



Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Watershed Council Meeting

Present:

Todd Ronwald	Corinne Handelman
Greg Wanner	Gerald Murphy
Alan L'Hommedieu	Nick Clegg
Scott Fogerty	Jill Josselyn
Carl Exner	Roy Iwai
Steve Wise	Bill Weiler
Katherine Cory	Mike Sherrill
Dianna Pope	Terry Black
Rick Swart, ODFW	

(A) Council Development ~

- a. Approved the minutes from the January 26, 2015 meeting
- b. Financials: Katherine Cory/Steve Wise.

Our newest staff member, Katherine Cory, was introduced. Katherine is a landowner of 32 acres along Beaver Creek and formerly worked at Standard Insurance.

- 1) YTD Financials: March income was \$47,686.48 with pending reimbursements of \$111,892.17

\$950,000 in pending grant requests of which \$840,000 are in 15 project grants and include \$452,000 for the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) Floodplain Reconnection Project.

- 2) Fiscal In-housing --- next steps:
 - Integrating accounting systems
 - Payroll
 - Reconciliation for auditing (or a financial review)
- 3) Board pledge update: \$1,800 out of our \$5,000 goal has been received to date with seven contributors. The Meyer grant report is due October 15. The goal of this campaign is all-Board participation.

c. OWEB Updates

1. 2015-17 Council Support Biennium work plan submitted on time.

2. Review Team rankings out 3/27 regarding the 2014 proposals: SRBWC has two pending OWEB grant proposals: The CLT restoration project and outreach grant.
 3. April grant proposals: Focus on Conway Creek Culvert, estimated to be \$540,000 to remove a partial barrier culvert and replace with a bridge. Clackamas County has pledged to pay for 2/3 of the project. Greg Wanner said the reach about the culvert represents some of the most productive coho habitat in the upper Sandy River watershed, and therefore the highest priority culvert removal project.
- d. Council Strategy Session --- Draft Strategic Vision: Our overall goals
- Reach scale restoration
 - Community invested and committed to restoration efforts
 - Trusted voice on issues.

B) Learning Moment: Smelt in the Sandy by Rick Swart, ODFW

Rick Swart, Outreach & Media ODFW staff member discussed the historic and ecological importance of smelt, also known as candlefish due to their high amounts of oil. Smelt are a major food source of sturgeon. Sea lions follow migrating smelt (recently seen at the mouth of the Sandy River). The Cowlitz successfully petitioned the smelt as a federally listed species in 2010. "Fishing" season occurred two years ago with the Cowlitz Nation harvesting 197,000 pounds, while 6,000-7,000 smelt were caught in the Sandy River. No fishing license was required.

We learned that smelt are "broadcast" spawners with each female fish laying 40,000 eggs. Little information is known on smelt spawning areas and other biological factors. Only three ODFW Fish Biologists focus on smelt.

C) Council Project Updates: Staff

- 1) Delta --- Three events today (March 18), field meeting of Oregon Environmental Education Association, oak plantings with Friends of Trees, and SRBWC was involved with our first school field tour, 66 4th graders from Beaverton. Additional school groups are scheduled for April and May plus two planting days.
- 2) AmeriCorps Outreach Intern: Once our proposal is accepted, the Council's first AmeriCorps member will start September 2015 and will focus on the lower Sandy River and Beaver Creek. The Outreach Specialist will be shared half-time with Multnomah County.
- 3) Weed Smackdown 2015: Area of work will be the Salmon River and will include outreach to private landowners. Policeman's Helmet removal will be priority as well as planting native trees and shrubs.

- 4) Timberline to Troutdale Clean-up: Event dates are set, September 12 at the Salmon River headwaters and September 19 for the lower Sandy.

D. Emerging Opportunities

- 1) Troutdale Energy Center: On behalf of Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, Steve Wise and Bill Weiler submitted written testimony outlining our air quality concerns for the proposed power plant. The Troutdale Pilots Association also submitted comments describing their safety concerns.
- 2) Pembina Propane Terminal grassland mitigation update: Pembina Propane has proposed a terminal at Hayden Island and voluntarily approached the City of Portland offering mitigation monies to restore grassland. While the Delta uplands need restoration, there was general agreement that accepting these funds for a project with negative climate change impacts, might not fit the Council's mission and goals.
- 3) Ski Conservation Fund: Greg Wanner reported that National Forest Foundation funds are available to re-plant decommissioned roads near Timberline Lodge.

E) Next meeting dates: May 18: Bi-monthly council meeting
July 27: Summer picnic