

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 21, 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 April 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Linda Galetti).

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of May 21, 2019 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 April 2019		\$107,701.80
Deposits:	\$0.0	
Checks:	(\$62,699.35)	
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Ending Balance: 30 April 2019		\$45,002.45
Deposits		\$33,494.86
Outstanding Checks		(2,201.00)
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Balance		\$76,296.31
Accounts Receivable	\$775.00	
Accounts Payable	(\$1,483.75)	
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Fund Balance		\$75,387.56

### Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the next Executive committee will focus on the personal services contracts for the next biennium, for approval at the next board meeting.

## Bureau of Land Management – Jeff McEnroe

- *I haven't been doing much restoration work lately. I'm a lead for getting the BLM roads opened up from the snowmagedon damage. I've been working with a contractor to open all the BLM roads around Cox Creek and Upper Elk Creek (off Romie Howard). They are just about wrapped up and moving into Smith River next.*
- *The Deadman's Folley Timber Sale (Brush and Big Tom Folley Creeks) is going out for public review in the next few weeks. It got delayed because we added in some salvage logging of some of the snowmagedon trees in those areas.*
- *BLM has about \$25,000 of money left at PUR for Big Tom Folley Creek that is set to expire this year. We are trying to come up with a plan on how to spend that which might involve sawyers cutting some of the snow down trees that are over the creeks down into them, using an excavator to place snow down trees from the road into the creek, or decking some snow down trees for future restoration work. Definitely still in the planning stages.*
- *The BLM under this administration has de-emphasized restoration and locally we still have not filled the District Fish Biologist position. The bottom line of both of these is that I have very little time for stream restoration work. I hope this changes in the next couple years.*
- *Finally, I have a baby girl due to arrive on June 6th so I will be off for most of June on paternity leave.*

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Eric Himmelreich

- *10 projects scheduled for 2019 in-stream total. With ~300 sites and slightly over 20 miles in Douglas County this year (This includes Elk Creek WC).*
- *Filled out a review for the Turkey Creek and Clover Creek water quality improvement small grants.*
- *Re-flagged with Jen Bailey Jack Creek and Hardscrabble Creek.*
- *Going out this Friday to look at the lower 8 sites on Jack Creek.*

## Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District – Walt Barton

Rain has delayed distaff thistle spraying, but the crew has done one round of Paterson's Curse. Scotch broom has been sprayed on I-5 and other highways. Working on reports.

## Council Coordinator

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

## Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*). Highlights include: Cascade Environmental is developing a prioritization matrix to prioritize 6<sup>th</sup> fields, based

on criteria such as poor winter habitat, poor winter/summer habitat, landowner cooperation. This summer's rapid bioassessment work in Big Tom Folley will result in a data-driven restoration plan with measurable, objective goals re how much and where we are putting in materials. These base-line measurements of habitat conditions will allow future comparison with habitat after restoration is complete. Landowner outreach materials are also being developed, thanks to a BLM RAC grant.

We received full funding for the 2019-2021 OWEB council support grant.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Council Coordinator Report

May 17, 2019

### Restoration Projects

#### 1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration

- Finishing up edits to the OWEB grant application, to complete the final grant agreement. Funding went into effect after the mid-April OWEB board meeting.
- Applying for \$5,000 from the Umpqua Fish Enhancement Derby to purchase logs.
- Eric Himmelreich has revised the instream designs to exclude the use of boulders for ballasting and incorporate trees with rootwads. There are a total of 75 sites: 71 with all wood (logs, trees with rootwads, whole trees), and 4 with all boulders. The cost savings on boulders will go towards the eight sites on lower Jack Creek that have been incorporated into this project.
- Don Porior is approving the final engineering specifications for the Hardscrabble Creek bridge.
- Looking for additional logs to purchase, as the landowner will not be able to provide all of them after all.
- Coordinating with contractor on summer work.
- Working with landowner and rancher to finalize off-channel livestock watering system.
- 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

- Awaiting signed grant agreement from OWEB.
- The landowner is installing the off-channel livestock watering system and riparian fencing this summer.

#### 3. Kennerly Stream Protection

- Awaiting signed grant agreement from OWEB.
- The landowner is installing the culvert, hardened feeding area, barn gutters, etc. this summer. Walt Barton is working with the landowner on this project.

#### 4. Turkey Crick Livestock Water

- Awaiting signed grant agreement from OWEB.
- The rancher is installing the off-channel livestock watering system and riparian fencing this summer.

#### 5. Clover Creek Livestock Water Improvement

- Developed new OWEB small grant project with George Sandberg to extend an off-channel livestock watering system, with the goal of improving water quality.

