

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

Working together to restore the Sandy River

26000 SE Stark, GE Building, Gresham, OR 97030



Approved Minutes of the March 19th, 2018 Council Meeting at the Sandy Watershed Learning Center

Present:

Steve Wise
Sara Ennis
Bill Weiler
Katherine Cory
Melissa Cannell
Carl Exner
Alan L'Hommedieu
Julie DiLeone
Erin Law
Todd Alsbury
Steve Rayne

Cindy Kolomechuk
Gerald Murphy
Liane Davis
Howard Schaller
Margaret Filardo
Dianna Pope
Roy Iwai
Jay Wilson
Janet Davis
Neva Knott

Carl Exner called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. After introductions, the minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Approval was moved by Janet Davis and seconded by Dianna Pope. Minutes were approved.

Finances and Budget

- 2018 YTD Date Funding:
 - Income YTD: \$ 282,956.30
 - Direct Public Support \$207,944.58
 - Government Grants \$75,011.72
 - Private Funding \$28.30
 - Expenses YTD: \$206,904.50
 - Staff \$125,363.44
 - Program/Project Expenses \$75,851.19
 - Administrative \$5,689.87

Resources Legacy Fund \$75,000 for Kelly
Meyer Memorial Fund -\$120,000 over three years, partnership development a
communications plan, and diverse outreach

\$921,506 towards projects this year

\$383,769 pending

\$155,000 needed for Retrofit and other projects, if we receive all other funding

The Council will most likely break the \$1 million mark for the first time this year, which entails different requirements for reporting and auditing, necessitating working with a different accountant at a higher cost.

Review and Adoption of Bylaws

The Bylaw review sub-committee of Steve Rayne, Dianna Pope, and Janet Davis met to work on the bylaws. Changes include: clarification of elections, officer terms, the annual meeting moved to January, etc. The bylaws have been sent out, please send suggestions to Katherine prior to the end of April and then the updates can be approved at the May council meeting.

Learning Moment: 2017 Fish returns and weir report, Todd Alsbury, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ODFW has achieved their goal of fewer than 10% hatchery fish straying upstream of the Marmot dam, down from 75% after dam removal in 2007. Prior to 2007, ODFW staff sorted out the hatchery fish at the dam, releasing only the wild fish upstream. With the removal the dam, hatchery and wild fish mixed upstream, weakening the gene pool. To prevent this, ODFW has installed weirs at critical junctures each year for the past ten summers to catch and sort out hatchery fish. For the past few years also acclimated hatchery fish at the mouth of the Bull Run River for a few weeks, so the fish would be more likely to return to the Bull Run, which they have. Conditions in the Bull Run River are such that if hatchery fish spawn there, the redds reliably get washed out by high flows, so there is much less concern about them mixing with wild fish. These dual efforts have reduced the stray rate to below the goal of less than 10% for the past three years (7.3% in 2017). ODFW releases 132,000 hatchery raised spring Chinook into the Sandy each year.

An estimated 5530 wild spring Chinook returned last year, up from 3,600 wild spring Chinook in 2016. The trend over time is increasing. This year ODFW staff will wait until August 15th (a month later than previous seasons) to install the weirs, and to collect wild fish for the hatchery brood program. Recent data indicate that hatchery fish begin to return around this time. The variability of return timing has changed significantly with spring Chinook spotted in the fall fishery. Fall Chinook are difficult to survey for because they spawn at times when survey conditions are poor and protocols cannot be maintained, ODFW needs better strategies for tracking this species.

Steelhead returns have been impressive since the removal of the dam, in 2017, there were 3000 redds throughout the basin with the largest concentration in the lower Salmon River in sites that had recently been restored by the BLM and other partners. Clackamas Steelhead are doing similarly well, although steelhead throughout the region are fairing poorly. See slides for additional information.

Stellars sea lions are moving into Columbia River tributaries, including the Sandy River where nine were captured and relocated to Newport; though they all returned within a week. Three were euthanized. ODFW is potentially going to being culling up to 96 sea lions per year in the coming years.

