

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 16, 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 Board approved the February and March 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Bob Rundell).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of April 11, 2019 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Brad Chapman).

Beginning Balance: 1 March 2019		\$115,355.65
Deposits:	\$0.0	
Checks:	(\$7,653.85)	
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Ending Balance: 31 March 2019		\$107,701.80
Deposits		\$0.0
Outstanding Checks		(\$7,653.85)
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Balance		\$107,701.80
Accounts Receivable	\$33,494.86	
Accounts Payable	(\$32,890.60)	
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Fund Balance		\$108,306.06

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the Executive Committee have been discussing job descriptions and tasks for the personal services contracts, and will bring this back to the board.

Bureau of Land Management - Jeff McEnroe

No report.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Eric Himmelreich

No report.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District – Walt Barton

No report.

Council Coordinator

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

Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director’s report (*see attached*). Lee has directed John Runyon to focus on outreach materials for landowners, preparing a draft for Ellenburg Creek. We need an assessment of 6th fields, incorporating landowner support as a factor. The meeting with Seneca will be critical.

Lee explained that our contract with DSWCD for CREP is not affected by the fact that there are no new CREP signups until December. NRCS and FSA are working on existing projects, and OWEB has clarified that planning for new CREP projects is allowed. Also, the OWEB grant for the NRCS Farm Assistance bill has come through, so the CREP technician will be working with the District Conservationist to do site evaluation and legwork on Farm Bill projects.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Council Coordinator Report

April 16, 2019

Restoration Projects

1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration
 - Expanded scope of project to include Reach 1 of Jack Creek. With the newly-downed woody debris from the February snowstorm, the project budget can absorb the cost of eight additional instream habitat structures.
 - Applying for Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby grant for \$5,000 worth 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
 - Project is approved. Landowner will install the off-channel livestock watering system and riparian fencing this summer.
3. Kennerly Stream Protection
 - Project is approved. Waiting on the grant agreement.
4. Turkey Crick Livestock Water
 - OWEB has okayed the project, and the small grant team will approve it next week.
5. Umpqua Small Grant Program
 - Pursuing a couple additional small grant applications, that must be done by May.
6. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement
 - Resurveyed creek with Eric Himmelreich. Proposed to Seneca that they donate newly-fallen trees and a few standing trees in the riparian area to the project.
 - No luck in scheduling meeting with Seneca. Lee has sent them a letter that may help.
 - 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.
7. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funded Projects
 - Contacted by Douglas County Natural Resources, interested in constructing salamander habitat on Billy Creek to mitigate for recent logging.

Communications & Outreach

1. Brochure
 - I have made no progress on this in the last month, sorry, Susan.
2. Landowner Free Lunch
 - The next lunch program will be in late March 2020.

Executive Director Report

16 April 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)**
 - A monitoring report will be submitted in 2020.

Watershed Council Assessment & Planning Projects:

- V.) **Cascade Environmental Data Evaluation & Strategic Plan:**
 - 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, and 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. Cascade has completed a draft of the watershed assessment data that we want to present to Seneca for restoration in Ellenburg Creek.
- VI.) **Big Tom Folley Assessment and Restoration Planning: (#219-2042)**
 - We are still trying to set up a meeting with Seneca to show them the results of our habitat analysis, and how we will use this to prioritize restoration in the Elk Creek Watershed.
 - 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 have talked with Eric Riley (PUR) to discuss our interest in doing bioassessments in Big Tom Folley this summer, with the goal of using that data to develop a watershed-scale restoration plan. PUR is trying to get Seneca's approval to do some instream restoration this summer with BLM funding.
 - When we meet with Seneca, my goal will be to convince them that using the bioassessment surveys to develop a "data-driven" restoration plan for Big Tom Folley will provide much more credible support to show Seneca's commitment to restoration.
- VII.) **Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):**
 - We still have funding to complete another 10-15 miles of stream survey. We are hoping to do survey work in Big Tom Folley in summer of 2019, but we may want to consider an alternative if Seneca is reluctant to get involved in our conflict 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.
- OWEB has reviewed our application and determined that we have met their merit qualifications. We will be recommended for full funding for 2019-2021.

IX.) Umpqua Basin Collaborative:

- The Umpqua Basin Collaborative has not met for nearly a year.
- My estimation is that unless someone in the Collaborative has the time and energy to step up and help move this process forward, the chances of the Umpqua getting an OWEB FIP implementation grant are slim.
- The Council's contract with Cascade Environmental to develop a medium-to-long-term restoration strategy may 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 was 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.
- This is similar to the way the Douglas County CREP program is set up.