- The small grant team is reviewing the project. OWEB has not yet signed off on it. The grant agreement must be completed by the end of the month.

#### 6. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement

- Eric Himmelreich reworked the instream designs to exclude the use of boulders for ballasting.
- Worked with Ted Reiss, Seneca's Timberlands Manager, to identify recently downed trees that Seneca will donate to the project. This includes trees with rootwads outside of the riparian buffer.
- Resurveyed creek with Lee, when we ran into Ted. Great encounter, and he's given us the go-ahead on doing the rapid bioassessment in Big Tom Folley this summer. Lee proposed a design for Site #28, the bedrock ledge at the upper end of the project area. The ledge does not appear to be a total barrier, now that the log that had been jammed on top of it has been removed.
- Worked with Jim Muck to get technical input from Aaron Beavers (Fish Passage Engineer) on Site #28. Jim gave NMFS' approval of the instream designs.
- Discussed Ellenburg Creek's 303d listing for 'biocriteria' with David Waltz (DEQ). The entire creek is listed, based on two ODFW macroinvertebrate samples taken in 2008 and 2009 on private agricultural land below our project area.
- Secured letters of support from all three landowners.
- Many many thanks to Lee Russell, who wrote all the text of the OWEB grant application! He was providing the watershed problem/solution section, but just kept on going from there, including the budget. This is a strong application.

#### 7. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funds

- Gabe Forrester of Douglas County Natural Resources is developing a project to spend Yoncalla Oil Spill Funds on habitat improvements for amphibians. Eric Himmelreich put him in touch with me, to identify potential project areas. It turns out that Gabe had my own property in mind, at the base of a recent clearcut. Not sure where this will go, but it will be a good learning opportunity.

#### 8. 2019–2021 Small Grant Program

- The Small Grant team needs to be reestablished for the 2019–2021 biennium.

### Communications and Outreach

#### 1. Landowner Contacts

- I have been contacted by several landowners who are seeking financial assistance for storm cleanup. Department of State Lands and the OWEB Small Grant program have referred landowners to me.

#### 2. Brochure

- No recent progress.

#### 3. Landowner Free Lunch

- The next lunch program will be in late March 2020.

# Executive Director Report

21 May 2019

## Outstanding OWEB Small Grants:

- I.) **Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (#07-14-005)**
- The monitoring report was submitted and accepted by OWEB.
- 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.

## OWEB Restoration Grants:

- V.) **Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration: (#219-2029)**
- The grant application was approved by OWEB for \$342,703.
  - The bridge for Hardscrabble Creek has been ordered.
  - OWEB required some edits to parts of the application. When these have been completed, we should get a grant agreement.
- VI.) **Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration: (#220-2009)**
- The OWEB Restoration Grant was submitted on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The total request was for \$183,375.
  - Seneca has agreed to donate lots of 30-40 year-old trees that went down in the snow storm. This should make it a great project.

## Watershed Council Assessment & Planning Projects:

- VII.) **Cascade Environmental Data Evaluation & Strategic Plan:**
- The Executive Committee evaluated the sixth-fields for the potential for landowner cooperation. This was added to the prioritization criteria for ranking sixth-field priorities.
  - When we're satisfied with the criteria, Cascade will put this into 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."
  - Cascade has completed a draft of the watershed assessment data that we want to present to Seneca for restoration in Ellenburg Creek. This will be part of the development of landowner outreach materials funded by the BLM RAC.

**VIII.) Big Tom Folley Assessment and Restoration Planning:**

- 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.
- Jen and I chanced to meet Ted Reiss (Seneca Timberlands Manager) as we were planning for the Ellenburg Creek grant. He seemed very supportive of the work we have been proposing.

**IX.) 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. After our meeting with Ted Reiss, I'm confident that we will be able to get Seneca's approval for this work.

**Watershed Council Management:**

**X.) OWEB Council Support Grant:**

- OWEB has reviewed our application and determined that we have met their merit qualifications. We will be recommended for full funding for 2019-2021. This is a big step for the Council, as it signals that OWEB has finally accepted that the Elk Creek Council is not just "an obstructionist, splinter group," but has a legitimate place in watershed restoration in the Umpqua.
- The fund request for January to March has been submitted and the funds received.

**XI.) Umpqua Basin Collaborative:**

- The Umpqua Basin Collaborative has not met for more than 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.

**XII.) 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.
- The Farm Services Agency (FSA) has suspended new CREP sign-ups. Work will continue on planning and implementation of current contracts.

**XIII.) 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

**XIV.) 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.