

Calapooia Watershed Council

P.O. Box 844 Brownsville OR 97327 Phone: (541) 812-7622 E-mail: calapooia@peak.org

Mission: Providing opportunities for membership to cooperate in promoting the health of the watershed and its communities.

Calapooia Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) Board of Directors and Council members held their monthly meeting at the Brownsville Library, Brownsville, Oregon on August 12th, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were the following members of the Board of Directors:

Bud Baumgartner	Dave Furtwangler
Connie Burdick	Frank Lamb
Debbie Colbert	Mark Running
Matthew Fiorito	Dee Swayze
Roger Ruckert	

Absent from the meetings were the following Directors:

Lance Gatchell	John Perry
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A sufficient number of directors were present to constitute a quorum.

Also present at the meeting were:

Tara Putney, *Executive Director*
Taylor Bortz, *Program Assistant*

On behalf of the CWC Secretary, Taylor Bortz recorded the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM: **Board Comments**

Matthew announced that on August 1st Weyerhaeuser installed a gate on the lower end of the Calapooia mainline, so the road is now permanently closed and will be opened only for logging truck access. Residents can still request permits from Weyerhaeuser to access this area for recreation. Weyerhaeuser elected to close the road for numerous reasons including fire danger, noxious weed spread, vehicle dumping and people swimming in deep pools that provide summer refuge for threatened fish species. In addition, the road closure will help prevent unauthorized camping and criminal activity in this area. So far there has not been much local opposition to the road closure, and Weyerhaeuser will likely open the road on weekends during hunting season. The Council supports Weyerhaeuser's decision to close the mainline, as protecting deep pool fish habitat from human disturbance is an item in the Calapooia Watershed Assessment's Action Plan.

Weyerhaeuser will meet with County Commissioners regarding concerns over mainline ownership. In the past the Forest Service held an easement on the road, but when they stopped logging in the area they relinquished road ownership and maintenance to Weyerhaeuser who is the primary landowner in the upper Calapooia. However some County Commissioners maintain that the County owns the mainline because of an old document, but the majority of the Commissioners are now supportive of Weyerhaeuser's decision. They had previously argued that Weyerhaeuser is cutting off commerce by closing the road, but FS is able to access the area via roads in Canyon Creek and most of Weyerhaeuser's timber harvest wood goes to a mill in Lebanon, thereby supporting County commerce.

Tara announced that John Moriarty, Executive Director of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, is leaving after many years of wonderful leadership and assistance to Councils across the state. A card was circulated that Board Members signed thanking John for his service.

Bud announced that Bob Bostedt's mother passed away unexpectedly at the age of 101. Bob has volunteered extensively with the Council for years, and a card was circulated that Board Members signed for Bob and his family.

Tara thanked Bud, Mark, and Connie for their guidance in oversight during the Council's first month of in-house fiscal management and during Tara's transition from contractor to Council employee.

AGENDA ITEM:

Approve July 2009 organizational meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION:

No corrections were made to the minutes.

DECISION:

July 2009 meeting minutes approved, as prepared.

AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion and Decision Payroll and Coordinators Salary, *Tara Putney, Executive Director*

The OWEB Council Support Grant funds the Council's day to day activities and provides quarterly payments throughout the biennium. The grant agreement outlines that these quarterly payments consist of 8 equal payments, but the quarterly payment is not sufficient to support Tara's salary, travel, fiscal administration, operations and purchasing general liability insurance. OWEB agreed to give the Council additional funds for the next 2 quarters to resolve this issue. Tara provided Board Members with charts of OWEB quarterly payments for the biennium, a breakdown of project payments that will go towards Tara's salary for the next 3 months and the Council Support Grant Budget. These items are on file and are available upon request. The Council now feels comfortable with the cash match that will be in the Council's bank account following funds transfer from Cascade Pacific RC&D, which consists of local match from Brownsville Dam grant and CTC's biennial donation. The Council will build its discretionary funds over the course of the next year by potentially bringing new grants in house. The Council may look into opening a credit card in the future for large purchases such as computers and GIS software.

