



Approved Minutes of the November 26, 2018 Council Meeting at the  
Sandy Watershed Learning Center

Present:

Steve Wise  
Sara Ennis  
Melissa Cannell  
Kara Caselas  
Eddward Campbell  
Carl Exner  
Erin Law  
Luke Johnson  
Scott Fogarty  
Steve Rayne  
Cindy Kolomechuk

Howard Schaller  
Margaret Filardo  
Julie DiLeone  
Alan L'Hommediue  
Janet Davis  
Andy Bryant  
Jason Hitzert –for Chris Gorsek  
Dianna Pope  
Mike Sherrill sp?  
Roy Iwai  
Gerald Murphy

Carl Exner called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. After introductions, the minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Approval was moved by Cindy Kolomchuk and seconded by Dianna Pope. Minutes were approved.

### **Council Development**

#### **5 Year Vision**

How does the Council track progress and measure goals? The 2015 retreat established a strategic vision. In the time since, in-stream riparian and restoration goals have advanced further than passage goals (which remain unfunded), although the Council has supported Multnomah county's culvert replacement projects through community outreach. The Council is continuing to work on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI), and staff members begin the intertwine equity "Assessment" cohort in December, to help the Council complete an internal assessment from which an action plan can be developed. A board retreat is proposed for February-March 2019 to review and update the 5-year vision, and add a layer of goals related to "equity and..." other Council priorities.

#### **Funding Update**

The ratio of government support in overall Council funding has increased as a result of the City of Gresham's contribution to the Salmon Safe Clean Water Retrofit project, however the Council is maintaining a good balance of government and public support.

The Council's 2019 budget will exceed \$1 million, potentially triggering requirement of a more in-depth audit. With significant funding from NOAA/NFWF, a board member recommended developing a reserve/rainy day fund policy to stabilize long term funding.

### **Salmon-Sandy Confluence Funding to Date:**

OWEB \$251,000, Portland Water Bureau Habitat Fund \$125,000, NFWF/NOAA National Coastal Resiliency Fund \$960,000 (additional match needed), Clackamas SWCD \$50,000, Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife Restoration and Enhancement \$137,000 (pending, with contingencies).

### **Delta Education**

Despite a suite of funding refusals in the spring, Delta education is moving forward with support from Oregon Community Foundation \$12,212 (from unsolicited donor advised fund), Juan Young Trust \$5,000, and Charlotte Martin Foundation \$6,500

### **Fundraising Update**

For the first time this year, the Council established an individual giving campaign with a goal of raising \$2,500 by the end of the year. As added incentive for "Giving Tuesday" (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) a volunteer from the floating cleanup and Orvis employee has donated a half-day float down the Sandy for two with lunch. Donors giving \$50 or more on Giving Tuesday will be entered into a raffle to win. The City of Gresham and local wildlife photographer have collaborated to create and donate calendars representing the three Gresham watershed councils (Johnson Creek, Columbia Slough, and the Sandy) that Council is able to use as added incentive to donate (\$15 donation request for a calendar).

### **2019 Budget Preview**

The Council's 2019 operational budget will include the following categories (numbers approximate pending resolution of some proposed grants and project schedules):

Staff: \$460,237

Administrative: \$62,500

Project/Program Funding and Contracted Services: \$1,555,000

Supplies: \$13,400

Travel: \$9,675

TOTAL: \$2,100,xxx

### **Board Recruitment/Committees**

The Executive Committee consists of the Board: Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. Other committees include: restoration (reviewing bids for projects), fundraising, equity, event, and ad hoc committees to address individual or emerging issues (ie reviewing bylaws, hiring, etc.). Each board member should serve on at least one committee, which will meet in months between council meetings. Chair will contact members to assign committees, so that assignments can be established for 2019. January is also official annual meeting when officers are elected. Board members are encouraged to consider running for office and to make their intentions known prior to the election and annual meeting in January.

The board also needs to plan for succession keeping continuity in mind. Open board positions include business, agriculture/nurseries, forestry, development skills, etc. The council could also benefit from a budget/finance committee, to establish budget reserve goals, and improve financial oversight and planning.

## **Learning Moment: Winter Weather Forecast** –Andy Bryant, National Weather Service

- NWS is staffed 24 hr/day providing forecasts for the Willamette Valley and SW Washington. The organization’s mission is to protect life and property, environment and economy.
- NW River Forecast Center forecasts streamflows for all of Columbia River Watershed.
- Recent Conditions include drought due to low precipitation and higher temperatures
- What are impacts of these drought conditions in the Sandy? Participants’ response: poor survival for plantings, campfire bans, smoke, cedar die-off, low flows in waterways.
- 2018 temperatures were higher than averages between 1980 and 2010 for much of Oregon
- Waterwatch of Oregon reported water levels dropped quickly in the spring/summer and were down to levels seen in 2015 (which was a significant drought year)
- There is a weak El Nino this winter, which brings higher than average temperatures, for Oregon, and typically lower precipitation, reducing snowpack.
- NWS has high confidence that December temperatures will be above average, although no indication as to whether precipitation will be higher or lower this year.
- It is difficult to forecast stream flow due to modeling limitations at more local watershed scales.

