

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 17, 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 August 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of September 17, 2019, and the Accounts Payable (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Susan Applegate).

Beginning Balance: 1 August 2019		\$49,263.86
Deposits:	\$25,715.00	
Checks:	(\$27,461.25)	
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Ending Balance: 31 August 2019		\$47,517.61
Deposits		\$152,756.12
Outstanding Checks		(\$51,329.16)
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Balance		\$148,944.57
Accounts Receivable	\$5,294.15	
Accounts Payable	(\$124,115.90)	
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Fund Balance		\$30,122.82

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that the Executive Committee met twice, to get updated on current projects.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported that BLM and PUR completed the small restoration project on Big Tom Folley and North Fork Big Tom Folley to use up the remaining BLM RAC funds. The Board discussion re-visited the importance of future BLM restoration work in the Elk Creek watershed going through our council, rather than PUR, as agreed upon by BLM management.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich and Jen Bailey electroshocked Ellenburg and Buck Creeks, and found steelhead and a cutthroat, but no coho. This was at the lowest flow of the year – we will survey again in the spring.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton provided design drawings for the spring development and off-channel watering system for Jack Creek. He will provide additional technical assistance to the landowner.

Council Coordinator

Jen Bailey reviewed the Council Coordinator's report (*see attached*). The Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration project is going well. Implementation of the Clover Creek Livestock Water Improvement project is complete, and the other three small grants are in progress. Awaiting the OWEB Regional Review Team's feedback on the Ellenburg Creek grant application, which will re-submitted at the end of October.

The Board discussed the use of the Yoncalla Oil Spill funds. Douglas County Natural Resources is proposing a project on Jen's property for amphibian habitat development. BLM is proposing a project for Susan's pond, mainly for western pond turtles. Lee has a possible project related to rough popcorn flower on North Douglas Betterment's property.

Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*). OWEB processed the first fund request for the Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks project very quickly. We're still waiting for the final payment on the 2017–2019 council support grant. Lee presented a final draft of the strategic restoration action plan, which needs approval by the Board. Lee will submit an OWEB technical assistance grant application in late October for the Big Tom Folley Action Plan. The Douglas County CREP application was submitted on time. Lee has heard from PUR's Executive Director about future plans for the Umpqua Basin Collaborative, proposing to focus more on fish.

The Board discussed the effectiveness of development of side channels for off channel habitat. Personal experience, and our Cox Creek projects, indicate that they fill in with sediment fairly quickly.

Old Business

Bylaws – The Executive Committee will review Jen’s review of the bylaws.

Strategic Planning – The Board continues to discuss our long-term strategic planning.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Council Coordinator Report

September 15, 2019

Restoration

1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration

- Jack Creek brush control is complete. Fencing in progress. Herbicide spray pending.
- Walt Barton provided drawings for the spring development and watering facilities, and is available to help on-site.
- ODFW is seeking a culvert replacement project to mitigate for an undersized culvert on Anlauf Creek. I have proposed a culvert on Johney Creek road.

2. Clover Creek Livestock Water Improvement

- Waiting on one receipt to submit final documentation to OWEB.

3. Turkey Crick Livestock Water

- In progress.

4. Kennerly Stream Protection

- In progress.

5. Lower Jack Creek Livestock Water

- Now that the instream work is complete, the landowners can fence the riparian area. They've been busy with many related projects, so work on the livestock watering pipeline and troughs has not yet begun.

6. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement

- Waiting on feedback from the OWEB Regional Review Team to re-submit the grant in late October.
- Eric Himmelreich and I electroshocked the creek below and above the bedrock ledge, finding only a few steelhead. Eric is sure that the ledge is *not* a barrier to coho, but the stream is very narrow above there and may not be suitable for instream work.

7. Buck Creek Fish Passage

- Eric Himmelreich and I electroshocked above the bedrock channel, and did not find any coho. We will try again in March.

8. Big Tom Folley Instream Restoration

- Technical assistance grant in October?

9. Yoncalla Oil Spill Funds

- Douglas County Natural Resources is planning an amphibian habitat restoration project on my property on Billy Creek.

10. OWEB Small Grant Program

- Waiting on small grant team to be re-established for the 2019–2021 biennium, as there are at least four potential projects on the horizon.

Council Support

1. Bylaws

- Bylaws need to be updated to be consistent with the Oregon Revised Statutes.

Communications and Outreach

2. Landowner Free Lunch

- Need to line up speaker(s) for the Landowner Free Lunch program on Saturday, March 14th.

3. Brochure

- No progress this month.

Executive Director Report

17 September 2019

OWEB Restoration Grants:

I.) Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration: (#219-2029)

- The first fund request was submitted [See Accounts Receivable].
- It is unclear whether it will be processed quickly, as Mark Grenbemer is on vacation until 9/16/2019.

Watershed Council Assessment & Planning Projects:

II.) Cascade Environmental Data Evaluation & Restoration Plan:

- A draft of the Restoration Action Plan for the Elk Creek Watershed was presented at the last council meeting. The Council should approve the draft.
- The Plan should be used to guide the Council's annual Action Plan.

III.) Landowner Outreach and Education Grant (BLM):

- Cascade has used some of this grant to develop the presentation materials that we presented to Seneca for restoration in Ellenburg Creek.
- This format can be used in the development of landowner outreach materials for any subwatershed.

IV.) Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):

- The bioassessment survey in Big Tom Folley Creek was completed on July 29th.
- Cascade Environmental is reviewing and entering the data into the GIS database.
- The final component of this contract will be an initial report on the findings with supporting graphs. I've asked that this include anecdotal summaries of the reaches that will give Seneca land managers an overview of the fish use and distribution, habitat conditions, and past restoration projects and their effectiveness.

Watershed Council Fiscal Management:

V.) OWEB Council Support Grants:

- The final completion report and fund request for the 2017-2019 biennium was submitted on July 6th. After an email on August 28th, Mark said he would "get it processed." Final payment still hasn't been received.
- The grant agreement for the 2019-2021 biennium has been signed and returned.

VI.) Douglas County CREP:

- Applications for 2020-2021 are due September 13th.

VII.) Oregon Weed Board Grants:

- The 2019 Woolly Distaff - Patterson's Curse application was approved - \$48,576.
- The first payment (50%) has been received

VIII.) NRCS Farm Bill Assistance:

- The first quarterly report and fund request were approved by OWEB.
- The first payment has been received.

Watershed Council Organizational Development:

IX.) Strategic Planning:

- The Council *really* needs to consider some long-range planning. Articulating even a rudimentary vision for what the council should look like in the future can help shape strategies to achieve council goals. Planning can also clarify obstacles, and strategies to overcome them.
- The strategic plan should also establish the Council's priorities, and guide the expenditure of resources to achieve priority goals.
- This plan, and the process to develop it, needs to be generated by the Council Board. The Council should consider hiring a consultant to facilitate the process.

X.) Action Plan:

- The Council's 2018 Action Plan is obsolete and needs to be updated.
- The Action Plan should reflect the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, and the actions should be based on the Restoration Action Plan.