

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

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 November 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Cindy Johnsrud).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of January 15, 2020 and the Accounts Payable, (motion by Brad Chapman, seconded by Gene Zuiches).

Beginning Balance: 1 December 2019		\$81,626.37
Deposits:	\$18,359.98	
Checks:	(\$9,418.50)	
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Ending Balance: 31 December 2019		\$90,567.85
Deposits		\$0
Outstanding Checks		(\$13,500.00)
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Balance		\$77,067.85
Accounts Receivable	\$47,389.96	
Accounts Payable	(\$38,486.04)	
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Fund Balance		\$85,971.77

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast reported that founding board member Nick Botner is in poor health.

Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported:

- I reviewed your Strategic Action Plan – I thought it was well put together and a good, strategic approach.
- BLM does not have any restoration planned in Elk Creek for the next couple years. We have a couple big projects up the North Umpqua that are taking up most of my “non timber–sale time”. That being said, I would be open to proposals if you find some stream reaches with willing landowners that are adjacent to BLM lands. Please let me know if you have some ideas.
- Being short staffed – Steve Clark and I are unable to attend watershed council meetings at the current time. We are just spread too thin with not having our District Fish Biologist position filled. As soon as things improve, you will start seeing us again at watershed council meetings. Thanks for understanding.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich had nothing to report.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton had nothing to report

Council Coordinator

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

Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director’s report (*see attached*). The board discussed scheduling a public tour of projects.

Old Business

The Strategic Restoration Action Plan was distributed to board members for their review.

New Business

The Free Lunch program will be Saturday, March 14th. The Board is taking care of food and setup.

Adjournment

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Council Coordinator Report

January 21, 2020

Restoration

1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration

- Tree, shrub and willow planting in early February. Willow planting on Lower Jack Creek delayed until next year (after landowner installs off-channel watering and fencing). Expanding planting plan to include trees on Lower Jack Creek streambanks.
- Landowner is installing the off-channel livestock watering system on Upper Jack Creek this summer. Walt Barton was to provide on-site technical assistance.
- Landowner is responsible for herbicide regime for moisture control and brush control.
- Planning to do E.coli testing on Jack Creek, to compare to 2015 pre-fencing data.

2. Clover Creek Livestock Water Improvement

- OWEB project reporting is almost complete.

3. Turkey Crick Livestock Water

- OWEB project reporting is almost complete.

4. Kennerly Stream Protection

- Project delayed from last summer. Includes 32 hours of Walt Barton's technical assistance. This project is critical for PUR's water quality monitoring program for Rice Creek, and needs to get done this summer.

5. Lower Jack Creek Livestock Water

- Off-channel watering system will be installed this summer (delayed due to Snowmagaddon).

6. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement

- Awaiting OWEB's Regional Review Team's funding recommendations in February.

7. Buck Creek Fish Passage

- ODFW will electroshock in March to check for presence of coho.
- PUR and BLM are interested in using a similar approach on Rock Creek.

8. Elk Creek Off-Channel Habitat

- The landowners have decided not to pursue the potential restoration project to create seasonal flooding on Elk Creek above Susan Applegate's property. I'd like to find another place where we could do this.

9. Applegate Wildlife Pond

- Helping Susan Applegate on a project to drain her pond to remove invasive species harming the western pond turtle, with Yoncalla Oil Spill funds.
10. Clover Creek Riparian Fencing
 - New small grant for additional riparian fencing on this property.
 11. Turkey Crick Riparian Fencing
 - New small grant for additional riparian fencing on this property.
 12. Jacobsen Livestock Crossing
 - New small grant for a livestock crossing to accompany a CREP project.
 13. Van Epps Off-Channel Livestock
 - New small grant for an off-channel watering system to accompany a CREP project.
 14. Johney Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement
 - ODFW is ready to address the Anlauf Creek fish passage mitigation plan. Preparing proposal to ODFW to use Anlauf Creek mitigation funds to replace culvert on Johney Creek. Need to survey two other culverts on Johney Creek.
 - Potential OWEB restoration grant for instream work and fish passage, with the culvert replacement as match.
 15. Sand Creek Instream Restoration
 - Setting up a follow-up visit with the land manager, to tour the creeks after Snowmagaddon and give an update on our assessment work. If there's potential for instream restoration, I'd like John Runyon to help with the pitch.
 16. Rock Creek Instream Restoration
 - Setting up a visit with the land manager, Lee and me to tour the creek and explain our work.
 17. BLM East Elk Harvest
 - BLM's harvest plan may provide restoration opportunities.

Council Support

- Policies & Procedures Manual – needs to be updated with fiscal oversight policy
- Elections – I propose moving one Board position to the alternate year
- Strategic Planning – Have copy of Strategic Restoration Action Plan for each member

Communications and Outreach

- Brochure – getting done in next month, to mail before the Landowner Free Lunch
- Landowner Free Lunch – Saturday, March 14th
 - Lining up speaker(s)
 - Need updated landowner mailing list, unless we invite everyone
 - Board needs to plan meal, setup

Executive Director Report

15 January 2020

Watershed Council Assessment & Planning Projects:

I.) 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 can be used to guide the Council's annual Action Plan.

II.) 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.

III.) Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):

- Cascade Environmental is reviewing and entering the data into the GIS database.
- Ecosystems NW has provided anecdotal summaries of the survey.
- I'm preparing a report for Seneca that will give Ted Reiss an overview of the fish use and distribution, habitat conditions, and past restoration projects and their effectiveness.

Watershed Council Partnerships & Fiscal Management:

IV.) OWEB Council Support Grants:

- The first payment request for the 2019-2021 biennium has been received.
- OWEB has been invoiced for the October to December quarter.

V.) Douglas County CREP:

- Applications for the 2020-2021 biennium were submitted on September 13th. This grant will fund the Douglas County CREP Technician.
- The application was approved for \$170,060, and OWEB is working on the details of the funding.
- The final invoices for the 2018-2019 biennium have been submitted to OWEB.
- The online completion report will be completed in January.

VI.) Oregon Weed Board Grants (2019):

- The 2019 Weed Board work has been completed.
- Douglas SWCD is working on the online completion report.

VII.) Oregon Weed Board Grants (2020):

- Application for the 2020 Weed Board grant was submitted in December.

VIII.) NRCS Farm Bill Assistance:

- The October-December invoice has been submitted to OWEB.

IX.) Umpqua Basin Focused Investment Partnership:

- PUR’s application to OWEB for a capacity-building grant to fund the development of a “Coho Business Plan” that will focus on coho restoration in the Umpqua Basin was not recommended for funding. The main concern of reviewer was that the Partnership has not completed the Focused Investment Partnership Strategic Plan that was previously funded.

OWEB Small Grant Program

X.) Umpqua Basin Small Grant Team:

- The documents establishing the Umpqua Basin Small Grant Team for the 2019 to 2020 biennium have been completed and returned to OWEB.

Watershed Council Organizational Development:

XI.) Watershed Council Annual Report:

- The Council’s Annual Report has been completed and sent to the Douglas County Commissioners.

XII.) BLM Assistance Agreements:

- The Annual Reports for the BLM RAC grants have been completed and sent to the BLM.

XIII.) Strategic Planning:

- The Council needs to consider more long-range planning.
- A strategic plan should also establish the Council’s priorities, and guide the expenditure of resources to achieve priority goals.

XIV.) 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.