

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2019

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, Eric Himmelreich, John Runyon, Lee Russell

Presentation

John Runyon, Cascade Environmental, gave a presentation on the ODFW HabRate model that he is using to analyze the data collected in the Elk Creek Watershed, both from previous ODFW surveys, and from our bioassessment surveys in 2015 and 2016. The results of this analysis will help to prioritize subwatersheds that will respond to restoration, and guide the development of a multi-year plan for the Council's restoration program.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the January 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of February 15, 2019 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Joe Coons, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 January 2019		\$122,685.55
Deposits:	\$30,697.73	
Checks:	(\$46,914.06)	
<hr/>		
Ending Balance: 31 January 2019		\$106,469.22
Deposits		\$17,146.25
Outstanding Checks		(\$8,184.82)
<hr/>		
Balance		\$115,430.65
Accounts Receivable	\$0.0	
Accounts Payable	(\$3,257.60)	
<hr/>		

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the Executive Committee met this morning, and the topics of discussion will be covered in subsequent reports.

Bureau of Land Management

No report.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich reported that he ranked our Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration project as high priority to the OWEB regional review team.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

No report. One of the two weed board grant applications was approved – no funding for Portuguese broom and Spurge Laurel.

Council Coordinator

Jen Bailey reviewed the Council Coordinator's report (*see attached*).

Executive Director

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

New Business

The Board approved re-electing Nick Botner, Harold Burris, Brad Chapman, Kittie Coons, Cindy Johnsrud, Bob Rundell to a two-year term as Board members, as well as the current Board officers to a one-year term: James Mast as Chair, Joe Coons as Vice Chair, Cindy Johnsrud as Treasurer, Kittie Coons as Secretary (term (motion by Rick Reinhart, second by Linda Galetti).

The Board approved the 2017–2019 Work Plan (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Cindy Johnrud)

Adjournment

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Council Coordinator Report

February 19, 2019

Restoration Projects

1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration
 - The OWEB Regional Review Team ranked this project 5th out of 11, and it's expected to be above the staff's recommended funding line. We won't get the evaluations until late March, and the OWEB board will approve funding at their April meeting. But I need to get going now on finding logs and lining up field work.
 - Applying for a grant from the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby.
 - Walt Barton is designing a railcar bridge on Jack Creek for the landowner. I'll secure ODFW and NMFS fish passage approval of the engineering design.
2. Lower Jack Creek Erosion Control
 - Visited the site – the tree revetments are capturing sediment as intended.
3. Lower Jack Creek Livestock Water
 - The landowners are installing an off-channel livestock water system this summer.
4. Lower Jack Creek Habitat Restoration
 - Working on an OWEB restoration grant application due April 29th to fund instream habitat and riparian restoration work. The landowners are very supportive, contributing riparian fencing as project match, but not all fencing will meet OWEB's offset requirement (two times bank height, plus 10').
5. Kennerly Stream Protection
 - Walt Barton met with the landowner and redesigned the project to reduce the culvert length from 160' to 40', adding fenced berms instead. Re-submitted OWEB small grant application.
6. Turkey Crick Livestock Water
 - Met with the rancher to identify areas of new riparian fencing to accompany the proposed off-channel livestock water system. Re-submitted OWEB small grant application.
7. Umpqua Small Grant Program
 - Following up with Douglas County Parks Director about possible riparian planting projects at three county parks. The Umpqua Small Grant Team's first look at these projects is that they don't qualify for funding, but a different planting project could be of interest.
 - I expect there to be funding available for two additional projects, and am exploring options.

8. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement

- Working on an OWEB restoration grant application due April 29th for instream work on Ellenburg Creek, with Seneca as the primary landowner. New watershed assessment/analysis information from Cascade Environmental will be used in the application.
- Following up with DEQ on their listing of Ellenburg Creek for 'Biocriteria', which is based on the macroinvertebrate population as a representation of overall stream health.

9. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funded Projects

- There is \$180,000 remaining in this fund for wetland-oriented projects. I haven't followed up on this yet.

Communications & Outreach

1. Brochure

- Susan Applegate and I are working on a brochure on the watershed council, to be mailed to everyone in the watershed this spring.

