

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

Board Attendance

× Susan Applegate	✓ Joe Coons	✓ John Kittelman	× Gene Vroman
✓ Nick Botner	✓ Kittie Coons	✓ James Mast	✓ Gene Zuiches
× Harold Burris	✓ Linda Galetti	✓ Rick Reinhart	
✓ Brad Chapman	✓ Cindy Johnsrud	✓ Bob Rundell	

Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Walt Barton (DSWCD), Mark Grenbemer (OWEB), Eric Himmelreich (ODFW), Jeff McEnroe (BLM), Lee Russell

Presentation

Mark Grenbemer, OWEB’s Southwest Oregon Program Representative, discussed OWEB’s mission, funding and grant review process.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the November 2017 meeting minutes (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Linda Galetti).

Treasurer’s Report

The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report of January 16, 2018 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Kitty Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 December 2017		\$68,886.97
Deposits:	\$22,717.75	
Checks:	(\$25,678.24)	
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Ending Balance: 31 December 2017		\$65,926.48
Deposits		0.0
Outstanding Checks		0.0
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Balance		\$65,926.48
Accounts Receivable	\$3,869.30	
Accounts Payable	0.0	
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Fund Balance		\$69,795.78

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the executive committee met last week. He participated in a site visit to Hardscrabble Creek with ODFW and BLM, to assess in-stream restoration potential.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported on the annual Cohoho Christmas tree project this year, which includes Big Tom Folley. There are fewer trees available than anticipated. He is moving logs into Big Tom Folley (right-of-way logs from along Highway 138).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich reported that it is design season for him, working on new project development with the watershed councils.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton visited Lower Jack Creek with Jen Bailey and made recommendations. He gave an update on the Yoncalla Creek project: mastication of hawthornes and blackberries is progressing, working around existing riparian vegetation. Lee Russell thanked Bob Rundell for his help with the bridge installation.

Executive Director and Council Coordinator Report -

Lee Russell and Jen Bailey reviewed the Executive Director's report. Lee asked Mark Grenbemer if CREP would satisfy the regional review team's requirements for funding Jack Creek. Jamie asked the board for ideas on where to focus rapid bioassessment survey work for summer 2018. Mark explained that there is an OWEB 'stakeholder outreach' grant program now available to engage landowners, which we may want to pursue.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Announcements

February 7, 2018 - Douglas County Weed Day

Tuesday, February 20, 2017, 7:00 PM - Drain Civic Center - presentation by Douglas County Watermaster.

Saturday, April 8th, 2018 - Landowner Free Lunch Program

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

16 January 2018

Current Watershed Council Restoration Projects:

I.) Fitch Creek Culvert Removal: (#07-16-008)

- The project is complete. We may have to make some adjustments to the grade control weirs next summer.

II.) Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing: (#07-16-007)

- The bridge has been installed.
- The landowner may construct bigger pads under the ends, and improve the approaches, when the ground is drier in the spring.

III.) Buck Creek Fish Passage:

- The project is complete. We are considering doing a rapid bioassessment in Buck Creek next summer to see if adults were able to pass this winter.

IV.) Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:

- The SW Oregon RAC has awarded \$20,264 toward this project.
- Hardscrabble Ranch has just leased the property to Jan and Kevin Kelley. The owners and the Kelleys are considering fencing the riparian area and enrolling in CREP.
- Signing up for CREP should satisfy OWEB's need to address the cattle issue. We were unable to get a commitment before the OWEB grant application deadline in October, but when they follow through, we should be able to submit an OWEB grant in April.

Projects in Development:

V.) Hardscrabble Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Eric Himmelreich will be selecting and designing sites this week. An OWEB application should be ready in April.

VI.) Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- The action plan for Ellenburg Creek has been completed. Jen has been talking to Seneca about a habitat restoration project on their land. This would connect to the project on Tom Woolley's property that we completed in 2013, and would complete restoration of all the reaches with coho in Ellenburg Creek.

VII.) Sand Creek - Little Sand Creek:

- We toured Giustina Land and Timber properties on Sand Creek and Little Sand Creek with Cory Hart from Giustina. They are very proud of their riparian buffers and the instream work they have done as part of their logging operations.
- We thought there might be some opportunity to winch some of the down wood in the riparian area into the stream to enhance coho habitat.
- We might consider doing some rapid bioassessment in these creeks since they are very productive coho streams.

