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Walt Barton, Jeff McEnroe, Lee Russell, Jake Winn

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the March 2017 board meeting (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of April 18, 2017 and the Accounts Payable, with three additions:

- \$450 to the Sunnysdale Grange for April – June 2017 rent
- \$640 to the Sunnysdale Grange for the Free Lunch chicken dinner
- \$124.13 to Kittie Coons for the Free Lunch drinks and dessert

(motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Cindy Johnsrud).

Beginning Balance: 1 March 2017		\$73,479.03
Deposits:	\$16,701.79	
Checks:	(\$12,429.88)	
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Ending Balance: 31 March 2017		\$77,750.94
Deposits		\$170.00
Outstanding Checks		(\$9,585.51)
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Balance		\$68,335.43
Accounts Receivable	\$45,252.62	
Accounts Payable	(\$32,207.84)	
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Fund Balance		\$81,380.21

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the watershed council received full funding from OWEB for Council Capacity for the 2017-2019 biennium. He met with Jake Winn and Jeff McEnroe prior to this meeting.

Bureau of Land Management

Jake Winn announced that DFPA, USFS, BLM and others are sponsoring a 14-day training course on the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, during the last week of September and first week of October. The cost is \$300, which includes meals and lodging. BLM has plans to burn both BLM and private land out of Glide. The Nature Conservancy is advocating for a “fire learning network” to encompass the entire country.

[<https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/fire-learning-network.aspx>]

The new Roseburg District Manager, Heather Whitman, and Max Yager, the Swiftwater Area Manager, will visit Elk Creek to talk about working together more closely and to visit a couple project sites.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich reported via e-mail that he has 15 restoration projects on the schedule for the upcoming in-stream work season.

Eric’s position at ODFW is once again on the chopping block. We won’t find out until June if he’ll still have a job.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton reported that it’s weed season, but rain is delaying treatment. Begger’s Tick is 8’ tall. They will start spraying French, Scotch and Spanish broom in the wild and scenic area on the North Umpqua. French broom is everywhere. The North Umpqua has Spanish broom, as does Gaddis Park.

The I-5 right-of-way is being treated for brooms. They’ve made one full sweep from county line to county line, but missed some spots. The broom has taken off around Curtin and Rice Hill after logging.

There are no new gorse sites. Remaining gorse is being hand-pulled. Hardscrabble Creek was checked for gorse last year, and none was found. They usually check for gorse every other year, but perhaps Hardscrabble should be checked again this year.

Spraying of Portuguese broom will start soon. Meanwhile, the crew is hand-pulling in the rain. They are just treating whips, and haven’t found mature plants for five years. They have treated a site at I5 exit 154 where the county dumps fill, for two years, spraying and hand-pulling.

Lone Rock sprayed 270 acres of their land for gorse, when grant funding did not come through.

Walt, Lee Russell and Susan Applegate are considering a pond/wetland project on Susan’s land to use the remaining Yoncalla Diesel Oil Spill funds. They are planning a raised area of dirt (broader than short berms) with sparse grass to attract western pond turtle nests. The worse the soil, the better.

The Capital Press reported that the proposal to charge an annual fee for water rights was passed out of committee (though without an associated dollar amount). It is now in the Oregon House Ways and Means committee. Agriculture is fighting this.

Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed his Executive Director's Report (see attached). Key points included:

Lee shared his perception of OWEB. OWEB's new "corporate approach" does not lend itself to working with agricultural landowners. It is veering well away from the original concept of watershed councils made up of local people with local knowledge of the watershed. OWEB is going for the big bucks.

Jake Winn offered a 40'-long wood-decked Hamilton steel bridge as in-kind match. Walt Barton may have a use for the bridge.

Jeff McEnroe will help with ARBO and NEPA approvals for the Buck Creek project.

BLM is extending our older grant agreement for one year, to allow more time for the bacteria study.

Lee believes the rapid bioassessment plan has a perception problem with the OWEB Regional Review Team. They are thinking of Steve Trask's snorkel surveys in the Willamette with minimal habitat assessment, just fish count and distribution. However, our protocols rely heavily on habitat. The RRT hasn't made that distinction. Meanwhile, no one knows if the restoration is working to improve coho habitat, to get the coho de-listed.

Lee is setting up contracts for another ten miles of rapid bioassessment work. He is considering Parker Creek and Pheasant Creek. We have no means of prioritizing areas, beyond landowner willingness. The Middle Elk Creek 6th field is also a priority, as it has basalt, which makes for better spawning gravels.

Lee would like to work with BLM hydrologists to develop a restoration project from the hydrology perspective. It's more than "where do we have trees we can stick logs behind?" He wants to do sub-watershed scale planning, looking at the watershed through the habitat assessment. Set goals, and make it data driven.

Lee plans to follow up with landowners who gave us permission to survey, sharing what we found about their stretch of creek.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

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Current Watershed Restoration Projects - In Progress:

I.) Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (2015 OWEB Small Grant)

- Final Completion report in progress.

2013 OWEB Small Grants:

II.) Gilliland Erosion Control:

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

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

III.) Bacterial DNA Study (BLM):

- More delays by the Seattle lab.

IV.) 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:

V.) Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat Improvement:

- The OWEB application was ranked 5 of 17, and will almost certainly be funded.

VI.) Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:

- The BLM RAC application was approved at 64% - \$20,264.
- The OWEB application was not recommended for funding. Basically, the RRT felt the issues raised in the previous application had not been addressed, even though the livestock access to the stream issue was taken out. The complaint was that “other limiting factors” had not been addressed, though what these actually were was not included.

VII.) Buck Creek Fish Passage Project:

- The OWEB Small Grant has been approved.

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 approved.

IX.) Fitch Creek Culvert Removal:

- Removal of a fish passage barrier on Fruit Growers land.
- OWEB Small grant has been approved.

X.) Hardscrabble Creek Habitat Improvement:

- We are planning to work with the BLM Hydrologist to develop a restoration plan/project on Hardscrabble Creek.

XI.) Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- We may be able to get an OWEB Technical Assistance grant to do the planning for a project on Ellenburg Creek.

Watershed Council Capacity Grant:

XII.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- The second part of the application and the 2-year work plan have been submitted.
- 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.
- The Executive Committee has completed 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:

- The partnership met on March 13th. The prioritization areas are not quite complete. We're submitting projects that will be included in the final plan

Other Activities:

- Strategic Plan
- Work Plans
- Job Descriptions
- Working Budget.