

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

Working together to restore the Sandy River

26000 SE Stark, GE Building, Gresham, OR 97030



DRAFT Minutes of the January 30, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting at the Sandy Watershed Learning Center

Present:

Steve Wise
Sara Ennis
Bill Weiler
Gerald Murphy
Dianna Pope
Carl Exner

Jay Wilson
Julie DeLione
Cindy Kolomechuk
Alan L'Hommedieu
Roy Iwai
Greg Mazer
Irina Lapina

Carl Exner called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. After introductions, the minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Approval was moved by Gerald Murphy and seconded by Alan L'hommedieu. Minutes were approved.

Finances and Budget

- SRBWC's budget is relatively unchanged from November projections, with the addition of anticipated Port of Portland funding for Sandy River Delta restoration.

Funder Updates

- The Port of Portland has awarded SRBWC \$90,000 in mitigation funds for restoration work at the Delta.
- The Council has submitted the 2017-2018 proposal for funding through the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Strategic Partnership Agreement. Funding from this partnership will focus on Delta education, including outreach to dog owners, and delta signs, the Delta eco-blitz, Beaver Creek community stewardship, MHCC retrofit, paid SRBWC internships and translation of SRBWC outreach.

SRBWC Committees and Board Engagement

The board proposed formalizing and determining the membership of the following committees: Restoration/Bid, Events, and Equity. With the retrofit on the horizon, there will be an imminent need for the participation of the restoration bid committee, as well as an active events committee to plan the Sandyversary celebration. The OWEB Council Support work plan requires an equity organizational self-assessment to be completed by 6/30/17. Members of the equity team will meet to choose what tool to use to complete the assessment and engage support from the rest of the board and Maria Lisa Johnson of the Non-profit Association of Oregon as needed. Assessment results will be integrated with the SRBWC 5-year vision. Additional committees include a Fundraising and an Administrative committee. All of these committees will meet on the 4th Monday during the even months (i.e. February, April, etc.) although the committees will not meet February 27th, the day of the Climate Adaptation Workshop. An Alternative date is yet to be determined. The Executive Committee will send out a skills and interest survey to help finalize committee membership.

Council Project Updates

Climate Adaptation Workshop: “Resiliency for the New Normal”

Monday 2/27 10:00am - 3:00pm MHCC Visual Arts Theater, register @ sandyriver.org

Sponsored by Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund

This workshop will draw speakers from the region to discuss how to adapt restoration strategies in the face of climate change, acknowledging that ecosystem resilience will occur in different future environment than historic conditions that have served as the reference for restoration actions.

Delta Plantings: Ash Creek is continuing work by the channel ponds and the meadow area of Robin’s Woods. The proposal to close a 20 acre parcel along the channel to protect a sensitive area containing wapato, an important indigenous food, is in process and will be defined by dense plantings of thorny-thicket-forming shrubs. 20,000-30,000 bareroot trees and shrubs will be planted this season. The driest area at the delta is by the corral, which will be planted experimentally with climate adaptive plants.

Upcoming Delta dates:

February 4th Community planting

March 22nd Student planting (Troutdale and Corbett Schools, over 200 students expected)

April 7th 3’s ForTrees/Daimler

April 22nd 2nd Annual EcoBlitz

Retrofit: Metro awarded full funding of \$486,000 to fund the top three identified retrofit projects. MHCC board needs to approve project in February prior to release of RFP for project design bid. Once these steps are underway, outreach can begin in earnest. Lucas Nipp, of EMSWCD, is presenting information about the Retrofit partnership to the National Association of Conservation Districts, and Charles George of MHCC is presenting at the PSU Urban Ecology Research Consortium Monday 2/6/17. The SRBWC office slope naturscaping project and the early childhood center rain garden will be planted through community efforts:

2/8 Mt. Adams Institute group of veterans Americorps members (rain garden)

2/10 SRBWC office naturscaping with MHCC Students

2/11 Community rain garden planting (after rain garden workshop)

2/16 Project YESS planting follow up

State of the Sandy Report: Sandy River Basin Partners met in January to discuss strategies for creating a ten year, post Marmot dam removal, update for the Sandy River. Portland Water Bureau, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management will compile data and draft sections pertaining to changes in fish activity and water quality since dam removal. SRBWC will tell the people side of the story including demographic changes in the watershed and volunteer stewardship.

