



# SANDY RIVER watershed council

26000 SE Stark Street, GE Building  
Gresham, OR 97030

## Approved Minutes of the September 24th, 2018 Council Meeting at the Sandy Watershed Learning Center

### Present:

Steve Wise

Sara Ennis

Katherine Cory

Melissa Cannell

Bill Weiler

Kara Caselas

Janet Senior

Jay Wilson

Samara Phelps

Jeannie Panchal

Carl Exner

Dave Stewart

Paul Sclafani USACE

Steve Rayne

Cindy Kolomechuk

Howard Schaller

Margaret Filardo

Claire Klock

Julie DiLeone

Roy Iwai

Janet Davis

Matt Moreland

Jason Hitzert –for Chris Gorsek

Gerald Murphy

Carl Exner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. After introductions, the minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Approval was moved by Cindy Kolomchuk and seconded by Steve Rayne. Minutes were approved.

### **Council Development**

#### **New Project Manager**

Welcome! Kara Caselas joined the Council in late June 2018 and comes with a background in natural resource management, having recently completed a Master's in Environmental Management at PSU. Kara has been instrumental in moving the retrofit, dam removal and Salmon-Sandy projects forward. Thank you and welcome Kara!

#### **Returning Staff Member**

Melissa Cannell, our AmeriCorps member in 2017-18, returned this fall as a full time staff member through next April/May after spending the summer as an interpretive Park Ranger in the Kenai Peninsula National Park in Alaska. Melissa is largely responsible for outreach regarding culvert construction on Beaver Creek, the Council's social media, and other communication and other community involvement projects. Welcome back Melissa, we're glad to have you! Melissa plans to return to Alaska again for the summer 2019 season.

**Annual Officer Elections:** As of the May 2018 vote, the annual meeting during which Council officers are elected, is now in January. The Council doesn't currently have a secretary, but would like to fill that position in January.

**Personnel Policies** – The Council doesn't currently have personnel policies, which are now needed. Janet volunteered to help Carl develop policies in the next couple months.

**Five-Year Vision Review** – Board and staff developed the current five-year vision in 2015. 2018 is year three of the five-year vision. A retreat to revisit and update the vision is proposed for winter 2019, however funding must also be identified. OWEB would like to see greater board involvement in funding.

### **Finances and Budget**

- 2018 YTD Date Funding:
  - Income YTD: \$731,182
    - Direct Public Support ~50%
    - Government Grants ~50%
    - Private Funding <1%
  - Expenses YTD: \$694,094
    - Staff ~37%
    - Program/Project Expenses ~58%
    - Administrative ~5%
  - Accounts Receivable: \$119,320
  - Current bank balance: \$160,733.40

### **Project Funding and Updates**

#### **MHCC Retrofit funding**

Britton Excavating and Grow construction completed summer construction on parking lots E and F on time before classes started in late September. The crews installed one large rain garden, a bioswale, planters, and two drywells. These facilities will capture 2 million of the 60 million gallons of stormwater flowing off the MHCC campus in to Beaver and Kelly Creeks annually. 80% of the stormwater from lots E and F will be treated. Kara is currently lining up contractors to plant the facilities and coordinating with the college to create an interpretive sign. Depave will return October 27<sup>th</sup> for a community planting of the depaved areas.

There were many challenges in working with the college and contractors. The college has conducted an internal debrief and partners will meet for an overall project debrief on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The college is launching a new capital planning process encompassing the next ten years of capital projects and has requested retrofit information to include.

Work in parking lots E and F cost over \$400,000. There is less than \$50,000 left in the budget at this time. Parking lots G and H will require \$350,000 - \$400,000 to complete. Potential future funding sources include: EMSWCD, Port of Portland, and OWEB.

#### **Sandy-Salmon Confluence:**

Design work is in progress. Pending funding, public outreach may begin as soon as spring 2019. The project may be implemented in phases. The current cost estimate is \$500,000-\$1,500,000 depending on available funding and complexity of the design. Potential funding sources include: OWEB (recommended to fund), Portland Water Bureau, Clackamas SWCD, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which includes two grants, one smaller phase and a second larger request.

## **Kelly Creek Dam Removal**

The geomorphic assessment and initial design alternatives will be complete by the end of the year by River Design Group. Oregon Kitchen Table (a facilitation subsidiary of the PSU based National Policy Consensus Center) will conduct interviews with key MHCC and ODFW staff in fall 2018 and in a second phase will help to design community outreach slated to take place spring 2019. These efforts will indicate whether/how the project moves forward. OWEB and Resource Legacy Fund (RLF) are funding technical and outreach aspects of the project. Additional funding potential includes RLF and Patagonia.

## **Delta Education**

Education programs at the Delta have become popular, however several funding proposals did not come through this year. Union Pacific might be willing to double last year's grant proposal for up to \$30,000. Other potential funding sources include the Collins Foundation and the Gray Family Fund.

**Delta Restoration** Robin Dobson retired and has been succeeded by Sarah Callighan. Potential funders include: OWEB, PGE Habitat Fund, and National Forest Foundation.

