

# 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 Library, Brownsville, Oregon on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Bud Baumgartner	Mark Running
Connie Burdick	Dee Swayze
Dave Furtwangler	Frank Lamb
Roger Ruckert	Lance Gatchell
John Perry	Matthew Fiorito

Absent from the meetings were the following Directors:

Debbie Colbert

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

Also present at the meeting were:

Tara Putney, <i>Coordinator</i>	Don Hopkins
Jim Ewing	Jerame Gibbons
Mike Nehls	Richard Gibbons
Henry Pesek	Jim McCracken
Phoebe Howell	Christine Howell
Taylor Bortz, <i>Program Assistant</i>	Debbie Johnson

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

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

**Approve May 2009 organizational meeting minutes**

### **DISCUSSION:**

No corrections made to the minutes.

### **DECISION:**

May 2009 meeting minutes approved, as corrected.

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

**Presentation: "False Brome: A Threat to Forest Ecosystems"**

*Debbie Johnson, Institute for Applied Ecology*

Debbie was formerly head of invasive species management in OSU's McDonald Dunn Forest and has extensive experience with false brome. False brome is a concern because it replaces native vegetation, displaces associated species, alters wildfire behavior, and can diminish recreational opportunities and forest access. False brome is widely distributed in the Willamette Valley and appears to be moving quickly through Western Oregon. False brome

is a “super weed” due to its ability to flourish in many environments from closed canopy forest to meadows, in wet to dry moisture regimes, and can be found in elevations from 500’ to 3500’. In 1993 Debbie and her students mapped the understory plant communities in MacDonald Forest, when they weren’t yet very concerned about false brome. They went back and remapped in 2006, and the false brome extent had increased dramatically. In 06 they also mapped other invasive plant species of concern and were able to come up with a comprehensive Invasive Management Plan that included survey design, containment, control, education, and monitoring for each invasive species of concern. One problem with controlling false brome in McDonald Forest is that it receives 150,000 recreational visits per year, and recreationists have spread false brome seeds across the state to such special areas as the Metolius headwaters.

The restoration principles utilized in the false brome management plan were: 1) eliminate small populations with most effective technique known, 2) focus control on protection of sensitive ecological areas and satellite populations of false brome, and 3) educate staff, students, contractors, and recreationists. Debbie wanted to use the best herbicide treatment known to avoid having to go back and retreat for multiple years, so she relied on the data from the Butterfly Meadows herbicide trials, which indicated that an application of glyphosate/surflan application in October is most effective for killing false brome. Debbie received an ODA weed grant to treat false brome in the forest, and her test plots this spring revealed that 100% of the mature false brome had been killed and very little germination of false brome seedlings was taking place. Perennial natives were coming back in many of the areas relieved of the competitive pressure of false brome. Other treatments for false brome include mowing, mulching, reseeding, and hand pulling. All of these methods have their drawbacks and are all more expensive than using herbicides.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Surflan cannot be used near water, as it is toxic to fish. In a riparian area the best herbicide would be something approved for use around water like Aquamaster. Debbie’s presentation is available as a pdf, upon request, from the Council Coordinator.

#### **AGENDA ITEM:**

##### **Presentation: “Findings of the CWC’s Preliminary False Brome and English Ivy Inventory”**

*Taylor Bortz, Program Assistant*

False brome and English ivy are major ecosystem disrupters that are problems in various locations in Oregon. The Council has been interested in managing these weeds because keeping weeds in check before they become a menace is a good strategy that has shown to be successful with the Council’s Japanese Knotweed Project. Last summer and this spring the Council sent out a mailing to 255 landowners in the upper watershed, and so far 114 landowner permission forms have been returned, about a 44% return rate which is very high for this kind of outreach. It demonstrates that landowners in the Calapooia Watershed are concerned about being good stewards and taking invasive weeds seriously. It will also be beneficial for leveraging grant money to be able to demonstrate this level of landowner support. The budget for the inventory was small, about \$2000, so the inventory was strategic: properties were inventoried at the top, middle and bottom of the permission area, which stretched from just below Weyerhaeuser’s upper Calapooia landholdings down to Crawfordsville. Properties were also surveyed in the Brush Creek sub-basin along Brush Creek and West Brush Creek. Inventorying in this way allows us to estimate where false brome is likely to be growing on the rest of the properties where we have permission.

On nearly every property surveyed along the mainstem false brome was found growing intermittently along the stream bank and up into the upland riparian area. In most places the false brome cover was 1-5% but in many notable patches there was a 10-30% cover of the grass. In the uppermost reaches of the inventory a few large patches were found along the main road, and the lowermost place the grass was noted was in McKercher park, indicating that’s extent is ending somewhere between the park and Brownsville (no false brome was noted in Pioneer Park). No false brome was found in the Brush Creek sub-basin. English ivy was found around Crawfordsville and at a few

locations in Brush Creek. It was growing in the upland and in landowner's yards at all sites, and no patches larger than 150'x100' were found, but in most of the patches the ivy was going up into the trees.

The Council must formulate a treatment strategy and apply for funding to treat these weeds. The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council has a comprehensive False Brome Implementation Plan that we will use as a model. The Council needs to make contact with timber companies to develop a cooperative management plan. Taylor will continue to talk to local weed experts in order to make good management recommendations to the Council and to write strong grant applications. There are 2 grants coming up that she will apply for—an ODA weed grant due in July and a Pulling Together weed grant due in June. In the meantime, landowners can help the Council by learning more about these weeds and keeping watch over their own properties for the spread of ivy and false brome.

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

#### **Report: June Projects Committee Meeting and Brief Project Updates *Tara Putney, Coordinator***

The Projects Committee meets every 2 months, and last month the major topic discussed was working with the City of Albany and private landowners on the first mile of the Calapooia to control erosion and install riparian buffers. The Council is applying for a Meyer Memorial grant to do restoration work in the lower watershed.

Other Project Updates: The Council has secured funding to design restoration projects along 3 miles the Middle Reach—an 8 mile span of the Calapooia between the former Brownsville Dam and the Sodom Dam. Tara has applied for funding to implement the Reach 3 restoration projects. The Council has turned its attention to the dynamic Courtney Creek sub-basin and will be conducting various restoration activities there over the coming years. The Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation have chosen to fund the regional partnership of the CWC, SSWC, and NSWC. Calapooia's funding will be used to monitor ecological conditions in Courtney Creek and to conduct outreach to Courtney Creek landowners. The MMT/BEF partnership will fund the regional sub-basin work for the next 10 years and also help the Councils to build operating capacity. The next step with the Sodom Project is a landowner and agency meeting in August where stakeholders will decide on the preferred flow management scenario and engineers will have hydraulic model results on display.

#### **Brownsville Dam Update *Bud Baumgartner, Co-Chair***

Seven years of long hard work are coming to an end: the Council completed the operations manual for the pump station, city employees were trained in how to operate the pump, and the pump station was turned on last Thursday. The final report still needs to be completed and the old crib dam logs in the channel need to be cut, but then the Council will finally be done with the Brownsville Dam Project and the City of Brownsville will assume responsibility for the pump station.

### **AGENDA ITEM:**

#### **Board Discussion and Decisions**

##### **Decision #1 Continue doing business with Cascade Timber Consulting and Native Grounds Nursery?**

The Board went through the newly adopted Conflict of Interest Policy with Management Committee Member Mike Nehls, owner of Native Grounds Nursery, and with Board Member Dave Furtwangler, President of Cascade Timber Consulting. Going through this process shows due diligence on the Council's part and ensures that no Council affiliates are benefiting excessively from business relationships with the Council.

#### **Mike Nehls**

Nature of work with Council: Mike works with Erika to supply native plants for landowner restoration projects. His time spent doing onsite consultations with landowners is usually volunteered; if he spends a large amount of time with landowners he will adjust the price per plant accordingly, but not charge a separate consultation fee. The average amount of money Mike receives for project plants is \$2,000 and in the last year he worked on 5-7 projects. In the previous year he did a minimal amount of project work. He has excused himself from doing outreach with

Erika so as not to solicit business, and stepped down from the Council Steering Committee to avoid conflict of interest. He would like to continue to be involved with supplying plants for Council projects as he is the closest native plant nursery and his plants are propagated locally, giving them an advantage in the local environment.