Board Members discussed what fiscal reporting documents they would like to see at monthly meetings. A profit loss and balance sheet could be provided monthly and an overall grant budget sheet can be provided quarterly. Board Members should continue to provide input and feedback over the next few months to streamline the fiscal reporting process and come up with a format with which everyone is comfortable.

The Board gave the Management Committee the authority to negotiate Tara's salary for the coming year, which was accomplished at their June meeting and an employment agreement with Tara has been signed and approved by Bud and Mark. This contract was discussed with the Board and the Board approved the employment agreement.

AGENDA ITEM:

Decision Fiscal Administration on Upcoming Grants *Bud Baumgartner and Mark Running, Co-Chairs, and Tara Putney, Executive Director*

The Council now has the option to bring the USFS Title II grant for Reach 2 designs in-house. The grant is split over the next two years with \$20,000 allotted for year 1 and \$37,900 allotted for year 2. Bringing this grant in-house should be relatively easy since Board Member Lance Gatchell is the USFS contact for the grant and the grant does not require extensive fiscal reporting. Furthermore, Tara recommends bringing this grant in house since it is a 2 year

grant that would require the Council to continue a long term relationship with Cascade Pacific. The money can't be touched until permits are in hand, which is good since it gives the Council ample time to set up in-house fiscal accounts before next May when the permits will be issued and on the ground work will commence. The Board needs to make a decision ASAP on the Title II grant because Tara needs to file paper work in the next week.

The NFWF Reach 3 construction grant will bring in only \$2400 for fiscal administration, so Tara recommends that the Council give this grant to CPRCD since it requires frequent fiscal reporting and the money will be spent next summer. All regional grants pertaining to Erika's program should stay with CPRCD, as managing the regional budget for the 3 Councils is very complex and not something the Council would like to bring in house. However Tara recommends that the Council bring all other new grants in house over the next year. One year from now the Sodom and Brownsville Dam grants will be closed, and all other Council specific grants will likely be managed in-house. Managing these grants will ensure that the Council has enough cash in its accounts to manage operations expenditures and Tara's salary.

The Board approved bringing the USFS Title II Reach 2 grant in-house. Fiscal administration of this grant will be performed by Tara and the Council bookkeeper.

AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion Today's Sodom Dam Project Technical Team/Landowner Meeting Results *Bud Baumgartner and Mark Running, Co-Chairs*

The Sodom meeting this morning was momentous, with high attendance and participation on the part of both landowners and agency staff. Some landowners attended who had not previously come to a meeting, and all agency folk that were needed were present, including representatives from ODOT, Linn County Road Department, USFW, ODFW, NOAA. River Design Group engineer Scott Wright gave an excellent presentation with explanations of the alternatives and cost estimates that brought all attendees up to speed. Below are River Design Group's cost estimates for 4 of the alternatives:

Sodom Restoration Alternative: \$6 – 10 million

Calapooia Restoration Alternative: \$12 -27 million

Interim Action Alternative (fishway retrofits, bank stabilization): \$2-5 million

Variable Flow Management Alternative: \$11.6 – 22.9 million

The high estimated cost of the Calapooia Restoration Alternative caused attendees to reconsider the feasibility of restoring the Calapooia channel. In addition, Denise explained that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) knows of 29 Kalapuyan Indian artifact mound sites along the Calapooia River. These are only the known sites – and SHPO predicts that the required archaeological survey for this alternative would cost \$2.7 million. Even after completing this survey, the Council would not be allowed to work anywhere near the mounds with earth moving equipment, and such excavation is a major component of this alternative. All 3 alternatives require archaeological survey but the Calapooia Restoration Alternative involves a significant amount of ground disturbance, and there are no known significant artifact sites around the Sodom Ditch.