## **Delta Research**

### *Yellow billed cuckoo (YBC) surveys*

Murrelet Halderman taught the first regional training for 20 participants, who conducted auditory surveys for the yellow-billed cuckoo over the course of 9 days between June and August 2018 at 56 stations at the Delta. The full report is available upon request. You can request it from [bill@sandyriver.org](mailto:bill@sandyriver.org). Partners include USFS, USFWS, American Bird Conservancy, and Oregon Zoo Team.

USFS provided all funds for cuckoo surveying and willow planting to improve cuckoo habitat. Other partners were Oregon Zoo and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

YBC Part 2: Planting of 3,000 willows at east end of Delta in late 2018

YBC Part 3: Planting of 3,000 additional willows in 2019

### *Native Turtle Surveys*

20 volunteers surveyed the Delta for native painted and western pond turtles. Twelve painted turtles were found and no pond turtles have been found at the delta to date, although habitat is suitable for them. Surveyors documented new red legged frog breeding ponds. Girl scouts cleared away blackberry from 'turtle town' (enclosed areas) to create bare soil needed for turtle nesting. Partners: USFS, OWF, Friends of Columbia Gorge, funders: Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

## **Events**

The Timberline to Troutdale Cleanups were a great success, with 125 participants and 2000 pounds of trash collected. For the T2T events and the EcoBlitz, the Council is seeking corporate sponsorship from Orvis (an employee participated in the floating clean up this year) as well as Fred Meyer, Metro, and local businesses.

## **Outreach**

With the start of the fall term, staff was present at MHCC events during faculty in-service, Welcome Week, Club Fair, submitted an announcement in the faculty newsletter, and created a new outreach poster on the retrofit and culverts and handouts to provide updates on the retrofit.

### **Policeman's Helmet Weed Smackdown**

2016 focused on surveys, 2017 focused more on treatment, and in 2018 the emphasis was on retreating new growth on sites already treated that season –a significant step towards reducing needed treatments the following season. Due to the loss of Project YESS in 2017, CSWCD hired a professional crew who were very effective in treating large sites at the Resort at the Mountain and scouting difficult to treat areas. BLM construction of instream log jams continued along the Salmon River, preventing treatment in those areas. Until construction is complete after 2019, it will be difficult to control Policeman's helmet comprehensively along the BLM sections of the Salmon River. The final stage for the season is to canvass and recruit new property owners along Hackett Creek.

### **Learning Moment: Water Tourism Opportunities in Clackamas County**

Study presented by Samara Phelps and Jeannie Panchal from Mt. Hood Territories. Funded through transient lodging tax. See 2-page Sandy River report summary for further details, or request copy of 156 page of county-wide report from Mt. Hood Territories

#### **Purpose:**

In spring of 2017 Clackamas County Tourism initiated a comprehensive study to determine if its water recreation assets are being used to their greatest economic potential.

#### **Method:**

The study included over 3 months of site visits to the County's water bodies and surveyed 1700 statewide respondents. The results represent the interests of 1.6 million water recreation enthusiasts and a detailed inventory of the County's recreational assets.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Water-based recreation generated about 12 million dollars in lodging reservations in Oregon in 2016, but Clackamas County captured only about 2% of this amount. Despite above average water assets, the County is attracting below average visitation to these waters due to a combination of physical access, water-recreation management, lack of awareness, and niche product development.
- Clackamas County water bodies are higher quality than the state average for recreational value. 1.5 million visitors recreate on Clackamas waters annually, generating 240,000 overnights. Of these, anglers account for 83%. Paddlers are also an important user group and come from a shorter distance, often creating a buzz on Instagram.

#### **Opportunities:**

- Physical improvements in infrastructure to improve access to the river such as access at Sandy River Park, day use facilities at Marmot, camping at Dodge Park, etc.
- Foster and promote the connection between the city of Sandy and the Sandy River through infrastructure, policy, programs, and events.

- Expand tour products to include different forms of water recreation on the Sandy for fishing, family friendly, rafting, etc.

Recap: The Sandy River is one of highest quality water assets in the county. In terms fishing, it is considered 'world class' with year round potential.

SRWC Board members brought up concerns about conflicts between conservation and increased tourism, particularly increased fishing, when salmon runs are dwindling.

Next steps: County is developing a grant program to incentivize projects around water access development.

### **Public comment**

Jay Wilson, Resilience Coordinator with Clackamas County, is working with Paul Sclafani at the US Army Corps of Engineers to follow up on 2015 Channel Migration Zone study to engage community members around flood risk management. Oregon Solutions is helping to facilitate this three-year process to assess receptiveness and feasibility of regulating disclosure around future development in the CMZ.

### **Council Meetings**

- **Monday November 26th** 6:30-8:30PM at the Sandy River Learning Center

### **Upcoming Events**

- Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> Depave planting at MHCC from 10-1
- Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> Dog friendly planting at the Delta 9-1
- Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> Lowering the Temperature Climate Adaptation workshop 9-12 MHCC Town and Gown room
- Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup> Edible landscapes workshop 6-8:30 MHCC GE 201