

Calapooia Watershed Council

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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 City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon on July 15th, 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

Absent from the meetings were the following Directors:

Lance Gatchell	Roger Ruckert
John Perry	

A sufficient number of directors were present to constitute a quorum.

Also present at the meeting were:

Denise Hoffert-Hay, <i>Project Manager</i>	Erika Lang, <i>Regional Landowner Outreach Coordinator</i>
Taylor Bortz, <i>Program Assistant</i>	

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

AGENDA ITEM:

Approve June 2009 organizational meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Correction to minutes, page 3: the Council has secured funding to design restoration projects along a 3 mile section of the Middle Reach—not as written along the 3 mile Middle Reach. The Middle Reach is an 8 mile stretch of the Calapooia River between the site of the former Brownsville Dam and the Sodom Dam.

DECISION:

June 2009 meeting minutes approved, as corrected.

AGENDA ITEM:

Update: Sodom Dam Project Update and Phase 2 Next Steps *Denise Hoffert-Hay, Project Manager*

In 2002 Denise and Peter Jensen began attending Thompson's Mills Working Group meetings with agency staff, landowners, and the private owner of the mills. The group discussed concerns about water rights, fish passage, and management of summer and winter flows. In 2004 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) purchased the mills from a private landowner and at this point the Council took a smaller roll in the project as it was thought OPRD would address fish passage issues immediately. OPRD spent the first year renovating the mill, and by 2005 landowners in the area were very dissatisfied with Park's management of winter storm events. At this point OPRD was awarded \$1.1 million from OWEB and \$330,000 from Open Rivers Initiative to design a project addressing fish

passage and flow management. OPRD hired an engineering firm out of Portland who spent 1 year and the majority of the allocated OPRD salmon license plate funds on a report that provided 50 scenarios but no preferred alternatives. The firm said they needed additional site survey to come up with a design. OPRD and landowners were very unhappy with the firm's deliverables and OPRD terminated the contract in 2007. At this point OWEB and OPRD approached CWC seeking to transfer project facilitation to the Council, since the Council successfully implemented the Brownsville Dam and were familiar with landowners and issues surrounding Sodom Ditch. During the Spring of 2008, after meetings with landowners to gauge their feelings about the project, the Council decided to take the lead role in the project. In 2008 the Council received \$70,000 OWEB funds for Phase I – landowner outreach and geomorphology. In 2009 the Council secured \$50,000 in OWEB funds for Phase II – public outreach and hydraulic modeling. The three public meetings have gone well and allowed landowners to listen to agency experts and engineers, as well as express their concerns about the project. At the last public meeting of landowners and the technical team in May, engineers presented 5 alternatives and the technical team easily narrowed it down to three. The specifics and pros and cons of each option were not discussed. The 3 options are:

1. Restore the Calapooia River

This option entails removing 3 dams, as well as extensive dredge work (1.5 million cubic yards). This option would also likely entail reconstructing County bridges and the newly replaced I-5 Calapooia bridge, which was not built to handle a 100-year flood event with the Calapooia restored to full flow. Twelve homes would be impacted by this option and are in the path of the river (unless the channel was moved away from the homes), as well as unique Kalapuyan artifacts that cannot be disturbed, and would necessitate a great deal of consultation from archaeologists. After the removal of Sodom Dam a berm would need to be installed to maintain the gradient (the Sodom Ditch is 11 ft. lower than the Calapooia River) and after a considerable amount of time the Sodom Ditch would come to resemble the current Calapooia channel. All these things would need to occur, but they could potentially be spread out over a period of many years. Though some landowners and agency staff support this alternative, it would be extremely expensive and require extensive coordination.

2. Maintain Sodom Ditch as Primary Channel

This alternative entails removing all 3 dams in the system, building stem pools to compensate for grade drops at dam sites, and implementing a massive restoration project along the ditch. Removing dams would alleviate some flooding on the Calapooia side—the channel after the bifurcation is currently handling about 20% of winter storm events, but it is silting in more every year. Removing Shear Dam could cause a headcut to migrate upstream to the Calapooia which would counteract the channel's perch and drop it back down. This alternative would not require bridge replacement or impact housing. One concern is that the soil matrix in Sodom Ditch is very simple and could be quite erosive with greater flows. If Sodom becomes the main channel, landowners are concerned that its tendency to become more sinuous will negatively impact their properties. Landowners on the Calapooia side who maintain water rights may be able to transfer them to Sodom, but more likely would be moved to wells. The habitat benefits of keeping flows in Sodom ditch are unknown, as is the length of time it would take for the system to form a complex channel. Silt and vegetation would continue to fill the Calapooia channel. OPRD is supportive of this option.