2. Landowner Free Lunch

- The Free Lunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th. Hope that everyone can make it! Lee will provide a new list of landowner addresses for the invitation. I am lining up a speaker. Lunch will no longer be catered by the Sunnydale Grange - I'm thinking Costco deli sandwiches instead.

3. Riparian Restoration Workshop

- Attending a two-day training workshop on "Applied Riparian Restoration: Turning Theory into Practice", March 7-8th. Applied for a partial fee waiver
- Lee has recommended that I attend the Watershed Management Camp, May 16-17. A partial agenda just came out, and it looks very relevant.

Executive Director Report

15 February 2019

Outstanding OWEB Small Grants:

- I.) **Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (#07-14-005)**
 - A monitoring report will be submitted in 2019.
- II.) **Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (#07-14-006)**
 - A monitoring report will be submitted in 2019.
- III.) **Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing: (#07-16-007)**
 - A monitoring report will be submitted in 2020.
- IV.) **Fitch Creek Culvert Removal: (#07-16-008)**
 - Final report and fund requests have been submitted to OWEB.

Watershed Council Assessment & Planning Projects:

- V.) **Cascade Environmental Data Evaluation & Strategic Plan:**
 - Cascade Environmental has entered all the data from the ODFW stream surveys, and from our surveys completed in 2015 and 2016, and developed a GIS-database to summarize and query the data.
 - They have finished setting up ODFW's HabRate model on the data to identify the quality of the habitat in reaches throughout the watershed.
 - We're looking at the criteria that will allow us to prioritize those reaches and subwatersheds that will best respond to restoration actions.
 - This will help us develop a multi-year restoration strategy for the Council. This will be a big step in moving the Council away from a totally opportunistic approach to restoration, and form the basis for a strategic approach, something that OWEB expects from what it considers to be a "high functioning council."
 - I've started outlining a framework for how we will use the restoration strategy to guide the development of restoration projects.
- VI.) **Big Tom Folley Assessment and Restoration Planning: (#219-2042)**
 - We submitted an OWEB Technical Assistance grant to do bioassessment data collection, and to develop a detailed restoration plan, for Big Tom Folley Creek.
 - This grant was not approved, but we may be able to resubmit in April and try to address the comments from the RRT.
- VII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**
 - We still have funding to complete another 10-15 miles of stream survey. This can be used to match OWEB-funded survey work in Big Tom Folley in summer of 2019.

Watershed Council Management:

VIII.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- The Council's federal and state, non-profit tax returns were submitted in November. If any Board member is interested in reviewing these, please let me know.
- The annual financial and progress reports for the BLM RAC grants were submitted in December. One of these was the final report for the assistance agreement that expired in September; the other won't expire until 2021.
- The Council's Annual Report which is required to be sent to the County Commissioners has been completed. We got a nice letter back from Tim Freeman praising the work we are doing and our contribution to the economy of Douglas County.
- The OWEB work plan for 2019-2021 is nearly complete. This will be a large part of the Council Support application which is due March 4th. The Council needs to review and approve the work plan.

IX.) Umpqua Basin Collaborative:

- PUR has circulated a draft of the Umpqua Strategic Action Plan. I'm reviewing this and will make comments as the group moves toward a final document.
- There is some draft material on the governance documents that will guide *how* the organizations will work together and make decisions. I will review these and comment.
- 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.
- The Council's contract with Cascade Environmental to develop a medium-to-long-term restoration strategy 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, if and when they arrive.

X.) Douglas County CREP:

- The quarterly report for October to December has been submitted, invoiced, and paid.

XI.) Oregon Weed Board Grants:

- Applications for the 2019 Weed Board grants were submitted to OWEB in December. Only one of the two was approved.
- Douglas SWCD is working on the final report for the Distaff Thistle grant. This will allow us to submit the final payment request. There is some additional work to be done on the Portuguese Broom grant which expires April 30th.

XII.) NRCS Farm Bill Assistance:

- The OWEB application for supplemental support for the NRCS was approved.
- OWEB is working on the grant agreements, and I have been working with Courtney Shaff on the final budgets.