

## Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

*Working together to restore the Sandy River*

26000 SE Stark, GE Building, Gresham, OR 97030



### Approved Minutes of the January 29th, 2018 Council Meeting at the Sandy Watershed Learning Center

#### Present:

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

Larry Zabel  
Steve Rayne  
Cat Black  
Howard Schaller  
Margaret Filardo  
Dianna Pope  
Roy Iwai  
Aaron Lee  
Greg Mazer  
Janet Davis

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 Steve Rayne and seconded by Dianna Pope. Minutes were approved.

#### **Finances and Budget**

Katherine described it as a "solid year end:"

- 2017 YTD Date Funding:
  - Income YTD: \$629,219
    - Direct Public Support
    - Government Grants
    - Private Funding
  - Expenses YTD: \$602,138
    - Staff
    - Program/Project Expenses
    - Administrative

2017 has been a good year as far as funding with large grants, like WCS for climate adaptation work on the Delta. SRBWC has greatly increased the percent of its funding from private sources, increasing eligibility for other private funds. The council is currently half funded for 2018, if all current proposals are funded, the annual budget needs will be met. Several more proposals will be submitted in the coming months including Union Pacific and National Forest Foundation. Funds are needed to fulfill the budgets for Clean Water Retrofit, Delta Restoration, Youth Stewardship Education, and General Outreach.

#### **Board Nominations**

Janet Davis was unanimously elected to the board with Mark Rogers as her alternate. Janet previously lived in Tigard and she and Mark recently moved to property on the Sandy below Revenue Bridge. She has attended the Metro Nature University, OSU Master Naturalist trainings, and attended nearly every SRBWC event from June 2017 on. She is particularly enthused by community science efforts.

## **Board Committees**

Katherine will email board members to confirm current participation and highlight empty seats.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: will to continue to develop guidance documents for the Council to identify equity goals, strategies, and methods for tracking outcomes
- Restoration: Upcoming RFP's: MHCC retrofit implementation and MHCC dam removal feasibility
- Events: Sandyversary 10/19/2017 was SRBWC first large events, with funding from Meyer Memorial Trust, the Council will increase outreach/funding efforts
- Personnel: this historic committee could be revived to support new hiring
- Executive/Steering: typically elected officers working on organizational operations

## **Review and Adoption of Bylaws**

Steve Rayne, Dianna Pope, and Janet Davis volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to address outstanding issues in the bylaws, such as number of government and total board representation discrepancies, timing of annual meeting to optimized board turnout, timing of regular meetings, possibly add a secretary position, ensure compliance with OWEB requirements, etc.

## **Risk Management**

Staff, Board, and key volunteers are mandatory abuse reporters under state law. Council insurance has offered to provide a training to ensure the Council is in compliance. Katherine will solicit dates to schedule this.

## **Staff Reorganization/transition**

- Bill Weiler will shift from Education and Restoration to focusing primarily on education
- Katherine Cory will become full time and move into a Development Director and larger communications role
- Project Manager will be hired to oversee work on the MHCC retrofit, the Kelly Creek dam removal, Sandy-Salmon confluence, and the Delta restoration.

## **Learning Moment**

ODFW staff were unable to make it, but report that fewer wild Chinook and steelhead are straying into the traps and are instead migrating up the Bull Run River as hoped. Consequently the time the weirs are in place can be reduced and reduce damage from handling fish.

## **Council Program Updates**

### **New Name! New Logo!**

The board approved the Council a change in DBA (doing business as) from Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to the name Sandy River Watershed Council. Dropping the Basin from the name to improve the likelihood of correct name pronunciation. An MHCC student designed the new logo, which the board also approved.

### **Kelly Creek Dam Removal Feasibility**

The Resource Legacy fund is funding a technical dam removal feasibility study. Other potential funding includes an OWEB technical assistance grant and Patagonia.

## **Outreach**

The year finished up with a 2,994-person reach – including volunteer/outreach/education efforts with a total of 82 events. Year-end and start of the year events included MHCC ivy pulls and tabling to display designs for the new courtyard.

## **Pending Funding**

- MHCC Retrofit – DEQ, NFWF, Spirit Mountain (invited)
- Dam Removal Feasibility – OWEB, Patagonia
- Delta Restoration – National Forest Foundation; Metro; Rose Foundation
- Youth Stewardship Education – Collins, Gray

## **Delta Restoration**

- Contractors planted a living fence near a sensitive riparian area to develop a natural barrier to canines. Though the project was on DSL land and was approved by USFS (Delta property owner), a sign contractors placed saying the site was 'closed' was not approved, causing a controversy with USFS and an adjustment to the planting.
- SRWC received a grant to survey for threatened yellow-billed cuckoos, which have not been seen at the Delta since 2009.
- SRWC received funding for third year of turtle surveys
- We are waiting to hear back from the Rose Foundation about funding Native American youth to sample and test Wapato, an important indigenous food, for consumption safety
- First Bilingual Climate Adaptive Planting Saturday February 3rd: a bilingual event with Spanish speaking planting groups and climate adaptive planting, focused on planting regionally but not locally native plants in hopes of developing strategies for long term plant survival in the face of a changing climate.
- PNCA and Intel Hack-a-thons are developing field sensors for bird migrations and air quality, only they need a power source to operate. Old irrigation solar panels onsite have become available.

## **Salmon-Sandy Rivers Confluence**

Brian Bair LLC is working on the design, which is nearly 60% completion. The Sandy has started to breach the levee at the upstream end of the site for the first time after the October storms, forming a new channel that cuts across to downstream of the confluence with the Salmon River, complicating the design process. Design elements include removing sections of the levee to backwater the floodplain during high flows, potential tie with Little Joe Creek Culvert, and an additional alternative for the post levee breach. The Cost is yet unknown, depending on how far removed material has to be transported and partner objectives. SRWC will apply for funding through the NOAA Coastal Resiliency program. Hoped for construction in 2019.

## **State of the Sandy Road Show**

Steve Wise will be making state of the Sandy presentations at the following times and locations:

- Metro Council 2/8 2 pm
- US Fish and Wildlife 2/13 3:30 pm
- Clackamas SWCD Board 2/20
- Mountain Shop 2/21 7 pm

- Columbia River Estuary Partnership Conference April 10 Astoria
- OWEB Board April (tentative)

## Emerging Opportunities

### **Stark Street Culvert**

The project is a great success in increasing fish passage. A head cut started at the upstream end of the culvert that has moved 200' upstream, and partners are watching. The removal of the old culvert causes sediment to build up upstream, which is now flushing through. Watch this time-lapse video of the project:

<https://multco.us/roads/stark-street-culvert-time-lapse-video>

### **Grand Ronde Spirit Mountain training**

Steve Wise attended training on eligibility for Spirit Mountain funding that might support the Retrofit project.

### **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.”

## Upcoming Events

The next two Council meetings have been scheduled for the third Monday of the month to avoid conflicts with spring break and the Memorial Day weekend.

## Council Meetings

- Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>
- Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Bilingual - Climate Adaptive Planting at the Delta\*** Saturday February 3rd
- Naturescaping Workshop Saturday February 10th
- Pollinator Workshop\* Wednesday Feb. 21st
- **Beaver Creek Planting and Stewardship at Glenn Otto Park\*** Sat. 2/24
- Weed Workshop Wednesday Feb. 28th,
- **Planting at Columbia Land Trust Restoration Site\*** Saturday March 3rd
- Earth Week at Mt. Hood Community College
- Planting at Still Creek Restoration Site\* -Event Full
- **Bilingual Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz\*** Saturday May 12th

**Bold:** Board Participation highly encouraged!

\*Bilingual staff present