

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 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, Lee Russell

Meeting Minutes

The February 2019 meeting minutes will be revised to describe John Runyon's presentation to the watershed council.

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of March 18, 2019 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Brad Chapman).

Beginning Balance: 1 February 2019		\$106,469.22
Deposits:	\$17,146.25	
Checks:	(\$8,259.82)	
<hr/>		
Ending Balance: 28 February 2019		\$115,355.65
Deposits		\$0.0
Outstanding Checks		(\$7,653.85)
<hr/>		
Balance		\$107,701.80
Accounts Receivable	\$0.0	
Accounts Payable	(\$883,75)	
<hr/>		
Fund Balance		\$106,818.05

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. The council support biennium starts in July, so contracts are being negotiated.

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

Walt Barton reported that the state weed board approved one grant application, but not the one for treating Portuguese broom and spurge laurel.

Council Coordinator

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

Susan Applegate reported that she and Jen met about the brochure, and have a draft of the language and determined what kind of visuals to include. Susan will be creating the illustrations based on other brochures. People offered to contribute pictures.

Executive Director

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

The Board discussed the multi-year restoration strategy being developed by Cascade Environmental. John Runyon, Lee and Jen will meet with Seneca to discuss our assessment work, Ellenburg and Big Tom Folley Creeks. Lee noted that we will have a template for charts and graphs that we can use for every sub-watershed. Jamie stressed the importance of the six-year strategic plan to get support from key landowners and partners.

There will be no new CREP sign-ups until the end of the year.

The Board discussed disaster relief programs for the damage caused by the recent snowstorm.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Council Coordinator Report

March 19, 2019

Restoration Projects

1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration
 - Awaiting OWEB board's formal approval on April 18 to fund this project. In the meantime, doing critical prep work for this summer.
 - Visited Jack Creek with Eric Himelreich and Lee Russell on March 11. Resurveying creek with Eric on March 18, to re-flag sites, mark staging, incorporate downed hardwoods into structures, as well as possibly whole fir trees with rootwads.
 - Applying for a grant from the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby for \$5,000 of logs.
 - 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 Livestock Water
 - OWEB received the grant agreement from the small grant team on March 13, and raised an issue that could put a wrench into our plans. More news by the board meeting.
3. Kennerly Stream Protection
 - The small grant team did not act upon the small grant application re-submitted on February 15. Resubmitted the grant on March 14, and expect it to be approved by the scheduled March 27 team meeting.
4. Turkey Crick Livestock Water
 - The small grant team did not act upon the small grant application re-submitted on February 15. Resubmitted the grant on March 15, and expect it to be approved by the scheduled March 27th team meeting. Note that I am now sending all small grant applications to OWEB for review in advance.
5. Umpqua Small Grant Program
 - Our watershed council is the only one who has applied for funding this biennium, and there is still \$65,000 available for projects that can be developed in the next four to six weeks. I am pursuing a few options.
6. Lower Jack Creek Habitat Restoration
 - Working on an OWEB restoration grant application due April 29th to fund instream habitat and riparian restoration work. Landowner match of riparian fencing is a critical element of this project.
7. 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. Due to the 2019 Snowmagadon, resurveying the creek with ODFW has rescheduled to March 22nd (if it

is safe at that point). Providing a 25% match is critical for this project, and the downed trees may actually be an opportunity.

- New watershed assessment/ analysis information from Cascade Environmental will be used in the application.
- No progress in the last month in 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.

8. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funded Projects

- There is \$180,000 remaining in this fund for wetland-oriented projects. No action on this of late.

Communications & Outreach

1. Brochure

- Susan Applegate and I had two good work sessions on the brochure, but I have not had the opportunity to work on this in the last month.

2. Landowner Free Lunch

- The Executive Committee postponed the Landowner Free Lunch scheduled for April 6. With 2019 Snowmagaddon, we were out of time to develop the landowner mailing list. We need to reschedule for the fall.

3. Riparian Restoration Workshop

- I traveled to Central Point for the two-day training workshop on "Applied Riparian Restoration: Turning Theory into Practice", but had to return to Douglas County due to a 2019 Snowmagaddon emergency and missed out on what sounded like a terrific educational opportunity. Following up with organizers and attendees to learn what I can.

4. Watershed Management Camp, May 16-17 - pending

Executive Director Report

19 March 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 consider resubmitting, and try to address the comments from the RRT.
 - As expected, our plans to try to work with Seneca in Big Tom Folley have raised the concerns of PUR, and their interests in working with BLM in the watershed. I will be meeting with Eric Riley (PUR) to discuss possibilities for reaching a solution.

VII.) Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):

- We still have funding to complete another 10-15 miles of stream survey. We had planned to do survey work in Big Tom Folley in summer of 2019, but we may want to consider an alternative if we want to avoid a turf-war with PUR.

Watershed Council Management:

VIII.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- The OWEB council support application, and the work plan for 2019-2021, was submitted on March 4th. The council has passed the OWEB eligibility determination stage.

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.
- 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 CREP Partnership meets monthly to review and facilitate CREP contracts in the Umpqua Basin. The Council has been coordinating and administering the contracts for projects that require cultural resources surveys.

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.
- We've received the grant agreements for the Farm Bill Assistance grants. There will be a conference call on the 15th to go over the details for how this program will work.
- At this point, the CREP Technician will work with the NRCS District Conservationist to perform the work, Douglas SWCD will bill the Council, and the Council will bill OWEB.