

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### September 18, 2018

#### Board Attendance

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

#### Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Lee Russell

#### Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the August 2018 meeting minutes (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Joe Coons).

#### Treasurer’s Report

The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report of September 18, 2018 and the Accounts Payable, with the addition of \$3,000 to Walt Barton for the Jack Creek railcar bridge design and ~\$3,000 to the Cow Creek Tribe for a cultural survey for a CREP project (motion by Susan Applegate, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 August 2018		\$122,547.39
Deposits:	\$34,255.25	
Checks:	(\$5,010.00)	
Ending Balance: 31 August 2018		\$151,792.64
Deposits		\$4,247.52
Outstanding Checks		0.0
Balance		\$147,545.12
Accounts Receivable	\$11,943.90	
Accounts Payable	(\$9,959.01)	
Fund Balance		\$149,530.01

#### Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the Executive Committee met twice in the last month, and deferred discussion to later in the agenda.

## Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported:

- Finished the Big Tom Folley and North Fork Big Tom Folley stream restoration projects. Bob Rundell put about 110 logs into about 1.0 mile of stream in 11 sites. We also places some trees, existing boulders, and logs from the riparian into the stream. We made some great log jams that should be some great fish habitat in the future.
- Deadman's Folley timber sale will be in the Brush Creek watershed and we are in the final stages of the Environmental Analysis. I proposed taking 200–300 trees for restoration projects in the Elk Creek watershed. I'm still waiting for guidance from the State Office on if we can sell/donate any of those trees to watershed councils or other partners, so stay tuned. The worst case scenario is that they have to stay on BLM lands, but we can still use them for "match" on partner projects between the BLM and ECWC.

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

No new report.

## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

No new report.

## Council Coordinator

Jen Bailey reviewed the Council Coordinator report (*see attached*). Highlights/updates include:

- The Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration project was recommended for funding by OWEB staff, but fell just below the cut-off line for available funds. Resubmitting the grant by the end of October, with high hopes of getting funding for next summer.
- The OWEB Small Grants projects cannot proceed until the Umpqua Small Grants Team is re-established, once the Umpqua SWCD meets its OWEB reporting requirements.
- The Jack Creek Erosion Control project is back on track, funded by DSWCD's BLM RAC grant for tree revetments.
- The meeting with Seneca went well, and they are supportive of restoration work on Ellenburg Creek. Awaiting permission to access land once fire danger is reduced.

## Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director report (*see attached*). Highlights/updates include:

- After meeting with Seneca, we have contracted with Cascade Environmental to compile data from their bioassessment surveys, ODFW data, LiDAR. This will be shared with Seneca, and used for the next round of surveys on Big Tom Folley.
- Cascade Environmental's work on prioritizing restoration project and restoration projects will move us towards a multi-year strategy with areas and ideas of relationships to build.
- The Focused Investment Partnership has been on hold since May, and Lee is concerned about the Umpqua losing funding. He would like to see John Runyon's model used for the Umpqua.
- Our first BLM agreement expired on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and Lee is wrapping up the final accounting.

## Good of the Order

Susan Applegate asked about the Yoncalla Oil Spill money, and if it could be used for the Yoncalla log pond and adjacent Yoncalla Creek area. Lee explained that this is unlikely to meet the fund's trustees' requirements.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

None

## Adjournment

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Council Coordinator Report

September 16, 2018

### Restoration Projects

1. Fitch Creek Culvert Removal
  - Will plant willows at the site this winter, to finish up the project.
2. Buck Creek Fish Passage
  - Completed construction of the overflow channel for the fishway.
  - Need commitment to have the survey crew check for juvenile coho next summer.
3. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration
  - This project fell just below the cut-off line for OWEB funding, due to expensive tide gate projects ranked higher. Resubmitting the grant in October (with some tweaks), with high confidence that it will be approved for work next summer.
  - Assisted Walt Barton with surveying site of new railcar bridge on Jack Creek. Will secure ODFW and NMFS fish passage approval of engineering design.
4. Lower Jack Creek Restoration
  - The tree revetment project is back on track for this year, but funded via a DSWCD BLM RAC grant (as OWEB Small Grant funds still aren't available). Construction scheduled for week of October 15.
  - Assisted Eric Himmelreich with design of instream habitat structures: 8 sites, 46 trees, 185 boulders.
  - Meeting with landowner to plan restoration work.
  - OWEB Small Grant for instream work (with other funding sources).
  - OWEB Small Grant for off-channel livestock watering.
5. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement
  - Secured okay from Seneca to pursue development of an instream restoration project on their lower parcel. Waiting on permission to access land outside of fire season.
  - Working with Tom Woolley to remove logs jammed on top of the bedrock ledge on his property, which is currently a fish barrier. Hopefully this will restore fish access to the upper Seneca parcel. Need commitment to have the survey crew check for juvenile coho next summer.
6. Rice Creek Mud Management
  - OWEB Small Grant to re-design a livestock feeding area to minimize run-off, by installing barn gutters, culvert, berms and some fencing. Walt Barton is providing technical assistance.

7. Turkey Crick Off-Channel Watering
  - OWEB Small Grant to extend off-channel livestock watering system. Funding was not available for 2018, so revamping the plan for 2019.
8. Clover Creek Off-Channel Watering
  - OWEB Small Grant to address ranch improvements. Meeting with landowner this week.
9. Cox Creek Habitat Improvement
  - Potential OWEB small grant for instream habitat improvement on stretch of creek between two prior restoration projects Planning to meet with new landowner.
10. Tucker Creek Culvert Replacement
  - Potential OWEB small grant to replace culvert. Walt Barton is trying to reach the landowner.
11. Headwaters Elk Creek Culvert Removal
  - Contacting landowner once more to assess support for removal of failing culverts that are a partial fish barrier.
12. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funded Projects
  - There is \$180,000 remaining in this fund for wetland-oriented projects. No action on this in the last month.

## Communications & Outreach

1. Brochure
  - Proposed substituting the “Free Lunch” program next spring with a tri-fold brochure mailed to all watershed residents. Susan Applegate has agreed to help with design of the brochure.
2. Coho-ho Christmas Trees
  - Contacting Yoncalla, Drain and Elkton school districts to assess their interest in this educational program.

# Executive Director Report

18 September 2018

## Current Watershed Council Restoration Projects:

- I.) **Fitch Creek Culvert Removal: (#07-16-008)(Lee Russell)**
- Final report and fund requests are in progress and will be submitted to OWEB.
- II.) **Buck Creek Fish Passage: (Jen Bailey)**
- Benzel Excavation was contracted to cut an overflow channel into the rock at the top of the fishway.
  - Final bills have been entered and the RAC grant closed out.
- III.) **Jack Creek/Hardscrabble Habitat Improvement: (Jen Bailey)**
- It looks like the OWEB application fell below the cut off for funding. It can be re-submitted in October.
  - I would recommend reevaluating the budget before the application is resubmitted.

## Small Grant Projects in Development: (Jen Bailey)

- IV.) **Jack Creek Erosion Control:**
- V.) **Jack Creek Off-Channel Water:**
- VI.) **Deer Creek Culvert Project:**
- VII.) **Rice Creek Mud Abatement:**
- VIII.) **Turkey Crick Off-channel Water:**
- IX.) **Clover Creek Off-channel Water:**

## Outstanding OWEB Small Grants: (Lee Russell)

- X.) **Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (#07-14-005)**
- A monitoring report will be submitted in 2019.
- XI.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (#07-14-006)**
- A monitoring report will be submitted in 2019.
- XII.) **Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing: (#07-16-007)(Lee Russell)**
- A monitoring report will be submitted in 2020.

## Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

- XIII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM): (Lee Russell)**
- The Council entered into a contract with Cascade Environmental to compile and evaluate all the data from the stream surveys completed in 2015 and 2016, and to develop a GIS-database to summarize and query data from the surveys.

- John Runyon coordinated a presentation to Seneca-Jones timber managers to help get their support for bioassessment data collection in the Big Tom Folley Watershed.
- Cascade will help develop a multi-year restoration strategy for the Council.
- We still have funding to complete another 10-15 miles of stream survey. We are planning to start survey work in Big Tom Folley in summer of 2019.

#### **Watershed Council Capacity Grant:**

##### **XIV.) OWEB Council Support Grant: (Lee Russell)**

- Fourth quarter fund request has been received.
- OWEB hasn't said anything about updating our Work Plans for the 2019-2021 biennium.

#### **Watershed Action Planning:**

##### **XV.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership: (Lee Russell)**

- The Umpqua Basin Partnership is now the "Umpqua Basin Collaborative."
- There have been no meetings since the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting that drafted the Memorandum of Understanding that the signing agencies agreed to work together to develop a regional watershed restoration plan.
- The next step will be to begin developing the governance documents that will guide *how* the organizations will work together and make decisions.
- PUR has submitted an application to the Bureau of Reclamation on behalf of the Collaborative for funds to hire a facilitator for two years. The goal will be the development of the governance documents to define the organizational structure, and the responsibilities of the members, in implementing restoration strategies at a basin-wide scale.
- If the Council moves forward with the proposal to work with Cascade Environmental to develop a medium-to-long-term restoration strategy, this will be incorporated into the Umpqua Basin Collaborative's restoration plan, and will allow the Council to be able to take full advantage of the potential funding opportunities of the FIP

#### **Fiscal Agent Programs:**

##### **XVI.) Douglas County CREP: (Lee Russell)**

- Part of the 2018-2019 CREP budget includes funds for a private archaeologist to conduct the cultural resources (NEPA) survey of project areas that have a potential to contain artifacts. We have signed a contract and Scope of Work with the Cow Creek Tribe to get this done. The billing will include time and administrative costs for the Council.
- There are currently two CREP projects that need surveys. One survey has been completed (see Accounts Payable), and the other is underway.

##### **XVII.) Oregon Weed Board Grants: (Lee Russell)**

- Funds from the first payment request (\$46,260) have been received. This is 50% of the grant total and is paid in advance. These funds will be released to Douglas SWCD upon submittal of invoices for work performed.

**XVIII.) BLM Assistance Agreement:**

- One of our two BLM Assistance Agreements (comprising 14 individual grant-funded projects) is expiring. I have nearly completed the accounting to get all these accounts closed.
- The other agreement has a balance of \$62,784.00 for bioassessment work, and for habitat improvement in Jack Creek. This agreement expires in September, 2021.