VIII.) Rock Creek:

- We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with the land manager from Giustina Resources (a separate entity from Giustina Land and Timber - though still in the family).
- Rock Creek is also a productive coho stream.

IX.) Jack Creek Erosion Control:

- Jen has been working with Walt Barton to develop an OWEB Small Grant project to address bank erosion on lower Jack Creek.
- Jan and Kevin Kelley own this property (formerly Hergert's), and we are also working with them to enroll in CREP.

X.) Deer Creek Culvert Project:

- Jen is working with Walt to develop a culvert project on Deer Creek that will be submitted to the OWEB Small Grant program.

XI.) Rice Creek:

- This is another possible Small Grant to address a manure management problem on Rice Creek.

Outstanding OWEB Small Grants:

XII.) Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (#07-14-005)

- The project is complete and OWEB payments have been received.
- A monitoring report will be submitted in two years.

XIII.) Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (#07-14-006)

- The project is complete and OWEB payments have been made.
- A monitoring report will be submitted in two years.

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

XIV.) Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):

- I've started discussions with John Runyon (Cascade Environmental) about work for 2018. We have funding to complete another 10 miles next summer.
- We need to select streams that will support the Council's long-term strategies and goals. [See *Strategic Planning*.]
- We now have action plans for the creeks we have surveyed that will help support funding requests for projects in these watersheds.
- In the future, we need to develop a process to use the data that we collect from the bioassessments to give us a much more detailed assessment of the watershed, and then to formulate goals and objectives for the watershed that will be the basis for action plans.
- We also need to develop a template for presenting the bioassessment data to landowners. We will be able to use this as an outreach tool to landowners showing conditions on their properties, and what we want to do for restoration. We will also have the baseline data that can show the effectiveness of our restoration projects.

Watershed Council Capacity Grant:

XV.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- OWEB funding for the 2017-2019 biennium will be \$118,425. Grant agreements have been signed, and the first payment request received.

XVI.) Watershed Council Self-Evaluation:

- We need to use the self-evaluation to set goals and priorities. This will be the basis of the work plans that will be submitted to OWEB. [See *Strategic Planning*.]

Watershed Action Planning:

XVII.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

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

XVIII.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:

- The UBP met on January 12th. We are trying to wrap up the strategic action plan that was funded by the OWEB capacity-building grant. I will submit budget estimates for the Elk Creek Watershed Council projects that have been included in the plan.
- Partners signed an agreement that will allow for funds in the capacity grant budget (that is being administered by PUR) to be disbursed to partners.
- There was much discussion about the structure and governance of the Partnership so that the interests of the individual partners are assured.
- The most significant item was that Jim Muck (NOAA Fisheries) reported that they would like to implement a Coho Business Plan in the Umpqua. This would focus on coho restoration, rather than the broad scope of the current FIP strategic plan.

Fiscal Agent Programs:

XIX.) Douglas County CREP:

- The CREP quarterly report for October to December has been submitted. I will be working on completing the final report and the final fund request.
- The grant agreement for the 2018-2019 CREP program has been signed. The grant award is \$167,112.50.

XX.) Oregon Weed Board Grant:

- The Department of Agriculture and OWEB have asked if we would administer the funds for the Douglas County Weed Program.
- The 2018 applications for priority weed control programs have been submitted.
- This would work roughly the same way as the CREP program.. We would be the fiscal agent, and we would contract with Douglas SWCD for implementation.

Administrative:

I.) Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Returns:

- Tax returns for both the IRS and Oregon Dept. of Revenue have been completed. I will be working on the 2017 1099 forms.

II.) Oregon Dept. of Revenue - Annual Report:

- Annual Report has been completed and the \$50 registration fee paid.

III.) BLM RAC Annual Reports:

- The annual progress and financial reports for both our assistance agreements with BLM have been completed.
- The 2012 agreement is set to expired next September. The 2016 agreement expires in 2021.

IV.) Elk Creek Watershed Council Annual Report:

- The Council's annual report has been completed and sent to the Douglas County Commissioners.