

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 18, 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 January 2019 meeting minutes (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Susan Applegate).

### Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of February 11, 2020 and the Accounts Payable, (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Beginning Balance: 1 January 2020		\$90,567.85
Deposits:	\$17,496.99	
Checks:	(\$44,036.04)	
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Ending Balance: 31 January 2020		\$64,028.80
Deposits		\$0
Outstanding Checks		(\$7,950.00)
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Balance		\$56,078.80
Accounts Receivable	\$29,892.97	
Accounts Payable	(\$0.0)	
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Fund Balance		\$85,971.77

### Executive Committee and Council Business

Nothing to report.

### Bureau of Land Management

Jeff McEnroe reported that BLM is planning their 2021 "East Elk" timber sale, and provided an updated map. He has the ability to get some BLM riparian trees for restoration work.

As of right now, those can only be used on BLM lands but it could serve as match for a stream restoration project.

#### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Himmelreich reported that ODFW is meeting to decide whether to fund the Johney Creek culvert replacement using the Anlauf Creek mitigation money.

#### Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Walt Barton's last day will be March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Council Coordinator

Jen Bailey reviewed the Council Coordinator report (*see attached*). While Ellenburg Creek was recommended for funding by OWEB staff, it was ranked too low to be likely to be funded in this round. The Board discussed the OWEB Regional Review Team and future funding. Susan Applegate reviewed her project development work on the Applegate Wildlife Pond renovation. A site visit with the ODFW turtle biologist is planned.

#### Executive Director

Lee Russell reviewed the Executive Director's report (*see attached*). OWEB is moving towards regional planning that would be funded as a group, but the Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership never went anywhere. The council needs a new action plan.

#### Old Business

The Board approved the Strategic Restoration Action Plan (motion by Susan Applegate, seconded by Brad Chapman).

#### New Business

The Free Lunch program will be Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Nick Botner passed away last week. James Mast is ordering a plaque to be presented to Nick's wife.

Gene Zuiches is taking Nick's place on the board. The Board re-elected Marvin Akins, Joe Coons, John Kittelman, James Mast, Rick Reinhart, Gene Zuiches, Susan Applegate (Alternate), Linda Galetti (Alternate) (motion by Gene Zuiches, seconded by Brad Chapman)

#### Adjournment

# Elk Creek Watershed Council

## Council Coordinator Report

February 18, 2020

### Restoration

#### 1. Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration

- Expanded riparian planting plan to include Lower Jack Creek. Tree and shrub planting this week, with willows to follow. ECWC will spray for moisture control and brush control in 2020 and 2021, with the landowners taking over responsibility for the herbicide regime thereafter.
- Walt Barton will provide technical assistance as needed for the landowner's installation of the off-channel livestock watering system on Upper Jack Creek.
- The landowner is constructing a log-based crossing on Johney Creek for the livestock to access the pasture on the north side of Johney Creek, between Jack Creek and Jack Creek Road.
- Planning site visit with ODFW to check out Johney Creek culverts. ODFW is deciding at the end of this month whether to replace the Johney Creek culvert with the Anlauf Creek mitigation money.

#### 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

- This project is critical for PUR's water quality monitoring program for Rice Creek, and needs to get done this summer. The budget includes time for Walt Barton's technical assistance. Attending PUR board meeting presentation on Rice Creek agricultural water quality monitoring project.

#### 5. Lower Jack Creek Livestock Water

- Walt Barton will provide technical assistance as needed.

#### 6. Ellenburg Creek Habitat Improvement

- The OWEB Regional Review team recommended funding this project for the second time, but ranked it 9<sup>th</sup> out of nine (with an additional four projects not recommended for funding). It is extremely unlikely that this project will be funded for this summer. Awaiting the review team's feedback on the grant application, to re-submit it in April.

#### 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 their Rock Creek.
8. 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.
  9. Van Epps Off-Channel Livestock
    - Site visit with landowners to prepare an OWEB small grant application to partially fund an off-channel livestock watering system, in conjunction with their CREP project. Grant will include Walt Barton's time for technical assistance.
  10. Bennet Creek Livestock Crossing
    - Site visit with landowners to prepare an OWEB small grant application to partially fund a livestock crossing, in conjunction with their CREP project. Grant will include Walt Barton's time for technical assistance.
  11. Clover Creek Riparian Fencing
    - Working with landowner on another OWEB small grant for this property.
  12. Turkey Crick Riparian Fencing
    - Working with rancher and landowner on another OWEB small grant for this property.
  13. Johney Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement
    - Exploring potential of in-stream restoration work on Johney Creek, to accompany ODFW culvert replacement.
  14. Big Tom Folley
    - The OWEB Regional Review Team recommended that OWEB not fund our technical assistance grant. Awaiting their feedback by the beginning of March, for Lee to potentially re-submit the grant application.
  15. Sand Creek Instream Restoration
  16. Rock Creek Instream Restoration
  17. BLM East Elk Harvest
    - BLM is not planning any restoration work in conjunction with this harvest, but I'd still like to figure out how to get the culls placed on adjacent private land. It's a long shot.

## Council Support

- Policies & Procedures Manual – Needs to be updated with fiscal oversight policy
- Elections – Re-balanced the annual elections across our two-year election cycle. We need to address succession planning.
- Strategic Planning – Got the Strategic Restoration Action Plan to most of the board members. The plan needs to be approved at this board meeting.

## Communications and Outreach

- Brochure – Finalizing brochure for all Yoncalla, Drain and Elkton community members with invitation to Free Lunch on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Free Lunch – Awaiting confirmation from main ODFW speaker. Board members will handle food and setup.

# Executive Director Report

18 February 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:

- The application for the 2020-2021 biennium 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 has been submitted and approved.

### VI.) Oregon Weed Board Grants (2019):

- The 2019 Weed Board work has been completed.
- Douglas SWCD is working on the online completion report - due June 30th.

### 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 report and invoice has been submitted to OWEB.
- This grant is due to expire at the end of February. It doesn't look like it will be renewed.

**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.