At the meeting OPRD laid out their responsibilities, which are basically the dam structures but not the land beneath them. Once the dams are removed OPRD is not require to maintain and will not maintain the bifurcation or gravel deposition at bifurcation. They will continue to help with solutions to fish passage at the dam sites due to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing issues with the dams. OPRD plans to take their mill demonstrations offline by creating a closed loop water circulation system from the mill race.

Agency staff commentary on the Calapooia Restoration Alternative was minimal; USFW had minimal comments but ODFW presented their continued preference for this alternative and requested that minimum flows be maintained in the Calapooia channel to preserve ecological values. Steve Memouyac, ODFW fish biologist, was

questioned at the end of the meeting by USFW representatives who insisted there isn't enough water to maintain ecological flows in both channels during the summer. However group consensus at this point is to maintain some flows in Calapooia channel, maybe not fish flows but enough water to maintain the Calapooia channel and an overflow/flood channel. NOAA ran through what Council needs to do to obtain permits, and noted that the NEPA permitting process will go much more smoothly if there is consensus among landowners and agency staff. OWRI and OWEB did not volunteer any information on how implementations of any of the alternatives could be funded.

Board Discussion:

Board Members who attended the meeting were surprised at how large River Design Group cost estimates were for the Sodom Restoration and Variable Flow Management Alternatives. These estimates do not include an additional 20% for design and permitting. In addition the Council would need to come up with 25% match for implementing any of the alternatives, which could amount to several million dollars. However because the ODOT Calapooia bridge replacement on Linn West Road is in the project footprint for any of the alternatives, it can potentially be used as match for the restoration work funding.

Scott pointed out that the 2 dams could be removed and grade control devices could be installed this year for approximately \$1 million; all the extra costs for each alternative are associated with long term device maintenance and maintaining grade changes. The grade control device would be installed at the bifurcation and would send water down the Calapooia during the summer and overflow into the Sodom channel in the winter. This option was not presented, but would fall under the Variable Flow Management Alternative. Historic flows need to be evaluated more closely before it can be determined that flows can be guaranteed in both channels.

ODOT representatives mentioned that they have experience with both bifurcation and movable gradient controls, both of which require long term management. Denise will likely follow up with ODOT to explore their potential involved in long term management. One landowner suggested getting Knife River involved with gravel removal. Water Master Michael Mattick suggested creating a water control district to manage the bifurcation—initial landowner response to his suggestion was negative.

The take home messages from this meeting are that participants had a reality check when they saw the cost estimates, everyone is now on the same page that fish passage is urgent and the two dams must be removed, and most people are ready to drop their preference for restoring the Calapooia channel. However a final decision will not be made until River Design Group presents hydraulic modeling results at the next phase 2 meeting; a final meeting will occur at an additional meeting that will be scheduled by the end of October. Tara will post RDG presentations on the website, as they contain helpful photographs and examples related to each alternative. Phase 2 funds should be wrapped up by mid November with a report in hand from RDG with modeling reports

AGENDA ITEM:

Decision Schedule Projects and Management Committee Meetings

The next Projects Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 2nd and the next Management Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 27th.

AGENDA ITEM:

Project Progress Updates and Discussion *Tara Putney, Executive Director and Taylor Bortz, Program Assistant*

Reach 3 and Reach 2 Projects- RFP's and Timelines

Tara provided Board Members with a Reach 3 timeline. Denise will help with permitting, project management, and construction and will be paid as a contractor. Tara would like to be involved with hiring construction crews with Projects Committee oversight, and will work with RDG in the next month to complete designs to the 75% level. Permits will be submitted beginning in January, and should be in hand by late spring. The designs will be completed

in the spring—the Council is waiting to finalize the designs until the end of winter because the river is so erratic through this reach. Bank stabilization projects need to get on the ground next summer or else the designs will be rendered invalid due to the high rate of erosion. Off channel habitat work may be completed the following summer.