### **Tools/resources include:**

- [Weather.gov/Portland](http://Weather.gov/Portland)
- [Mobile.weather.gov](http://Mobile.weather.gov) (works like an app)
- [Water.weather.gov](http://Water.weather.gov) (rivers and precipitation)
- [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov) (climate prediction center –long range outlooks)
- [climate.gov](http://climate.gov) (NOAA climate news and data)
- [drought.gov](http://drought.gov) (Drought Monitor and Outlook)
- [wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/](http://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/) (West-wide drought tracker)
- [waterwatch.usgs.gov](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov) (USGS WaterWatch tool)

### **MHCC Retrofit**

There was a large group debrief in November following project Phase I construction with MHCC staff and project partners/funders. MHCC staff indicated a desire to review and integrate retrofit projects into the college’s capital master plan, and have outlined a process to improve communication around future projects. Mosaic Ecology planted the rain garden and other facilities during Thanksgiving week. Contractors will plant bareroot stock in the same areas in February.

### **Kelly Creek Dam**

River Design Group is finalizing the geomorphology study and had a meeting with college to determine missing information that should be included in feasibility analysis. Oregon Kitchen Table is conducting stakeholder engagement interviews to determine concerns and goals regarding dam removal, campus functionality, and aesthetics. The college has

requested a communication plan to map out how partners communicate amongst each other and to outline a community engagement strategy.

### **Climate Adaptation Workshop – “Lowering the Temperature”**

This workshop closed out the two year Wildlife Conservation Society climate adaptation funding. 80 people attended the morning workshop. Presentations included a study on MHCC campus climate resilience and parking lot canopy cover, an EPA study on cold water refugia in the Sandy, CRITFC presented on the effects of climate change on first foods, Institute for Applied Ecology describing ‘corridors through time’ to help plan plant species survival. Video and slides from the presentations will be available on the council’s website.

### **Delta Stewardship**

Over 100 volunteers showed up to the “dog friendly climate adaptive planting” at the Delta on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in partnership with Friends of Trees. Several large groups participated, including professional work groups and Catholic HS students, who planted 1200 climate adaptive species (like incense cedar, ponderosa pine, snowberry, etc.) with the aid of eight dogs.

### **Sandy – Salmon Floodplain Reconnection**

SRWC received significant funding for the project (see funding update above), moving project from tentative to a strong push to begin implementation this coming summer of 2019. The project design is in development. 60-90% level designs are needed to begin permitting and to send out an RFP for construction in early 2019. The Council is currently scouting out for logs, ideally with root wads, as hundreds will be needed for the project. A site visit with the design team, permitting agencies, and other partners/funders is scheduled for 12/3.

### **Outreach**

Completion of the areas where asphalt was removed in the May Depave event occurred with planting the depaved areas. 70 volunteers planted 500 trees and shrubs in 20 minutes. Representatives from Grande Ronde participated, teaching volunteers how to say “Reserved for Salmon” as illustrated on the depaved area signs in Chinook-Wawa. SRWC toured 40 participants to related project sites after the planting was completed.

### **Glenn Otto Kiosk**

Roy Iwai coordinated a partnership with the City of Troutdale and SRWC to make use of an under utilized resource. Melissa has designed three panels to educate visitors about ecology, stewardship, upcoming events, to fill in the blank spaces on the three-sided kiosk at Glenn Otto Park, behind the concessionaire.

### **Emerging Opportunities**

The City of Sandy is considering a proposal to alter its wastewater treatment system, in part by transferring future effluent from Tickle Creek in the Clackamas drainage over to the Sandy, to accommodate rapidly growing populations. The existing Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is at capacity, and because of low flows in Tickle Creek, effluent from the plant are exceeding DEQ regulations. The current plant has capacity to treat effluent for a population of 11,000. The City’s population is currently 12,000. A fast track project is proposed to build a new plant to be completed by 2021. The City’s population is anticipated to double in the next 15 years. The Council and the public are invited to comment and be

part of the process. The next public meeting in Sandy at City Hall is on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Clackamas River Basin Council – is advocating for a shift from the Clackamas Basin to the Sandy ostensibly because greater dilution would lessen impact on endangered fish, although the Sandy is also home to recovering endangered salmonids. This proposal has large potential temperature impacts on the Sandy, which is already suffering from low and unpredictable flows due to rapidly retreating glaciers.

Alternatives to an expanded WWTP have yet to be established. Discussion included advocating for alternatives, including implementing green infrastructure strategies like trees and rain gardens to divert stormwater out of the combined system, demand management such as installation of low flow toilets and household water conservation, to reduce required treatment capacity and effluent flows regardless of which watershed effluent is directed to.

### **Council Meetings**

- Annual Meeting: **Monday January 28th**, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- Note change from 4<sup>th</sup> Monday: **Monday March 18th**, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Bilingual Delta Planting\***

Saturday February 2nd, 8:45AM–1:00PM Sandy River Delta Crown Point Hwy, Troutdale

#### **Beaver Creek Plantings and Stewardship near Glenn Otto Park\***

Saturday February 2nd, Saturday February 16th, Saturday March 2nd, and Saturday March 16th from 10:00AM – 1PM

#### **Naturescaping Workshop**

Saturday March 9th, 9:00AM -1:00PM Mt Hood Community College GE Bldg.

#### **Beneficial Insects Workshop**

Thursday March 21st, 6pm–8:30PM Mt Hood Community College 26000 SE Stark rm GE

#### **Bilingual Planting in the Salmon River Watershed with Vive NW\***

Saturday March 23rd 9:00AM–1:30PM meet in ZigZag Ranger District Parking Lot

#### **Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz\***

Saturday May 18th, Sandy River Delta Park Troutdale exit 18 off Hwy 84

First session from 9:00-11:30AM, second session from 12:00-2:30PM, birders meet at 7:00AM

\*Spanish speaking staff present