State of Beaver Creek: Sara is leading an effort to update the 2011 report produced by Roy Iwai of Multnomah County, seeking Beaver Creek Partner input to determine how to share the large amount of data that has been amassed. Proposed formats include a 4 page fold-out similar to the 2011 report, online resources, and videos.

Mid Watershed Plantings:

Saturday 3/18 10:00 - 12:30 PM Sandy High School Green Club students and community members will be planting at Wildwood in an area where Policeman's Helmet was removed in 2016 to replace the invasive with native shrubs.

Saturday 4/8 9:00 -1:00 PM Mazamas and the larger community will plant natives in the Still Creek restoration area.

Sandy River Restoration and Recreation Guide: The Council is using seed funding provided by Travel Oregon to engage Jordan Selter, who designed the 2011 Sandy River Water Trail Guide, to develop project scope, budget, and development materials to update the guide to include multiple forms of recreation and integrate restoration. SRBWC is presenting project updates to Travel Oregon on 2/14.

Columbia Land Trust: The channels are handling the flows well, the main side channel has been connected all winter, though the channel to the beaver pond needs higher flows to stay connected. The final planting will be 2/21.

Emerging Opportunities

- **SRBWC** will reconnect with Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor 2/21.
- **DSL** has offered a general permit to streamline the permitting process for floodplain restoration.
- **Troutdale Development Code Exemption:** In revising their development codes, the City of Troutdale is proposing to remove restrictions on development in riparian areas in a wide swath of the city along the lower sections of Beaver Creek. This code may be in violation of Metro codes and the SRBWC board moved to empower Council staff to write a letter of dissent. The City of Troutdale Council votes 2/28. The code can be found here:

<http://www.ci.troutdale.or.us/documents/developmentcode/2016-12/04%20.pdf>

on page TDC 4-10, section 3.311 A.3c is the paragraph that grants the exemption

Announcements:

- The SRBWC website calendar is live with upcoming events and online registration.
- The City of Sandy has purchased the community center and swimming pool on a 78 acre parcel previously owned by the Oregon Trail School District. The property requires weed management and has other restoration potential.
- Bids for the Stark St. culvert replacement close in February and Stark St. will be closed for construction June-September. The new steel culvert arch will span 40' and be 140' long to allow for the anticipated widening of Stark St. in coming years.
- Clackamas County conducted a public opinion survey of upper watershed residents to assess their flood risk tolerance and determined a range of support and reluctance for government restrictions along the River. The County is working with Oregon Solutions for a possible project to build partnerships with USFS and BLM about possible federal land swaps and determining development directions in next 10-20 years.
- The regional bike trail planning effort has four proposed alignments through Troutdale avoiding wetlands and sensitive areas. Possible routes include the upper slope of the east canyon, through neighborhoods, and may extend sidewalks or convert some streets to one-way. The City of Gresham has pulled out of the planning process.

- Sandy Ridge is adding 160 acres to its facility including 40 acres of gravel parking lot.

Upcoming Events

Committee Meetings: ???

Next SRBWC **Board Meeting Monday March 27th, 6:30 pm**

2/4 Saturday	Planting at the Delta
2/10 Friday	Office Slope Planting
2/11 Saturday	Rain garden workshop & MHCC rain garden planting
2/21 Tuesday	Planting at CLT
2/22 Wed.	Pollinator workshop
2/25 Saturday	Beaver Creek Canyon Community Planting
2/27 Monday	Climate Adaptation Workshop
3/14 Tuesday	Children's Clean Water Festival
3/18 Saturday	Planting at Wildwood with Sandy HS and...
3/22 Wed.	Student Planting at the Delta
4/7 Friday	Three's for Trees at the Delta
4/8 Saturday	Planting at Still Creek restoration site
4/15 Saturday	SRBWC at MHCC Saturday Market
4/22 Saturday	Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz