

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

Working together to restore the Sandy River

26000 SE Stark, GE Building, Gresham, OR 97030



Approved Minutes of the November 13th, 2017 Council Meeting at the Sandy Watershed Learning Center

Present:

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

Holly Olson
Steve Rayne
Matt Moreland
Howard Schaller
Margaret Filardo
Dave Stewart
Dianna Pope
Roy Iwai
Aaron Lee
Mark Rogers
Janet Davis

Carl Exner called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. After introductions, the minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Approval was moved by Roy Iwai and seconded by Julie DiLeone. Minutes were approved.

Finances and Budget

- 2017 YTD Date Funding:
 - Income YTD: \$629,219
 - Direct Public Support
 - Government Grants
 - Private Funding
 - Expenses YTD: \$534,138
 - 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. Funds are needed for Clean Water Retrofit, Delta Restoration, Youth Stewardship Education, and General Outreach.

Annual Meeting Board Elections

- Carl Exner was re-elected as board chair and Cindy Kolomechuk as vice chair.
- Treasurer Succession – The board elected Erin Law as treasurer occupying one of the at large positions. Erin works for Portland Water Bureau and is transitioning to Portland Audubon. She has been a treasurer for other NGO's, including Cascadia Wild and Trout Unlimited.
- Matt Moreland – approved as the recreation representative for board. Matt is a guide for Mt. Hood Adventure and regional American Whitewater representative
- Howard Schaller and Margaret Filardo were approved as the joint new upper Sandy Reps (the seat Jill Josselyn occupied). They have owned a Cabin on Still Creek for

20 years and have watched the restoration work take place and recent redd counts skyrocket. Howard was on the Columbia River technical recovery team for salmon. He worked as scientist in salmon restoration for about 32 years at USFWS CRFPO in Vancouver. He was also the Conservation Team Chair for lamprey for the west coast, and is particularly interested in the Sandy. He went up the Salmon to survey for lamprey and is interested in seeing lamprey restored to the Sandy. Margaret Filardo worked for the Fish Passage Center on a large-scale monitoring program throughout the Columbia Basin. The “comparative survival study” looked at migrants, and relationships between passage and survival. Her specialty is in water quality and she is interested in the future of the watershed.

- Available positions: 2 at large, Agriculture, and Forestry reps.

Review and Adoption of Bylaws has been tabled until further review

Funder Updates

New Funders

- Meyer Memorial awarded two grants; capacity building and one in partnership with National Forest Foundation, Vive NW, Ant Farm, and NW Youth Corps

Kelly Creek Dam Removal Feasibility

- Resource Legacy Fund Open Rivers Initiative (awarded)
- OWEB Technical Assistance grant (submitted)

Pending

- OWEB Stakeholder Engagement Grant

Risk Management Review

Volunteers/Board members working with kids will need to pass a background check and will need to be CPR/First Aid Certified. These folks are also mandatory reporters for suspected child abuse. A policy template document has been shared with the board to review and adopt. There will be a presentation from our insurance company at the January meeting.

Council Project Updates

Kelly Creek Dam Removal Feasibility

Technical assistance funding will consider feasibility of dam removal including the replacement cost of building a bridge and social and ecological outcomes of possible dam removal. The pond causes Kelly Creek to heat up by 4°C. Gresham will replace the Kane culvert with a fish passable structure, though upstream habitat quality is poor. With fish passage improvements this year on Stark and at the Cochran Rd culvert in 2019, high priorities are shifting from passage to addressing the high summer temperatures, toxic stormwater runoff, and high pre-spawn mortality in Beaver Creek. City of Gresham is working on a Burlingame Creek (tributary to Kelly Creek) master plan. ODFW is supportive of the dam removal feasibility study, though weighing dual interests between the urban fishing opportunities the pond provides and the restoration potential.

Council Website and Logo

The new website has been launched (as of the Sandyversary October 19th). It is still under development and pages will continue to be updated and added to, including adding a Beaver Creek page and one for the Conservation Oriented Recreation Guide.

An MHCC branding class took the Council on as a client and developed several logo prototypes. Most drop the word “Basin” from the Council’s name, which will require formal board approval to pass. SR(B)WC also hired a firm to develop a logo, but their initial drafts were unsatisfactory. Staff will discuss options and present to the board at the January meeting.

Delta Dog Daze Planting

The first ever collaborative planting event with dogs occurred 11/4. Fewer than ten dogs participated, but 145 humans helped to plant and mulch 1600 shrubs and trees. The next planting –of climate adaptive plants native to the region, but not native to the site, will be February 3rd 2018.

Sandyversary Recap and State of the Sandy

Great event attended by 90 guests including founding members of the Council. Fourteen business donated auction items, which raised \$1235, the council received \$2200 from ticket sales, and \$350 from general donations. The event broke even, even after staff time. The State of the Sandy Report was released and is available on the website. Sponsors included PGE, Port of Portland, and Metro.

Steve has been taking the State of the Sandy on the road to the coastal conservation group, to the EPA meeting, and offering presentations to interested groups. Three of four endangered salmon species are on the rise (spring chinook, winter steelhead, and coho) while the mystery remains as to why the numbers of fall Chinook continue to fall.

Emerging Opportunities

Stark Street Culvert

Old culvert was only 10 feet wide. Several years ago, the culvert was retrofit with a fish ladder, which failed shortly thereafter, forming a new fish passage barrier. The new culvert is 40 feet wide and 140 feet long to accommodate the widening of stark in a couple years. All jump height obstacles have been removed and it is large enough to allow large wood to pass and provide critical habitat downstream. The project cost a little over \$2 million and took all summer. Local business were not happy about the detour but were supportive of fish passage improvements. Katherine counted 11 coho at the Cory property, as compared to 1 coho in each of the two previous years. MHCC fisheries students conduct spawning surveys on lower part of Beaver Creek watershed, and Katherine walks from the triangle to 302nd. We have baseline data from previous years, which will be useful for comparing with post project data.

EPA Cold Water Refugia Conference

The temperature of the Columbia has increased by 1° C and is projected to increase an additional 0.7 degrees –making the Sandy all the more important as a cold water refugia, though temperatures in the Sandy are also expected to rise and is at times temperature

impaired already. The EPA emphasis is on protecting and enhancing cold water refugia in tributaries like the Sandy.

PSU Climate Resilience in Urban Campuses and Communities (CRUX)

PSU graduate student is working on the Portland cluster of Second Nature's Climate Resilient Urban Campuses and Communities (CRUX) fellowship, working with colleges and universities to fulfill their Climate Commitments by piloting Second Nature's resilience planning framework at the campus-community level in Portland, LA, and Phoenix. The project is of developing capacity assessments for PSU and MHCC, via task forces on each campus, and is looking for opportunities to partner with community organizations to strengthen their work and better serve the community at large.

CLT

The CLT project was fully tested when October baseline flows rose from 2-3,000 cfs and jumped rapidly to 30,000 cfs in some of the October storms. It appears to be function well.

Upcoming Events

Next meeting scheduled for Monday January 29th and the March meeting is moved to Monday March 19th to avoid conflicts with spring break.

There will be an ivy pull at MHCC on Friday December 8th. The next planned Council event will be the planting at the Delta 2/3/18.