The Council should have plenty of funding to do project implementation with RDG, Tara is not sure we can afford to complete the work with another firm as RDG is very affordable. Requests for Proposals will be sent out this fall and the Council must ensure before accepting any proposal that the firm in question can actually complete the work within budget.

The Projects Committee will discuss Reach 2 at their next meeting. The Council has secured USFS Title II funds for project designs. Tim Otis might be an ideal candidate to manage this project as he knows all the landowners and could team with local consultants.

Governor's Office Tour-Stops at Brownsville Dam Site/Reach 3

Sue Knapp with the Governor's Office contacted the SSWC, NSWC and CWC regarding a tour to educate County Commissioners, State Representatives, elected officials, landowners, and private timber industry representatives on how land use changes affect recovery plans for ESA listed fish. The tour will feature two stops in the Calapooia Watershed—the Brownsville Dam site and Suzy Ross' property. Suzy's place will be a very interesting stop as she is implementing riparian restoration projects but is adjacent to a development project gone awry where the riparian corridor was removed. The tour is tentatively scheduled for October 8th.

Noxious Weed Control

Jeff Jones is currently inventorying for Japanese knotweed and will get as close as he can to the Calapooia Oak Creek Confluence, depending on landowner permission. Knotweed treatment will occur in mid September and is expected to be minimal, just one or two days.

The Council has applied for funds to build upon our existing successful knotweed program to inventory and treat false brome, perform landowner outreach to tackle English ivy, establish a Calapooia Watershed Council Noxious Weed Working Group to coordinate weed control efforts with partners across the watershed, continue to fund project management and do more education and outreach. Taylor and Tara submitted a pre-proposal for a NFWF Pulling Together Grant, in the amount of \$29,700, and should hear by September if we are invited to submit a full proposal. They also submitted a Eugene District BLM Title II RAC application in July, in the amount of \$65,318. They plan to apply for OWEB restoration funds in October and ODA weed division funds in December.

Courtney Creek Culvert Replacement

CTC replaced a culvert in the headwaters of Courtney Creek, doing excellent and fast work as in the past. Taylor will submit the final report to OWEB in the next month.

MMT Model Watershed Program

Liz, Eric and Tara are drafting a job description for the Outreach Coordinator position and will distribute it to Board Members for approval this week. They will circulate the description beginning next week and it will be open for two weeks. They will review applications the following week, conduct interviews during the first week of September, hire in mid-September and plan to have a new CWC employee on board at the beginning of October. It is important to hire for this position first before hiring a Monitoring Coordinator, as its critical to perform outreach to landowners from whom permission is needed for monitoring activities. The grant agreement is signed, and the Council is recommending that the Monitoring Coordinator position be an employee not a contractor. Tara is looking for an office in Albany; legally the Council is obligated to have an office since Tara can't have another employee working from her home. Board member participation in the hiring process is critical.

The Council submitted a grant proposal to MMT to support technical assistance and outreach in the Albany area. Pam, MMT's Model Watershed Coordinator, thinks the Council will be eligible for funding but she doesn't think the

project qualifies under the OWEB Willamette SIP Initiative as previously thought, but the project has a lot of merit so it may be approved under MMT's small grants program.

Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Gathering

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils biennial gathering will be held October 27th-30th at the Running Y Ranch in Klamath Falls. Last year half of the Board Members participated in the OWEB conference, and are encouraged to attend this year, particularly since Denise is part of the gathering planning team and Tara is presenting twice. The gathering will feature presentations for Board Members on board development, fiscal administration, and project management. Attendance will consist mostly of Council Coordinators, Directors, and Board Members, not many agency folks. This is a great opportunity to meet other Councils and learn about their activities.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. The next Council Meeting will be held on September 9th, 2009 at the Brownsville Library. The board meeting portion of the meeting is open to the public.

READ AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors on _____, 2009

Secretary