3. Variable Flow Management

This alternative entails installing a device to maintain flow in both channels—a bladder dam or head gate, or a yet to be designed device. As this device would need continual management it raises the question of who would provide that management. This alternative is not a permanent solution as the device would need to eventually be replaced, but could put more flows into the Calapooia which would help recapture the channel and counteract the silting action. NOAA is opposed to this option.

In August there will be another public meeting where Denise and engineers will go over the pros and cons of each alternative with landowners and the technical team. Scott Wright will have preliminary cost estimates prepared for

each option. What does the Council want its role to be in this meeting and facilitating the decision of a preferred alternative? Does the Council want any part in managing flows in the future?

DISCUSSION:

In regards to option #3, summer flows don't provide enough water for both channels—who will decide how much flow goes into each channel? Expecting landowners to form a special water district could be unrealistic—more than likely the council would have to take it on. All Board members present agree that the Council doesn't want to take on management or manage a special water district.

If the council overtly advocates for a particular alternative, the board will be expected to take ownership of that decision; it would be better to nudge landowners and technical team to the Council's preferred alternatives. Denise, Mark, and Bud will draw agency folks into explaining the limitations of each alternative. Therefore, the council prefers not to make a recommendation. What council will do at the August meeting is attempt to make sure all aspects of each alternative, pro and con, are clearly identified. This includes such things as funding options and management responsibilities for any given alternative. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the specifics of each alternative and rank them, but not to decide on one; Denise wants to hold off on the decision making until the hydraulic modeling is completed in October. The hydraulic model may help to verify alternative specifics such as channel flow capacity.

AGENDA ITEM:

Update: Meyer Memorial Trust *Mark Running and Bud Baumgartner, Co-Chairs*

Mark, Bud and Connie had a productive meeting with the North and South Santiam Watershed Councils concerning the logistics of MMT/BEF Model Watershed funding for the 3 councils. The funding will provide a regional monitoring coordinator and a regional outreach coordinator to be shared among the councils, and each council could take on one person. Erika's contracted position has been overseen by the NSWC, so the new positions could be modeled on Erika's position. The CWC would likely house the monitoring coordinator. Chuck Knoll of the Linn County Road Department received funding to hire a monitoring coordinator who will be housed in the County engineering office, but will be utilized by all 3 councils as well as the County. This position could be used to get the MMT regional monitoring coordinator position going in year 1, and for the following year the position could be funded with MMT dollars. Tara and the other coordinators will meet with Chuck soon to determine the level of involvement the County wants to have in hiring and managing this person. The MMT funded outreach coordinator will be hired soon. A decision as to whether these two new hires will be under contract or employees is yet to be made. The council supports the decision of the Executive Director .

At the meeting of the 3 councils, it was suggested that each Council hold a quarterly meeting to which the other 2 councils are invited, all employees and contractors involved in regional projects will meet every 4-6 weeks with Council Coordinators/Directors and chairs. Board members are welcome. to attend these meetings.

Additional benefits arising from the MMT/BEF funding are that BEF is attempting to get another CREP planner hired at NRCS in Tangent and that OWEB will be funding an archaeological study of all 3 watersheds so that analysis is in place for CREP and other restoration projects. Also, an archaeologist will be on call for consultations regarding "hot spots" in the region.

AGENDA ITEM:

Additional Board Updates *Erika Lang, Regional Landowner Outreach Coordinator*

Thompsons Mills Signs:

There is a little money left in the Brownsville Dam grant that can be used on interpretative signs around the watershed. Denise and Bud spoke to Doug Crispin with OPRD about placing signs at Thompsons Mills and he was receptive to the idea. When Erika and Taylor met with Doug Crispin at the Mills and called Dennis Willey, OPRD Willamette Parks Manager, they indicated that the process of creating signs was protracted and involved several

phases, which will not work for the Council given that the money needs to be spent by the end of August. Doug and Dennis agreed that the Council could create temporary signage and a relief map of the watershed that could be put on display for an indefinite amount of time. Does the Council want to create temporary signs for the Mills and create permanent signs for Bryant Park in Albany and a kiosk at McKercher park?

DECISION: Create temporary signs for Thompsons Mills and permanent installations for Bryant and McKercher Parks.

Brush Creek Sub-Basin Landowner Updates *Erika Lang, Regional Landowner Outreach Coordinator*

Erika provided updates on Brush Creek landowner restoration projects. Since fencing his cows out of Brush Creek, Henry Pesek has been hand watering them as he can't run a water line across the road from his well to his cow pasture. He needs a pump to draw water from the creek and the Council will work with and provide support for Henry to remedy this situation.

Tara's Employment Status *Bud Baumgartner, Co-Chair*

Tara is now officially Executive Director and employee of the Council, and is making another revision to the employee handbook. The Council has also hired a bookkeeper to assist with transitioning to in-house financial management.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m. The board meeting will be held on August 12th, 2009 at the Brownsville Library, but it will not include a presentation. The board meeting is open to the public.

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

Secretary