Council Program Updates

Funder Updates –Pending Grants

MHCC Retrofit – needs additional funding, proposals submitted to NFWF, Spirit Mountain Dam Removal Feasibility – OWEB ranked five, not likely to be funded, Patagonia

Delta Restoration – National Forest Foundation; Metro; PGE Habitat
Youth Stewardship Education – Collins, Oregon Wildlife Foundation
Sandy-Salmon – Need to fund the design work. Potential funders include NOAA Coastal Resilience, OWEB (April), Pacific Power (April)

MHCC Retrofit Updates

Spirit Mountain Community Fund came for a site visit 3/12, providing an opportunity to educate their staff on restoration principles
SRWC Received partial funding from DEQ 319 for second year in a row
Moving toward final designs and permit applications
Depave kick-off May 19th
Kelly Creek Dam Removal consultant tour Tuesday 3/20 @1pm
DEQ Supplemental Environmental Projects could provide an additional source of funding
EMSWCD looking to see if they can buy a couple of dry wells
Application will be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund

Outreach Activities

MHCC class presentations
Bilingual Friends of Trees planting -first for both organizations, youth from Latino Network, twenty five Spanish speakers FOT will highlight the event in their newsletter -1100 regionally native (but not locally native) plants installed, such as ponderosa pine.
Beaver Creek mailer went out to 13,000 addresses in the watershed, with insert that included Spanish and Russian partial translations. Full translations and English version available on www.sandyriver.org website. Good volunteer response so far and will be used to develop further outreach strategies via social media and poster session for ACWA in May.
State of the Sandy Presentations –to USFWS, Metro and others to date and more coming.
Turtle Survey training on March 9th, twenty volunteers made it out to Sun Dial island at the Delta, and participated in basking survey, which requires sitting still for 20+ minutes.
Friends of Columbia River Gorge staff participated in a Delta tour on a wet soggy day.
There are new partnership opportunities with them as a result of gorge fire.
Social Media –thanks to Katherine and Melissa’s efforts, followers on Instagram have increased from 9 to 239 and have also increased significantly on FB, resulting in better volunteer turnout at events.
City of Gresham and Multnomah County public meeting regarding culvert replacement projects on Kane and Cochran Roads, attended by ~10 members of the public. Clarified construction plants and road closures

State of the Sandy Road Tour

Steve Wise will present the State of the Sandy at the following times and locations:

- Mountain Shop 3/29 7 pm
- Columbia River Estuary Partnership Conference April 10 Astoria
- OWEB Board April (tentative)
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council (TBD)

Emerging Opportunities

Intertwine Alliance Diversity Equity and Inclusion Cohorts

SRWC submitted a letter of interest to participate in this year's DEI cohort in hopes of participating in the Assessment cohort.

Lamprey Workshop at CONNECT Conference, Seaside in April

Steve Wise will be presenting a lamprey workshop in partnership with others to delve deeper into lamprey restoration than just "checking the box." USFWS, Grande Ronde, Warm Springs, Yakama tribal members and coordinator of the Johnson Creek volunteer lamprey survey program will also be apart of the panel.

Public Comment

Multnomah County Culvert update - Roy Iwai

Public meeting hosted by Multnomah County and City of Gresham at MHCC went well, about ten members of the public participated. Kane Rd. culvert will be built summer of 2018, with full road closure for several weeks. Cochran Rd/17th Ave. culvert will be replaced in 2019. Multnomah County is working with ODFW to retrofit the culvert on Beaver Creek at Troutdale Road hopefully this summer, to decrease jump heights on 1950's fish ladder, which block fish passage.

Clackamas County Flood Risk Management Update –Jay Wilson

Clackamas County received two year funding to partner with USACE "Silver Jackets" program around flood risk. The project will develop a flood risk management plan for the next 20 years based on the existing channel migration zone study already completed for the couple miles upstream of the Salmon-Sandy confluence. Oregon Solutions will help to facilitate the process, which will include multiple stakeholders –federal and state agencies, and residents. This may also include some effort to pass legislation that would disclose channel migration in addition to flood risk at the point of sale for properties at risk. Project partners toured site focus areas and happened to witness the illegal installation of riprap, highlighting the needed for greater regulation and enforcement to maintain channel conditions.

Council Meetings

- **Monday May 21st** to avoid conflict with the Memorial Day weekend

Upcoming Events

- **Planting at Columbia Land Trust Restoration Site*** Saturday March 23rd
- Earth Day Creek Cleanup at Mt. Hood Community College Friday April 20th
- Planting at Still Creek Restoration Site* -Event Full
- Pollinator Workshop* Wednesday April 23rd
- **Bilingual Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz*** Saturday May 12th
- **Depave at MHCC** Saturday May 19th*
- **July Picnic***
- Timberline Cleanup Saturday September 15th*
- Troutdale lower Sandy Floating Cleanup September 22nd*

Bold: Board Participation highly encouraged!

*Spanish speaking staff present