**Dave Furtwagler**

Nature of work with Council: CTC supplies tree vexlar tubes to Erika at cost for landowner restoration projects. In the past CTC has worked with the Council on fish passage barrier replacements in the Brush Creek sub-basin and will complete a culvert replacement in the Courtney Creek sub-basin this summer. CTC figures cost and time for Council projects just like they would do for other customers, but they don't include extra money in their bids for Council jobs. CTC had planned to do the culvert replacements on Brush Creek and Courtney Creek, so working with the Council was a good opportunity to complete these projects in a more timely manner.

*Mike and Dave excused from room for Board deliberation.*

**DISCUSSION:** Is it in the corporation's best interest to continue work with these parties?

Council members agreed that it is advantageous for the council to continue working with both Native Grounds Nursery and CTC. The nursery provides a local growing environment, nearness to projects, and competitive prices. It was suggested that Mike put plant prices on his COI form. It was acknowledged that CTC has provided significant in-kind contributions on Council projects and that they have completed projects ahead of schedule and under cost. A question arose regarding the bidding process for projects. The Council has gone through the Contractor of Record process with the SSWC and NSWC and is not required by law to go out for bids. Large projects are taken on a case by case basis. A contracting policy is being developed for the policy manual.

**DECISION:**

The Council came to a consensus decision to continue doing business with both Native Grounds Nursery and Cascade Timber Consulting. The completed conflict of interest forms will be kept on file for both business.

**Decision #2 Appoint Connie Burdick as Council Treasurer?**

**DISCUSSION:**

Connie is already the Council Secretary and is a good choice for Treasurer as she has a background in business management and lives close to Tara.

**DECISION:**

The Board appoints Connie Burdick as the Council Treasurer.

**Decision #3 Make changes to Coordinator employment status, job description and salary?**

**DISCUSSION:**

The Council is working with Tara to develop a new employment status, title, and salary, but there is still some work to be done. There is a Management Committee meeting in 2 weeks (Bud, Peter, Mark, Roger, Dave and Debbie). Will the Board give approval to the Management Committee to negotiate these items on a temporary basis? We'd like to have Tara in a new position by July. A draft copy of the job description will be provided to the Board for review. The new position would be Executive Director.

**DECISION:**

On behalf of the Board, the Management Committee will work with Tara to make changes to her employment status, job description and salary at their next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM:**

## **Additional Board Updates** *Tara Putney*

### **Procedures and Policy Manual**

Tara is developing a Procedures and Policy Manual for the Board, based on example templates from the Oregon Network of Watershed Councils, and hopes to complete it by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The manual will include procedures and policies regarding employees, contracts, fiscal management, and conflict of interest.

### **Meyer Memorial Trust and Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

MMT/BEF intends for Council to use their funding for monitoring and outreach in the Courtney Creek sub-basin. They would also like some of their funds to be use in the first year to help the Council develop operational capacity prior to starting large projects. The first year of funding will be used for outreach and some will be given back to MMT to develop overarching monitoring protocols for the Willamette. The second year funding will be used to initiate monitoring in the Courtney Creek sub-basin. The Council will be able to use this funding as match on future restoration grants. Most granting agencies are now requiring a solid monitoring plan for restoration projects; doing monitoring with MMT/BEF funds will allow the Council to develop solid monitoring parameters that reflect what is happening in the field. Linn County has also received funding to hire a Monitoring Coordinator for 2 years, who will do monitoring work for the 3 councils. After 2 years MMT/BEF funds can be used to continue funding this position.

### **Regional Involvement**

The Board needs to decide what level of involvement they would like to have with regional contractors in the future, as Erika will be joined by another regional outreach person and the monitoring coordinator. Erika currently contracts with all 3 councils, and is concerned about continued need to report to all 3 councils and attend meetings of all 3 councils. Does the Board want to continue receiving monthly staff reports from Erika and 2 other contractors? Perhaps Tara can synthesize the 3 staff reports and present them to the Board. Another option is for contractors to attend Council meetings but not write staff reports. These issues will continue to be discussed.

Although the Council does not usually hold Board meetings over the summer, because there are currently so many projects underway, the Coordinator would like the Board to meet on July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the regional program and Board member involvement and the Sodom Project. The Council's Board will also meet the second Wednesday in August.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m. The board meeting will be held on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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Secretary